

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - (no subject)



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov <Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov>
To: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov

Thu, Jun 23, 2011 at 4:06 PM

(See attached file: PRSRA final June 23.doc)

Brannon Ketcham
Point Reyes National Seashore
Phone (415) 464-5192
Fax: (415) 663-8132



PRSRA final June 23.doc
28K

L

June 23, 2011

Point Reyes Ranchers Association
P.O. Box 1403
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Association Members:

(b) (5)



(b) (5)



Sincerely,

Superintendent

CC: (many)

DRAFT

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - attachment



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

attachment

1 message

Natalie_Gates@nps.gov <Natalie_Gates@nps.gov>
To: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov

Fri, Mar 16, 2012 at 12:49 PM

(See attached file: Rancher Support Statement 03162012.doc)

Natalie B. Gates
National Park Service
Chief of Natural Resource Management
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, CA 94956
Tel: 415-464-5189
Fax: 415-464-5183
Natalie_Gates@nps.gov



Rancher Support Statement 03162012.doc
98K

Point Reyes National Seashore
Statement of Support of Ranching 2009-2012
March 16, 2012

Range Management - \$2,496,000

- Collaborate with ranchers to develop new approaches to ranch management and to determine future needs, then pursue outside funding to implement improvements; provide funding and oversight for the construction of water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs); assist with water development projects and ranch road repairs to protect park resources and provide water for cattle; coordinate and design range improvement projects with ranchers, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Marin Resource Conservation District and State; conduct environmental compliance and assist with implementation of projects; monitor free-ranging elk herd in pastoral zone; serve as liaison between agencies and ranchers. NPS contracts and supplies = \$208,800; NPS staff = \$706,700; total = \$915,500
- Control invasive weeds in pastures including prescribed burns, contracted weed control crews and NPS staff time and supplies; total = \$63,000
- Coordinate with Niman and Nunes ranches for State-mandated reduction of pollutants being delivered to Marin Headlands and Duxbury Reef Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) through cattle fencing and restoration of riparian areas. State Water Board grant obtained = \$645,240; NPS match = \$73,160; total: \$718,400
- Coordinate with California Coastal Conservancy and various ranchers in the Tomales Bay Watershed to implement BMPs to reduce non-point source runoff as mandated by California. Proposition 319 grant obtained = \$45,664; NPS match = \$345,475; total = \$799,100

Facilities Management - \$51,000

- L Ranch road grading 3 times per year; 4 year total = \$18,000
- Drakes Bay Oyster Company access road, grade and maintain once per year since 2012; total = \$2,000
- M-Ranch septic system; 2010 = \$31,000

Historic Structures - \$416,000

- D Ranch milk barn roof and siding, horse barn roof, north and south garage roof and paint, house and bunkhouse; 2009-2011 = \$124,000
- G Ranch Bunkhouse roof; 2009 = \$20,000
- M Ranch milk barn stabilization; 2009-2012 = \$103,500
- Cheda Ranch hay barn stabilization; 2009 = \$10,500
- G Ranch main house roof; 2009 = \$30,000
- Rogers Ranch sheds; 2010 = \$31,000
- C Ranch buildings and bunkhouse; 2009-2011 = \$77,000
- I Ranch creamery; 2012 = \$20,000

GRAND TOTAL, 2009-2012: \$2,963,000

AVERAGE SUPPORT OVER 2009-2012: \$740,760/YEAR



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

August 18th Meeting Recap

1 message

david@marinsunfarms.com <david@marinsunfarms.com>
To: cicely_muldoon@nps.gov

Mon, Sep 12, 2011 at 1:22 PM

Superintendent Cicely Muldoon,

Thank you for hosting a meeting of the ranchers that are currently being effected by the elk population that has migrated from the Limantour Wilderness onto the Pastoral Zone.

We ranchers appreciate your willingness to improve communication and believe that the past lack of communication between PRNS and the ranchers has been problematic in addressing the elk migration problem. We are encouraged by your commitment and would like to request a detailed plan by which you intend to improve communication and begin addressing the problem. Please respond to me at your earliest convenience so that we can begin the necessary dialog required to solve this problem.

From our August 18th meeting, we have a few breakdowns in communication we would like understood.

