



From: Mark Bartolini mark.bartolini1@gmail.com  
Subject: Request for a Meeting with Secretary Haaland Re: Point Reyes National Seashore General Management Plan Amendment
Date: April 27, 2021 at 8:01 AM
To: scheduling_sio@ios.soi.gov
Cc: Theresa Harlan tharlantiger@comcast.net, Mark Bartolini mark.bartolini1@gmail.com

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April 27, 2021

The Honorable Debra Anne Haaland
Secretary of the Interior

Dear Madam Secretary:

We the undersigned are requesting a meeting with you to discuss the General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) for the Point Reyes National Seashore and ranching in general in the park. As you are likely aware, the plan just received concurrence from the California Coastal Commission on a 5-4 vote and the signing of the Record of Determination is imminent.

Given the fact that the voices of people of color and underserved communities have been almost completely ignored in this process, we hope you will suspend the process of signing the Record of Determination until at least we have the opportunity to present our position to you.

We believe the implementation of this plan would be contrary to the commitments this administration has made to promote racial diversity, health equity and inclusion as well as mitigate the impacts of climate change from commercialized ranching. Moreover, we believe many of the claims made to support the GMPA are in error.

When the Point Reyes National Seashore became fully funded in the early 1970s, the NPS expended considerable resources hiring consultants that sought input from people of color and underserved communities who according to the historian John Hart in his book *A Wilderness Next Door* "the park was at least rhetorically created for." The idea was to create a first-class wilderness oriented park that would be accessible (due to its proximity to a major metropolitan area) and welcoming to communities that either could not afford the national park experience or felt excluded due to discriminatory practices.

The NEPA process has clearly failed to meet best practices in giving a voice to these communities who will be most impacted by this plan because many of the San Francisco Bay Area's residents simply do not have other options to derive the health benefits of accessing a national park beyond the Point Reyes National Seashore, the only national seashore on the Pacific Coast, which is within a 1/2 hour to two-hour drive (and can be reached by public transportation) to 8 million people. The record is clear that ranchers and their supporters have had virtually unlimited access to convey their position to members of Congress and the previous administration.

We know environmental organizations have approached you on this issue and we hope you

can spare some time to meet with those of us who are concerned about the social and racial justice aspects as well as climate change-driven health implications.

Sincerely yours,

Theresa Harlan and Mark Bartolini POCs for the Undersigned List of Proposed Participants and the attached signatory agencies.

Tedde Simon, Indigenous Justice Interim Program Manager, ACLU Northern CA
Brandon Green, Director, Racial and Economic Justice Program ACLU Northern California
Corrina Gould, Chairwoman, Confederated Villages of Lisjan
Joesiphine Talamantez, co-founder of Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center
Theresa Harlan, descendant of the last Coast Miwok family from the western shores of Tomales Bay (PRNS) and Jemez Pueblo/Kewa Pueblo
Michael Bird, Past President American Public Health Association , Kewa Pueblo Tribal member
JayVon Muhammad, CPM, LM, President and Chief Executive Officer Richmond Area Multi-Services, Inc. (RAMS)Past Director Marin City Health and Wellness Center
Mark Bartolini, former Director Point Reyes National Seashore Association, former Director Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, USAID

Attachments:

Sign on Letter
List of Signatories



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