



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JAN 31 2013

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Pacific West Region

From: Director *Jonathan B. Jarvis*

Subject: Delegation of Authority for Point Reyes National Seashore Agricultural Leases and Directions to Implement the Secretary's Memorandum of November 29, 2012

In accordance with 200 D.M. § 2.2 and 245 D.M. 1.1.A., I hereby delegate to you the park-specific authority provided by 16 U.S.C. §§ 459 c-5 and 460bb-2(j) in order to issue agricultural leases/special use permits ("lease/permits") as provided herein. This authority may not be re-delegated.

This delegation authorizes the issuance of lease/permits for the purpose of grazing cattle and operating beef and dairy ranches, along with associated residential uses by the lessees and their immediate families and their employees, and their employees' immediate families, within the pastoral zone of Point Reyes National Seashore and the northern District of Golden Gate National Recreation Area administered by Point Reyes National Seashore. Under this delegation, you may issue lease/permits with terms of up to twenty years. These long-term lease/permits will provide greater certainty for the ranches operating within the national park's pastoral zone and demonstrate the support of the National Park Service (NPS) and the Department of the Interior for the continued presence of dairy and beef ranching operations.

This delegation supersedes and replaces the delegation of authority issued by the Acting Director on February 23, 2009, and it supersedes any general provision of D.O. 53 or R.M. 53 which would otherwise limit the authority of a Regional Director to issue special use permits for terms of up to twenty years. The Solicitor's Office has also advised that the issuance of such lease/permits under the cited provisions of the park's enabling legislation is not subject to the requirements set forth under the general NPS leasing authority found at 16 U.S.C. 1a-2(k) nor the implementing regulations at 36 C.F.R. Part 18.

In his November 29, 2012, memorandum announcing his decision on the Drakes Bay Oyster Company, the Secretary of the Interior observed that ranching operations have "a long and important history on the Point Reyes peninsula. . . . These working ranches are a vibrant and compatible part of Point Reyes National Seashore, and both now and in the future represent an important contribution to the Point Reyes' superlative natural and cultural resources."

Preservation of cultural and natural resources within the pastoral zone is an important responsibility shared by the NPS and the park ranchers.

This delegation of authority is supportive of multi-generational ranching and dairying within the pastoral zone and is consistent with the above-referenced provisions of the park's enabling legislation. In his November 29, 2012, memorandum, the Secretary directed the NPS to "pursue extending permits for the ranchers within [the] pastoral lands to 20-year terms." This delegation of authority is intended as an initial step to implement the Secretary's directive in a timely and efficient manner.

In order to assure clarity and consistency for all permits, to clarify expectations and commitments, and to allow for operational flexibility inherent to the long-term beef and dairy operations, I direct the park superintendent to review the permit structure to assure that it reflects and protects the interests of ranch operators while meeting NPS responsibilities to protect natural and cultural resources. In the interim, I further direct the park superintendent and her staff to work with the ranchers to assure that current authorizations are continued while the new permit structure is developed and implemented.