

Environmental Assessment

Mori Point Restoration and Trail Plan

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Mori Point Restoration and Trail Plan Summary

The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that describes and analyzes alternatives for habitat restoration and development of a safe and sustainable trail system at Mori Point, a unit of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in Pacifica, CA. The EA presents and analyzes one No Action and three Action Alternatives. The Action Alternatives each contain a restoration, trail alignment, and trail use designation component.

Proposed restoration activities include actions such as protection of the federally protected San Francisco garter snake and California red-legged frog; removal of placed fills, trash, and debris; installation of site improvements; ensuring visitor access without compromising slope stability or sensitive habitat; improving hydrologic and habitat connectivity between upland and wetland areas; creation of up to five seasonal ponds for San Francisco garter snake foraging habitat; and reduction and repair of coastal erosion. Long-term stewardship actions include trail maintenance, restoration of native plant communities; development and implementation of a monitoring system to track progress for restoration goals; and public education.

Proposed trail alignments were developed around sensitive habitat and as a result of public input and trail use studies. The alternatives are as follows:

Alternative 1: Preferred Alternative

This alternative includes the above restoration and trail alignment components. Hiker-only designations would be in effect on all segments through, or leading to, steep and erosion-prone areas. Multiple-use opportunities (hiking, bicycling, and equestrian uses) were identified on the California Coastal Trail (CCT) and its main connector routes.

Alternative 2: Limited Multiple-use

Under this alternative, the same restoration and trail alignment would occur as with the Preferred Alternative, but only Mori Road, the California Coastal Trail, and California Coastal Trail Connector near the “bowl” area are designated for multiple-use. All other trails would be hiker-only.

Alternative 3: All Multiple-Use

In addition to the restoration and trail alignment described in the Preferred Alternative, all trails would be designated multiple-use, with no restrictions on biking, hiking, or equestrian use.

Alternative 4: No Action

Under this alternative, the GGNRA would continue with the limited restoration activities currently authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No additional restoration, trail alignments, or use designation would occur.

As part of the proposed project, the NPS has developed and incorporated measures that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate for potential environmental impacts. The Preferred Alternative best meets the NPS management objectives related to natural resource protection and public access, including the restoration of the property’s endangered species habitat and provision of a variety