



Point Reyes National Seashore
California

Tomales Point Area Plan and Environmental Assessment

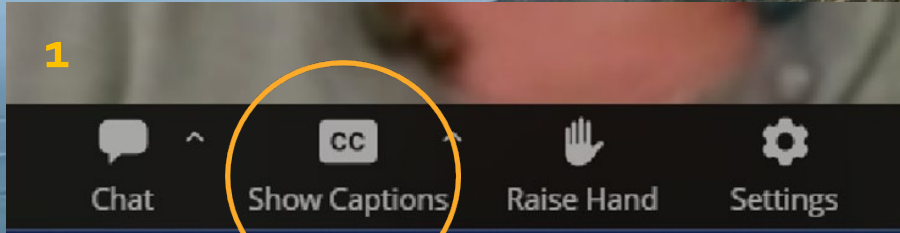
May 2024

Information Session

Please visit project website:

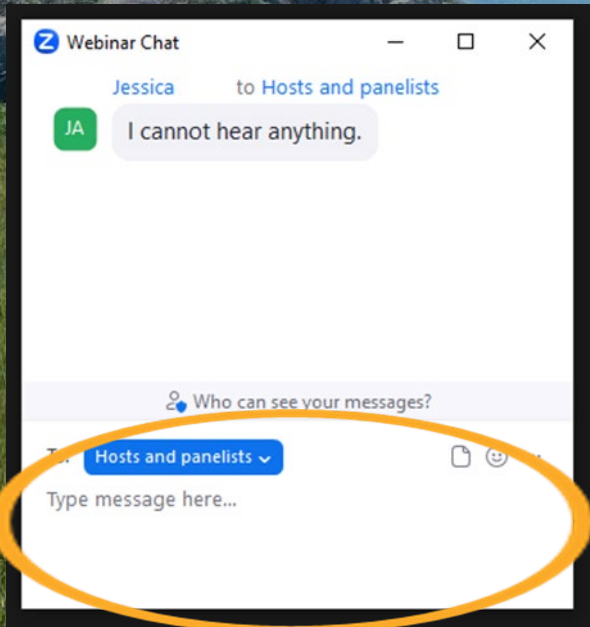
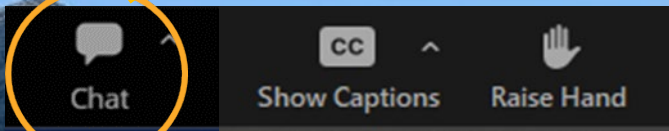
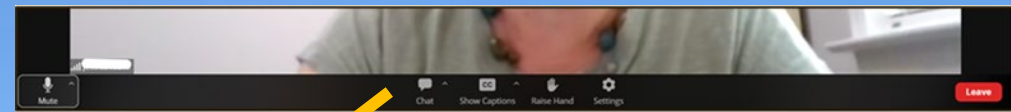
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/tpap>

Zoom Information



- This informational session is being recorded and the slide presentation will be shared online.
- Meeting participants do not have access to their microphone or camera but may ask questions in the chat box.
- Click the Captions button (on Mobile) or Show Captions button (on Laptop) on bottom of screen.
 1. As people speak, words will appear at the bottom of your screen.
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Submitting Questions



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*May 2024
Information Session*

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Agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Presentation
- How to Comment
- Question & Answer Session



Welcome

Introductions

- Introductions
 - Presenter
 - Brannon Ketcham, Management Assistant
 - Subject Matter Experts for Question & Answer Session
 - David Press, Integrated Resource Program Manager, Wildlife Ecologist
 - Paul Engel, Archaeologist
 - Mark Husbands, Environmental Protection Specialist, Environmental Quality Division

Purpose of this Meeting

- Provide background information on the project area
- Present the agency Preferred Alternative and other alternatives addressed in the EA
- Present Impact Topics analyzed in the EA
- Address common, clarifying questions
- Invite formal public comment through parkplanning.nps.gov/tpap