1) In understanding the established precedent set by Superintendent Don Neubacher, Natalie Gates was asked to confirm that 1 elk, who first migrated onto the Pastoral Zone (M, H, L Ranches) was removed. As background, several ranchers were told by Superintendent Neubacher, after their concerns about the potential of elk migrating on Pastoral Zone ranch leases, that indeed elk would be removed or returned to the Limantour Wilderness, where the elk were approved to range. Natalie Gates explained that the elk in question was removed and relocated. When ranchers accounted that the elk in question was in fact removed lethally, Natalie Gates emphatically rejected that any elk had been removed using lethal action. Ranchers further explained the timeline regarding the rouge elk. The

elk had first appeared within the Pastoral Zone at M, H, and L Ranches, was observed aggressively spearing cattle and damaging fences, and PRNS staff tranquilized and relocated the elk to the Limantour Wilderness. Within weeks the elk returned to M, H, and L Ranch and was, again, disturbing cattle and fences. After further reports from affected ranchers, PRNS staff lethally shot the elk. At this point Natalie Gates, in a high tone of voice, emphatically declared that in no way had an elk been removed by PRNS staff using lethal action. Ranchers were stunned, as we went on further to explain that the lethally shot elk was photographed by one of the ranchers, not only the carcass, but the PRNS staff also, and that the antlers of the lethally shot elk were actually currently available at the L Ranch. In hearing this, Natalie Gates' expression turned to slight confusion, head turning, and she acknowledged that now she remembered, that yes, the elk's antlers were at the L Ranch site.

This account, from our meeting, not only shows a significant breakdown in communication from PRNS staff, but that an established precedent set by Superintendent Don Neubacher was in effect and signifies his agreement with ranchers regarding elk within the Pastoral Zone.

2) In response to a PRNS staff wide response regarding the elk migration onto the Pastoral Zone as a "New Problem", ranchers began communicating the establishment of benchmark interactions and communication with PRNS staff regarding the elk migration. One of these instances was directed to John DeGregoria. C Ranch lessee, Nichola Spaletta, explained of a conversation she had with John DeGregoria in 2004 at a visit he made to C Ranch to discuss elk on that ranch. John DeGregoria insisted that no meeting had taken place at that time. Mrs. Spaletta continued, explaining to John DeGregoria that he was there to discuss a possible fence installation that Superintendent Neubacher had suggested that was designed to keep elk off of the C Ranch pastures. John DeGregoria loudly rejected the assentation's of Mrs. Spaletta. Then Mrs. Spaletta produced a copy of a topographic map of C ranch. On it was a proposed fence and a note, written in the handwriting of Superintendent Neubacher, "John - Please discuss with Ernie and Nichola.....". With this evidence submitted, John DeGregoria aggressively replied "It is your fault you did not like the fence!"

This account, from our meeting, is yet another sign of communication breakdown from PRNS staff. This account further proves that the elk migration onto the Pastoral Zone has been known by PRNS staff for many years, and is not a "New Problem". This account also

continues to support that Superintendent Don Neubacher was actively engaged with ranchers in removing elk from the Pastoral Zone as he promised and that PRNS was fully aware the problem existed many years ago.

I myself was told by Superintendent Neubacher, in as early as 1999, that elk that entered the Pastoral Zone would be removed. I have most recently been told by PRNS staff Melanie Gunn ".....that all we need is better communication and through this we will realize our common goals to begin addressing this new problem...."

If PRNS is committed to better communication, I will await you plan of action.

David Evans

Elk Committee Chair

Point Reyes National Seashore Ranchers Association

P.O. Box 1136

16484 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

Inverness, CA 94937

(415) (b) (6) Home

david@marinsunfarms.com

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Blake - elk follow-up



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Blake - elk follow-up

1 message

David_Barna@nps.gov <David_Barna@nps.gov>

Mon, Oct 22, 2012 at 9:09 AM

To: Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov

Cc: Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov, Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov, Melanie_Gunn@nps.gov, Sue_Waldron@nps.gov, David_Barna@nps.gov, Mike_Litterst@nps.gov

Blake

Works for me.

I'm headed over to Bill Line's memorial.

Do you want to send to **Emily Yehle**, eyehle@eenews.net? or do you want the superintendent Cicely Muldoon or Melanie Gunn to send it from the park, or from me?

David

▼ "Androff, Blake J" —10/22/2012 11:59:33 AM—What about the following, based on the letter from the Secretary?

