



# Newsletter

## Dog Management Plan / Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Park Friend,

Thank you for your interest in dog management at Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). This newsletter is an introduction to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Dog Management (DEIS) in GGNRA, which will be released for a 90-day public comment period on January 14, 2011. The DEIS evaluates the impacts of a range of alternatives for managing dog walking in the park, and is the first step in establishing a new regulation for dog walking in this unit of the National Park Service (NPS). In the newsletter you will find details on how to comment on the DEIS, as well as information on the public meetings scheduled in early March.

Many stakeholders have provided input to the NPS in the various phases of the dog management project over the years and the DEIS reflects the significant contributions of these stakeholders.

Your input now on the DEIS is an important step in developing the best management solution for dog walking that both protects resources and allows a balanced variety of visitor experiences in the park. We look forward to your thoughtful review and comments on the management options in this DEIS.

Sincerely,

Frank Dean

General Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

### Where Can I View the Plan/DEIS?

Digital copies are available for download, online at: <http://parkplanning.gov/dogplan>

Reference copies of the plan/DEIS are also available at the following locations:

#### *San Francisco Public Libraries*

Main Library  
Sunset Branch

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch  
Richmond/Senator Milton Marks Branch  
Mission Branch  
Potrero Branch  
Chinatown Branch

#### *Marin County*

Marin County Free Library, Civic Center Branch  
Marin County Free Library, Fairfax Branch  
Marin County Free Library, Corte Madera Branch  
Sausalito Public Library

#### *San Mateo County*

Pacifica Sharp Park Library  
Daly City Public Library, Westlake Branch

#### *East Bay*

Oakland Main Library  
Berkeley Central Library

### Public Meeting Dates and Times

#### Wednesday, March 2

Tamalpais High School  
Student Center  
700 Miller Avenue  
Mill Valley, CA 94941  
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, March 5

San Francisco State University  
Seven Hills Conference Center  
State Drive  
San Francisco, 94132  
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### Monday, March 7

Fort Mason Center  
Building A  
Marina Boulevard at Buchanan  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday, March 9

Cabrillo School  
601 Crespi Drive  
Pacifica, CA 94044  
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

## Project Background

NPS is releasing a plan/DEIS for dog management in GGNRA. Currently, dog management at GGNRA varies by area and is a combination of the following:

- NPS federal regulation (36 CFR 2.15) — requires that dogs be on leash wherever dog walking is permitted in an NPS area,
- GGNRA Citizen Advisory Commission's 1979 Pet Policy — provisions for off-leash dog walking in certain areas of GGNRA. This aspect of current park management is the result of the 2005 federal court decision *US v. Barley* (405 F. Supp.2d 1121 (N.D. CA 2005)),
- NPS special federal regulation for protection of western snowy plovers, and
- GGNRA Compendium (compilation of park-specific rules).



## Purpose and Need

A plan/DEIS is needed for the following reasons:

- Under current conditions, park resources and values could be compromised to the extent that, without action, these resources and values in some areas of the park might not be available for enjoyment by future generations.
- A dog management policy inconsistent with NPS regulations and increased public expectations for use of the park for dog recreation have resulted in controversy, litigation, and compromised visitor and employee safety, affecting visitor experience and resulting in resource degradation. These conflicts will likely escalate if not addressed in a comprehensive plan/DEIS.

The purpose of the plan/DEIS is to:

- provide a clear, enforceable policy to determine the manner and extent of dog use in appropriate areas of the park;
- promote the preservation and protection of natural and cultural resources and natural processes;
- provide a variety of visitor experiences, improve visitor and employee safety, and reduce user conflicts; and
- maintain park resources and values for future generations.



