

**From:** [Levitt, Howard](#)  
**To:** [Neal Desai](#)  
**Cc:** [Frank\\_Dean@nps.gov](mailto:Frank_Dean@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: press release on GGNRA GMP ROD  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2015 7:42:24 PM

---

I'm stunned.

On Tue, Feb 10, 2015 at 11:55 AM, Neal Desai <[ndesai@npca.org](mailto:ndesai@npca.org)> wrote:

Not sure if you saw this, but FYI:

<http://www.saveourrecreation.com/save-our-recreation-nps-once-again-ignores-public-concerns-and-unilaterally-decides-to-restrict-access-to-the-ggnra/>

# SAVE OUR RECREATION: NPS ONCE AGAIN IGNORES PUBLIC CONCERNS AND UNILATERALLY DECIDES TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO THE GGNRA

---

- FEBRUARY 10, 2015

National Park Service Once Again Ignores Public Concerns and Unilaterally Decides to Restrict Access to the GGNRA by  
Signing New GMP

San Francisco – National Park Service [announced](#) that they signed a new general management plan for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). This comes months after repeated refusals by Pacific West Region Director Christine S. Lehnertz to meet with Save Our Recreation and address concerns that this new plan, unlike the previous plan that “effectively guided the park for more than three decades,” would severely restrict recreational access to the GGNRA.

“We are deeply troubled to learn that the National Park Service has decided to minimize the importance of recreation and public access in the new general management plan it has just announced for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area,” said Andrea Buffa, Save Our Recreation. “We all know that the Bay Area population is growing and growing fast. We need more access to this urban recreation area—not less. This is yet another example of the National Park Service ignoring the needs and concerns of local communities.”

In 1970, just two years before the GGNRA was established, the Bay Area population was 4.6 million. Today, it is 7.4 million and growing fast. Yet, the new management plan turns most of the GGNRA into special zones where “access opportunities would be subordinate to the natural setting and may be highly managed (i.e., restrictions on access)” and “low to moderate use levels would be expected in this zone, with moderate use levels often found at entry points or points of interest.” This is counter to the enabling legislation and the vision of those who founded the GGNRA “to provide for the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary to urban environment and planning.”

Save Our Recreation has repeatedly tried to work with the National Park Service to address these concerns by making direct requests and requests through local elected officials to meet with Pacific West Region Director Christine S. Lehnertz. Director Lehnertz has repeatedly rebuffed those requests and signed the new general management plan. The Record of Decision acknowledges that the agency is aware of attempts to raise concerns, but ultimately made no changes or modifications regarding public access in the new plan.

“Thousands of Bay Area residents have signed our petition and contributed thousands of dollars in support of our efforts—joining respected political leaders like Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Mayor Ed Lee and supervisors from San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo counties,” said Buffa. “We wanted to work with the National Park Service and were rejected at every turn. Today, with the stroke of a pen, Director Lehnertz has made clear that the NPS has no qualms about restricting Bay Area residents from their own backyard.”

Save Our Recreation is a growing organization that serves as an umbrella group to bring people and organizations supporting recreation together. They advocate for the preservation of recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and a comprehensive process that includes public input, independent voices and thoughtful consideration. For more information go to: [www.SaveOurRecreation.com](http://www.SaveOurRecreation.com).

--

Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications and Partnerships  
Golden Gate National Parks  
[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)  
415-561-4730