"Androff, Blake J"
<Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov>

To "Kelly, Kate P" <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>,
"Barna, David" <David_Barna@nps.gov>

10/22/2012 11:59 AM AST

cc

Subject RE: elk follow-up

What about the following, based on the letter from the Secretary?

(b) (5)

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Blake - elk follow-up

(b) (5)

Blake Androff
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

From: Kelly, Kate P
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 10:58 AM
To: Barna, David
Cc: Androff, Blake J
Subject: RE: elk follow-up

I'm on the road so looping Blake.

Do you have a recommendation on how NPS would prefer to handle?

From: [David Barna@nps.gov](mailto:David_Barna@nps.gov) [David_Barna@nps.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 10:24 AM
To: Kelly, Kate P
Subject: Fw: elk follow-up
Should be just let this pass?

d

----- Forwarded by David Barna/WASO/NPS on 10/22/2012 10:24 AM -----

Sue
Waldron/WASO/NPS
10/19/2012 04:49 PM
EDT

To
Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov,
Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov,
Sarah_Greenberger@ios.doi.gov
cc
David Barna/WASO/NPS
Subject
Fw: elk follow-up

All:

See E&E reporter questions on Tule Elk at PORE....deadline COB monday

thoughts on how to proceed?

(b) (5)

Will send that letter next so you have

Sue Waldron
Assistant Director, Communications

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Blake - elk follow-up

National Park Service
(202) 208-3046
www.nps.gov

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

----- Forwarded by Sue Waldron/WASO/NPS on 10/19/2012 04:35 PM -----

**Melanie
Gunn/PORE/NPS**
10/19/2012 03:58
PM

To
"Sue Waldron"
<Sue_Waldron@nps.gov>, "David
Barna" <David_Barna@nps.gov>
cc
Subject
Fw: elk follow-up

Melanie

Sent from my BlackBerry

Melanie Gunn
Point Reyes National Seashore
Melanie_Gunn@nps.gov
office: 415-464-5131

▼ John A Dell'Osso

----- Original Message -----

From: John A Dell'Osso
Sent: 10/18/2012 02:05 PM PDT
To: Brannon Ketcham; Melanie Gunn; Dave Press; Cicely Muldoon; Gordon White
Cc: Natalie Gates
Subject: Fw: elk follow-up
Let's check-in folks.

John A. Dell'Osso
Chief of Interpretation and Resource Education
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5135

Commemorating 50 years of Point Reyes National Seashore, 1962 - 2012

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

----- Forwarded by John A Dell'Osso/PORE/NPS on 10/18/2012 02:04 PM -----

Emily Yehle

To
"John_A_Dell'Osso@nps.gov"

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Blake - elk follow-up

<eyehle@eenews.net>

<John_A_Dell'Osso@nps.gov>

10/18/2012 01:45 PM

cc

Subject

elk follow-up

John,

Other stories side-tracked me for awhile, but I'm back on track to write a story on the tule elk situation in Point Reyes. Who should I talk to about that?

Specifically, I'm hoping to find out:

- What is the history of the Park's efforts to restore the tule elk in Point Reyes? How were they introduced, etc?
- What does the park plan to do about the elk who have moved onto the ranches located in the pastoral zone?
- Why hasn't the park removed the elk, as per the management plan? Does it plan to move them?
- Has the park met with the ranchers as a group? If so, when? If not, why not?

Tentative deadline of COB Monday, so if I can talk to anyone before then, that would be great. Otherwise, let me know when I can talk with someone – or who I should refer this request to.

Thanks!

Emily Yehle

Reporter

eyehle@eenews.net

202-446-0437 (p)

202-737-5299 (f)

Environment & Energy Publishing, LLC

122 C Street, NW, Suite 722, Washington, DC 20001

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Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

briefing statements

1 message

Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov <Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov>
To: Natalie_Gates@nps.gov, Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov

Fri, Aug 27, 2010 at 2:17 PM

Printing up the briefing statements for Chris, and I am now to PORE...

I took the latest versions and made minor mods. Take a look, let me know if you are OK to post...

