Correspondence ID 28

BMP (1)

- I would like to see the park evaluate & protect water quality in the ranching zone.
- concerned about the loss of native plants & the spread of weeds
- ranchers should be able to take gravel from the ranches to maintain ranch roads. Do not bring in non-native gravel (so ranchers can access areas needed to feed cattle & reduce chance of introducing non-native plants.
- Ranchers need to be able to clean the stock ponds, remove silt.
- Ranchers need to be able to develop springs for watering cattle.

BMP (2)

- like to see incentives to inspire an upgrade for ranch workers housing
- Consider using the Coastguard housing for ranch workers (or employee housing)
- Continue working on invasive plants on ranch lands
- Start animal control for coyotes
- need picnic tables on all of the beaches.
- use volunteers to clean up the beach
- like to see access for bikes - develop connections to existing trails & new trails for bikes
- encourage rancher initiative for the improvement of ranch infrastructure
- allow ranchers to have B+B facilities in order to educate the public as to what a ranch is.
- make sure that any plan has an escape clause to react quickly in the event the plan isn't working (e.g. tule elk)
- Open the estero trail 100% to bikes.

BMP(3)

- It would be nice if the public at large could get answers back from PRNS w/in a short period of time (ex: rancher asks can I have goats?)
- Issues/BMPs need to ~~cap~~ consider economic viability of Ranchers.
- The Park Service needs to become more familiar with on the ground day to day operations from the ranchers perspective. Ongoing.
- The Park Service should make available on the web the original transfer documents for properties in grazing w/in the Park. What were the original agreements and Amendments to those Agreements.

BMP (4)

- How do we manage ATV use on ranches so that it doesn't create negative impacts to natural resources.
- The EA should consider, in a positive light, inovative energy sources, including small scale wind.
- When considering silage, consider energy save and reduction in carbon footprint that comes from not having to ship feed.
- Look for opportunities to support carbon sequestration on Ranch Lands.
- Consider Ranching families a cultural Resource and support inter-generational succession.

BMP 5

- Integrate non-motorized transportation whenever possible (bike/ped)

- convert utility lines to underground system

TE1

- BUILD AN EMERGENCY FENCE FOR LIMANTOUR ELK HERD.
- USE CONTRACEPTIVES.
- The park should reimburse for the costs of feed, water, damages incurred from elk as soon as possible due to ranching's narrow margins.
- Could fences be used?
- Build a quarantine to facilitate the Testing for Johnes Disease in the Pastoral Zone.
- Would a source of water specifically for the Elk keep them from using Ranchers' Water? For all of the herds.

TE5

TEZ

- Post copies of meeting posters online.

- IN OBJECTIVES, ALLOW FOR AN OPTION IF A RANCHER LEAVES TO RETURN LAND TO SOMETHING OTHER THAN GRAZING. (WILDERNESS, NATURAL, RECREATION)

- DOES THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ELK INCLUDE NUMBERS?

- WHO PAYS FOR COST OF FENCING FOR COWS? ELK?

- In regards to the cost of lost feed, would the park consider subsidized feed to off-set what the elk eat? - Jeremy A. Rich, UC Davis Alumni

- INTERESTED IN SEEING FREE-ROAMING ELK THROUGHOUT PARK.

TE 3

- POINT REYES IS ONLY NAT'L PARK W/ELK.
- FREE-ROAMING ELK IS COMPATIBLE W/MISSION OF NPS.
- ANY LEASE AGREEMENT IN PASTORAL LANDS SHOULD INCORPORATE/PROTECT FREE-ROAMING ELK INTO LEASE.
- GRAZING OPERATIONS SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE W/WILDLIFE.
- NO HUNTING, HERDING, OR HARASSING OF ELK, AS PART OF PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE.
- HERD IS A DEMONSTRATION HERD. LONGER YOU WAIT TO CONTROL IT, THE HARDER & MORE EXPENSIVE.

TE 4

- SUPPORTIVE OF NON-LETHAL MANAGEMENT OF FREE-ROAMING ELK, IF MGT IS NEEDED.
- WILL LETHAL CONTROL BE AN OPTION?
- IS NPS ADDRESSING (POPULATION) CARRYING CAPACITY OF ELK?
- HELP W/HISTORIC BLDGS
- NOT BE RESTRICTED TO USING CERTAIN MATERIALS.
- DIVERSIFICATION (e.g. GOATS, CHICKENS, ETC)
- CONCERNED ABOUT PARK STARTING/USING A BASELINE NUMBER FOR ELK THAT IS TOO HIGH BECAUSE OF THEIR CURRENT IMPACTS TO RANCHES.
- EXPLORE RAISING ELK FOR MILK/MEAT/CHEESE/ETC.