Tomales Point Area Plan

Planning Area



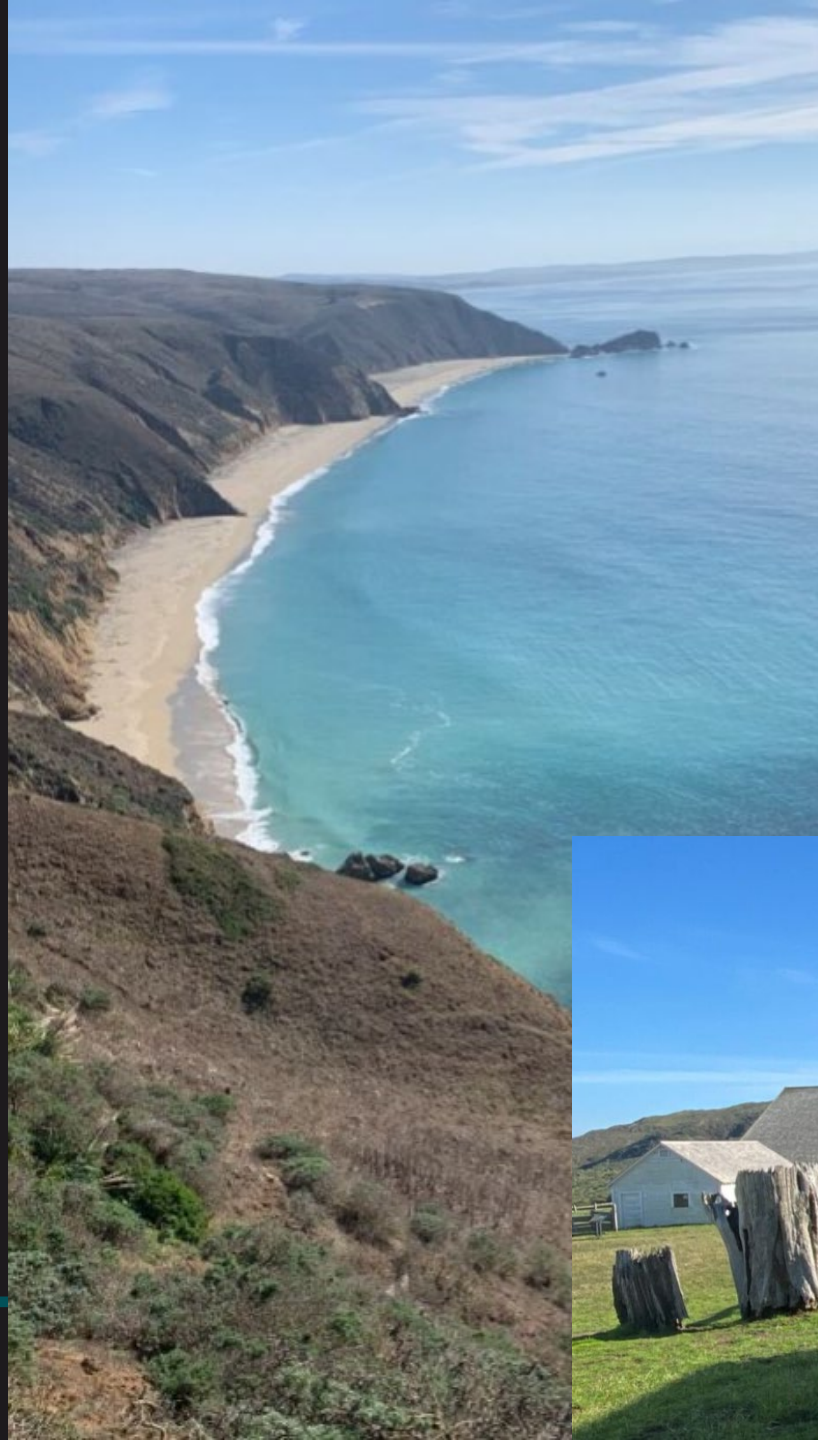
Elements of a General Management Plan

- Identifies resource conditions, visitor experiences, management, and development that best fulfill the park's purpose
- Direction for resource preservation and visitor use
- Includes a foundation statement, identification of important resources and values, and alternatives
- Guided by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires consideration of a full range of alternatives
- Decisions must be based on scientific information

