

From: (b)
(6)
To: Chris_Lehnertz@nps.gov
Subject: GGNRA
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Ms. Lehnertz-

The National Park Service, which was entrusted to protect public access, is trying to eliminate our recreational opportunities one by one. These are beaches and trails where people have been welcomed for 40 years or longer. There is no credible reason to start denying access now. We need a real meaningful public process that involves the people who are going to be affected. And we want a process that takes our input into account. The entire community should have the opportunity to participate in this important discussion. It has come to the sad juncture that the staff of the National Park Service is proposing to use our federal taxpayer dollars to keep people from recreating in the GGNRA – places we have been allowed to go for more than 40 years since it was protected from development. The proposed General Management Plan literally redefines and changes the stated park purpose that was established by an act of Congress in 1972. The original language holds “preserving for public use and enjoyment.... to provide for the maintenance of needed recreational open space...,” is being changed to “...providing a national park experience...”

Currently the GGNRA is pushing forward with three separate plans that seek to limit access to areas like Fort Funston, Rancho Corral de Tierra and the Marin Headlands. Two of those plans could be signed off on as soon as this week – the 20-year General Management Plan, which would establish "zones" where the GGNRA could actually prohibit people from doing things like picnicking at most of Ocean Beach; and a rule that would create restrictive and expensive permits for professional dog walkers who people count on to make sure their pets receive appropriate exercise (any permitting should be considered as part of the dog management plan that is still being developed and reviewed until late 2015).

We believe people and nature are compatible that is evident by the beauty and abundance of species in the GGNRA . GGNRA needs to slow down its drive to limit recreation and that she should not sign off on any new plans that could restrict our enjoyment of GGNRA lands. Your consideration is not only important, but appreciated as well.

Regards,

Karen Kawszan

*“The greatness of a nation and its
moral progress can be judged by
the way in which its animals are treated.”
Mahatma Ghandi (1869-1948)*