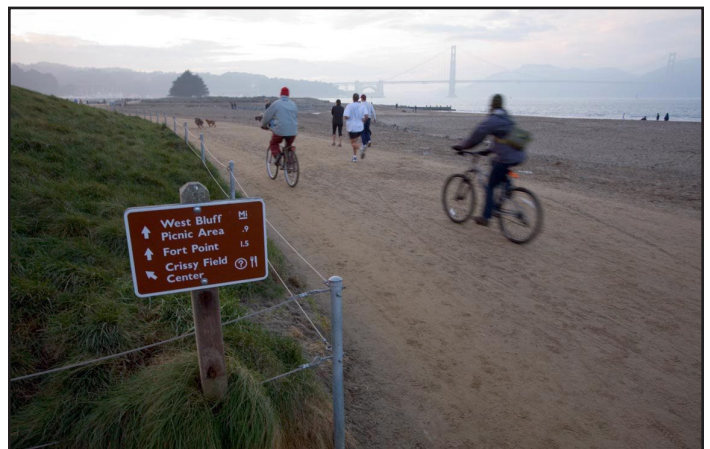
## Alternatives

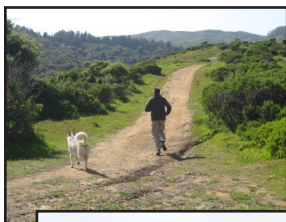
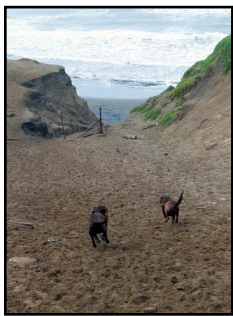
The plan/DEIS evaluates the impacts of six alternatives (A – E and the preferred alternative) for dog management in 21 areas of GGNRA. The range of alternatives includes the consensus recommendations of the GGNRA Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for Dog Management, the 1979 Pet Policy, 36 CFR 2.15, and voice-control dog walking. The preferred alternative was chosen from the range of alternatives.

## Preferred Alternative

A preferred alternative was selected for each of the 21 areas addressed by the plan/DEIS that best met plan objectives, and includes the following key elements:

- the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee's consensus agreements,
- on-leash and/or voice-control dog walking in certain, specific areas of the park where impacts to sensitive resources and visitor experience were minimal,
- no dogs in areas of the park where impacts were unacceptable and could not be mitigated,
- a compliance-based management strategy to institute a range of park responses to non-compliance, including further restrictions or elimination of dog walking where compliance is not achieved,
- permits for walking more than three dogs in limited areas of the park, and
- new lands could be opened to on-leash dog walking in areas designated by the Superintendent through the compendium if certain criteria are met.





## Vicinity Map for Plan/DEIS

Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
National Park Service / U.S. Department of the Interior

Areas labelled in **red** are the  
twenty-one park areas  
addressed in the plan/DEIS.

### Map Legend

GGNRA Boundary	Non Profit
GGNRA Managed Lands	Special District
State Parks	Coastal Trail
County Parks	Highway / Interstate
City Parks	Streets and Roads



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION  
PO Box 25287  
DENVER CO 80225-0287

FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
PERMIT NO. G-83

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300



## Golden Gate National Recreation Area Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties, California

January 2011

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



### How to Participate

The Dog Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available for public and agency review and comment on January 14, 2011. Public comment will be accepted through April 14, 2011. You may provide comments using any one of the following methods:

- Attend the public meetings (see page 1 for dates and locations);
- Comment online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/dogplan>; or
- Mail comments to Frank Dean, General Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Building 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123-0022.

Comments will not be accepted by fax, email, or in any other way than those specified above. Bulk comments in any format (hard copy or electronic) submitted on behalf of others will not be accepted.

Before including your personal information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be publicly available at any time. Although you may request in your comment that we withhold your personal information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

### Project Schedule

Dates	Planning Phase
January 14 - April 14, 2011	Public review and comment on Dog Management Plan/DEIS
Spring / Summer 2011	Incorporation of public comment
Late Fall / Winter 2011	Public review and comment on Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
Late Winter / Early Spring 2012	Incorporation of public comment
Late Spring / Early Summer 2012	Notice of Availability of Final Dog Management Plan/FEIS
Summer 2012	Notice of Availability of Record of Decision ( <i>followed by 30-day wait period</i> )
Late Summer / Early Fall 2012	Notice of Availability of Final Rule; plan implementation begins