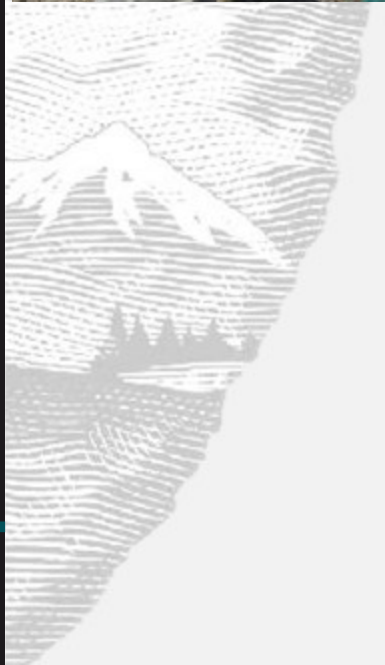
How is the TPAP different from the GMPA?

- General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) 2021
 - Addressed management of lands leased for ranching in Point Reyes and north district Golden Gate National Recreation Area and free-ranging tule elk in those areas
- Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP) 2024
 - Addresses management of the Tomales Point area
 - No active ranching in this area of the park
 - No free-ranging tule elk in this area of the park

Tomales Point: History and Management



Recreational Activities at Tomales Point



Purpose and Need

- The *purpose* of the plan is to establish the management direction at Tomales Point for protecting natural resources, preserving historical and cultural resources, preserving wilderness character, and improving visitor experience.
- The *need* for this project arises from:
 - Recent droughts that adversely affected the elk herd's habitat conditions.
 - The effects of climate change and the need to adapt management strategies accordingly.
 - The partnership between the NPS and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria to ensure collaboration on future management strategies.



Alternative A:

Continue Current Management
(No Action)

- Continue current management, which has required waivers to NPS policy on wilderness and wildlife management.
- *Tule elk* would be managed as a confined herd and the elk fence would remain.
- Supplemental water infrastructure would remain in place and used as needed.
- *Pierce Ranch* would remain a passive outdoor exhibit with employee housing.
- Trail maintenance for the *Tomales Point* and *McClures Beach trails* remains unchanged.
- Boat-in overnight *camping / day use* would continue for beaches and coves along Tomales Bay, north of the elk fence.



Alternative B:

NPS Preferred Alternative
Unconfined Elk Herd and Improved
Visitor Amenities

Unique Features of Alternative B:

- Remove existing elk fence
- Establish wildlife-friendly fencing to prevent cattle from entering the planning area
- Modify historic stock ponds that pose a hazard to wildlife
- Remove 12 elk exclusion fences from Wilderness



Alternative B: (continued)

NPS Preferred Alternative

Features Common to Both Action Alternatives:

- Continue tule elk monitoring and disease surveillance
- Discontinue emergency supplemental actions for elk
- Use integrated pest management (IPM) for invasive plants
- Continue limited plant monitoring and stewardship
- Use prescribed fire to meet desired conditions of native plant communities



Alternative B: (continued)

Programmatic Actions within Alternative B:

- Preserve and adaptively reuse Pierce Ranch
- Add a spur trail to Tomales Bay overlook
- Formalize parking capacity and add vault toilets
- Perform minor trail reroutes and adaptive trail management
- Develop a location-based camping reservation system
- Update management zoning for Tomales Point Area

Management Zoning

- Scenic Landscape Zone
- Development Zone
- Wilderness Zone





Alternative C:

Maintain Elk Fence and Actively
Manage Elk Population

Unique Features of Alternative C:

- Retain and maintain the elk fence
- Actively manage elk population, based on carrying capacity of habitat, including potential use of lethal removal
- Enhance up to eight naturally occurring springs and seeps for wildlife use
- Retain the 12 elk exclosures for vegetation monitoring projects



Alternative C: (continued)

Features Common to Both Action Alternatives:

- Continue tule elk monitoring and disease surveillance
- Discontinue emergency supplemental actions for elk
- Use integrated pest management (IPM) for invasive plants
- Continue limited plant monitoring and stewardship
- Use prescribed fire to meet desired conditions of native plant communities



Alternative C: (continued)

Programmatic Actions within Alternative C:

- Preserve and adaptively reuse Pierce Ranch
- Add a spur trail to Tomales Bay overlook
- Perform minor trail reroutes and adaptive management
- Develop a location-based camping reservation system
- Update management zoning for Tomales Point Area

Alternatives Considered but Dismissed

- Complete a park-wide tule elk management plan
- Cease lethal control of the elk population
- Bring additional elk into the park from other populations (i.e., translocation)
- Other means of controlling the elk population



Alternatives Considered but Dismissed cont.

- Eliminate pesticides, especially in Wilderness
- Enhance and restore habitat for special species
- Improve trail to McClures Beach
- Formalize access beyond Lower Pierce
- Expand interpretive signage and education
- Perform a visitor carrying capacity study

- Vegetation Communities
- Tule Elk and Black-tailed Deer
- Wilderness Character
- Water Resources and Wetlands
- Visitor Use and Experience
- Cultural Resources



Resource Topics for Detailed Analysis



NEPA Process and Key Milestones

Initiate NEPA EA Process and Public Scoping

Summer 2023

Public Scoping and Comment Period

Fall 2023

EA Public Review and Comment Period

May 6 to June 5, 2024

Final Decision

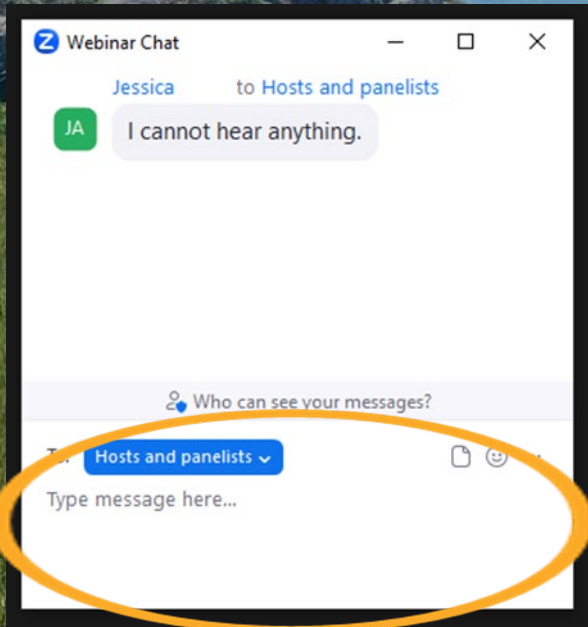
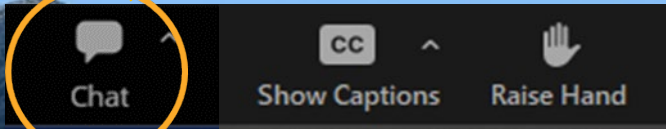
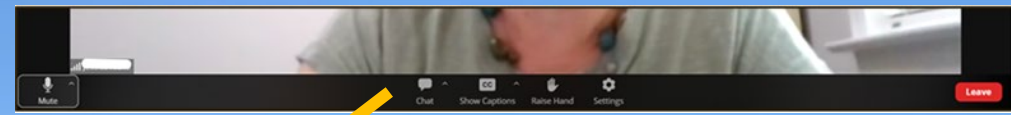
FONSI and Errata

Late August 2024



Question & Answer Session

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How to Comment

*Please share your comments no later than
June 5, 2024, 10:59pm PT*

- The NPS is seeking input from the public on this Environmental Assessment.
- The public comment period is open for 30 days until Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 10:59pm PT.

Please share your comments online at:

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Or by U.S. mail (postmarked by June 5, 2024)
your comments to:

Tomales Point Area Plan
Point Reyes National Seashore
1 Bear Valley Road
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

**Thank you for
your time and
participation**

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