



Muir Woods Parking Reservation and Shuttle System

Project Description

The NPS is proposing to create a parking reservation system that would support management of visitation to levels that meet park goals for safety, natural resource preservation, visitor experience, and public access. The reservation system is intended to be a long-term measure that will allow the park to work with visitors in advance of their arrival so that congestion, and its related impacts, can be minimized and the quality of the experience enhanced. NPS anticipates that the system would operate year-round and reservations would be made through a website, a call center, on site for less busy days, and possibly at other locations. Implementation of the reservation system would use existing park and county infrastructure; no new construction is being proposed.

In addition, parking management at the monument and shuttle services in the surrounding Redwood Creek Watershed would be enhanced. A new park shuttle would operate between Panoramic Highway (near the Dias Ridge trailhead) and the shuttle drop-off area at Muir Woods to better manage and distribute parking and transportation services in the area; supplementing the existing seasonal shuttle that runs out of Pohono Drive. In addition, the existing use of the Muir Woods Road shoulder for parking would be reduced and managed. Some of the existing informal parking along Panoramic Highway between the intersections of SR1 and Muir Woods Road would be managed to allow the concessioner to effectively and safely manage the reservation and shuttle system.

NPS anticipates the following actions in order to implement this system:

- Installation of signs on highway and road approaches (US 101, SR 1, Panoramic Highway, Muir Woods Road),
- Routine maintenance of road shoulders where used for parking (Panoramic Highway and Muir Woods Road), and
- Installation of rustic fencing, bollards, and other ancillary features.

The combination of these actions is expected to markedly reduce congestion, improve safety and the visitor experience, reduce vehicle-related noise in the entrance area, and reduce impacts to soils and vegetation that could improve water quality and habitat for sensitive species.

The reservation and shuttle system would be funded through a new parking service charge, which would be tied to the cost of providing these services, and has been estimated to be about \$10-12 per vehicle. Operation of a reservation system by a private concessioner could begin as early as 2015.

Public Scoping Period

NPS would like to hear your thoughts about this proposal. You are invited to submit comments beginning September 4 through October 4, 2013 online at

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/muwo_parking; in person at the public scoping meeting to be held on September 18, 2013 at Tam Valley Elementary School from 6:30-8:30PM; or in writing to GGNRA, Attn: Muir Woods Transportation Projects, Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco, CA 94123.

Next Steps

Once the scoping period concludes the NPS will evaluate all of the comments received, incorporate them into the planning process, and decide what level of NEPA compliance will be completed (at this time it is anticipated to be either a Categorical Exclusion or an Environmental Assessment). The NPS will present a summary of scoping comments and a draft decision on NEPA compliance at a public meeting to be held on November 20, 2013 at Tam Valley Elementary School.