TE5

- GOOD EDUCATION ON RANCHING IN PARK - KEEP IT CURRENT. KEEP IT EMPHASIZED

PNI

- Provide Marin County Housing Code for Ranch workers. Strictures similar to developers.
- Transition decisions: if one ranch wants to change kind of operation or consolidate with adjacent ranch — how will this be decided?
- Ranchers need to be able to operate their agricultural enterprise as a lessee w/o being overburdened by oversight and regulations.
- Suggest third-party non-government reviewer to annually review identified ranch plans with practicks identified in advance.
- Elk need to be managed as a herd in designated areas by a third party with management experience.
- Ranch leases that have been terminated need to be ~~re~~ re-leased to agriculture operations, with preference to historic families.
- Growing Silage should be allowed in all agricultural operations.
- Concern over ranch worker housing. Ranch ~~self~~ workers should be housed on site for safety + operational purposes.

PNI

- Open and transparent relationship between Park and ranchers that strikes a balance between ranch operations + resources. PN2
- Help to improve housing for workers on ranches – incentives, reduce paperwork.
- The park inspects houses every year.
- Management of sand dunes and non-nat NL grasses should be addressed – need to keep sand from taking over pasture. Address how sprays/herbicides impact organic certification.
- Find ~~benef~~ mutually beneficial co-existence/relationship between elk/wildlife + flora + land & ranches.
- Why can't you move the elk off ranches? – they were moved once, they could be moved again.
- How do you test for Johnes Disease & how ~~ho~~ long does it take for result?
- How large will Tule elk herd be allowed to get?
- Elk community barbeque.

- Allow hunting of elk. PN3
  sell tags or allow ranchers to shoot.
  - (better to hunt than allow to starve / dehydrate to death)
- Create niche market for elk meat.
  ~~low~~
- Plan needs a mechanism for change if it proves ineffective or damaging.
- Use bull elk tag profits ($5k+) → 5000 or (more) per animal to enhance wilderness or restoration programs.
- Why should plan take so long - to fall of 2015?
- What will be done in meantime about the elk on the ranches?
- More manpower in the field to manage the current elk herd - all the herds. Get out of the office, into the field.
- Remove elk herd now due to Johnes Disease concern - including cross-species transmission + human health.
- Incredible opportunity to restore the elk herd. Originally 500,000 in the state - there's less than 4,000 now. They are native - cattle are non-native.

N3

PN4

- Agriculture is an industry that responds to market pressures & must be flexible and adaptive to survive. EA must include consideration of agricultural practices necessary for viability of industry such as, diversification including row crops & more.
- EA should anticipate climate change / extreme weather events + impacts on grazing/ranching industry.
- EA shoul consider shifting market demands for both beef + dairy products.
- State of California should remove all non-native aminals, including human beings.
- Park should have a plan for introducing animals to leased lands. Leases don't say you can include elk.
- Ensure the protection of best management practices to protect the family farm for future generations.
- Use lethal measures to control raven populations.

- Use lethal methods against coyotes killing or harming livestock. PNS
- Allow diversification of livestock types, e.g. horses, sheep, pigs, chickens + different breeds.
- Park should actively encourage sustainable practices such as solar, methane digester, etc.
- Utilize ranchers knowledge of history, land, and the operation.
- Take existing ranch plans + certifications into consideration – e.g. some ranches already have plans developed with NRCS.
- Acknowledge the ranchers for their sustainability + stewardship practices.
- Work with NRCS to get projects done. NRCS is more efficient.
- Plans should transcend personnel changes. Projects underway should be completed even if an NPS staff member leaves.
- If ~~a lease~~ the lessor wants to transfer or void or sublease or abandon it should go to someone in ag. with a viable ag business plan.

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PN6

- Identify competive process using qualifications, skill set, procedures, best practices of applicants to determine who will get leases that become available.
- Rolling 20-year leases – it would remain 20 years until violated or abandoned.
- Control beach access at night to help prevent rares. Gates that can close to beach access points.
- Ecological stability benefits both natural systems and ranches.