Brannon

(See attached file: PORE ranching 8_2010.doc)(See attached file: PORE Drakes Bay Oyster Company revised August 2010.doc)(See attached file: PORE Exotic Deer brf stmt -August 2010.doc)(See attached file: PORE Fact Sheet 8_2010.doc)

Brannon Ketcham
Acting Assistant Regional Director, Public Affairs
Pacific West Region
Phone (510) 817-1320
Fax: (510) 817-1325

4 attachments

 **PORE ranching 8_2010.doc**
40K

 **PORE Drakes Bay Oyster Company revised August 2010.doc**
45K

 **PORE Exotic Deer brf stmt -August 2010.doc**
50K

 **PORE Fact Sheet 8_2010.doc**
30K

Briefing Statement FY 2010

Bureau: National Park Service
Issue: Ranching at Point Reyes National Seashore
Member: Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein and Representative Woolsey
Park: Point Reyes National Seashore

Key Points:

- Point Reyes National Seashore has approximately 40 Special Use Permits and Reservations of Use and Occupancy that allow 23 families to operate dairy and beef cattle production within park boundaries. Approximately 18,000 acres (20%) of the Seashore and 10,000 acres of the North District Golden Gate National Recreation Area are used for beef and dairy operations.
- Dairy and cattle ranching is allowed under the park enabling legislation and permitted in the area zoned as pastoral in the current (1980) General Management Plan.
- In the pastoral zone, Special Use Permits were issued to the former owners or renters at the time of NPS acquisition or after original Use and Occupancy Agreements expired.
- The NPS fully supports the continuation of ranching, which contributes to the historic landscape and local agriculture.

(b) (5)

Background:

- The park has 29 federally threatened or endangered species within its boundaries, several on ranch lands.
- As directed by legislation and Code of Federal Regulations, the NPS charges permit rates based on fair market valuation set by independent appraisers.
- Specific areas have been removed from grazing to protect natural and cultural resources.
- The Tomales Bay watershed, which includes Lagunitas Creek within the Seashore, is listed as impaired under section 303 (d) of the Clean Water Act due to sediment, pathogens, and nutrients.
- Ranches are required to operate in a manner sensitive to protected species on and adjacent to grazed lands. Ranches are also required by the State of California to reduce non-point source pollution within the Tomales Bay watershed and state designated Areas of Special Biological Significance.

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Current Status:

- The NPS supports the dairy and cattle ranching operations. These operations are permitted through Special Use Permits and several remaining Reservations of Use and Occupancy. The Pacific West Regional Director has been delegated unique authority to issue Special Use Permits with an initial term 10 years to assist ranchers in their operations.
- A limited number of ranchers have expressed interest in diversification of operations (such as farm stay lodging, chicken production, and goat production); some limited diversification has been approved on a case by case basis.
- Crop farming and other large-scale commercial enterprises (e.g., cheese factories) are not allowed by the current General Management Plan and enabling legislation. NPS has discouraged these types of diversification.
- Communications between ranchers and park management are facilitated by a permanent range ecologist and rancher meetings held 1-2 times yearly.

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(b) (5)

- The pastoral zone is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the park is working cooperatively with the permittees to achieve historic preservation goals.
- The General Management Plan is currently being updated with public input.

Position of Interested Parties:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries are concerned with listed species throughout the pastoral zone and have issued Biological Opinions for the grazing operations which have been incorporated into the Special Use Permits.
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board has concerns about water quality impacts from dairy and cattle operations and has issued a Grazing Waiver for all beef cattle operations within the Tomales Bay Watershed. Seashore staff continue to collaborate with the ranching community to meet the conditions in the Grazing Waiver,

(b) (5)

-
- A local non-profit, Marin Agricultural Land Trust, is buying agricultural easements adjacent to the park.

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Prepared by: Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore, 415-464-5101

Date: August 2010

Briefing Statement FY 2010

Bureau: National Park Service
Issue: Commercial Oyster Operations in Drakes Estero
Member: Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein and Representative Woolsey
Park: Point Reyes National Seashore

Key Points:

- Senator Dianne Feinstein (D, CA) amended the 2010 Appropriations Bill to allow the Secretary, at his discretion, to issue a 10-year special permit to Drakes Bay Oyster Company from 2012 to 2022, notwithstanding any other law (P.L. 111-88, §124, 123 Stat. 2904 (2009)).
- The Secretary “shall take into consideration recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences Report pertaining to shellfish mariculture in Point Reyes National Seashore before modifying any terms and conditions of the extended authorization.”
- Oysters are commercially grown and processed in an estuary, within potential Wilderness, and on land within Point Reyes National Seashore under a Reservation of Use and Occupancy (RUO) and a Special Use Permit issued to Drakes Bay Oyster Company (DBOC).
- Mr. Lunny, owner and operator of Drakes Bay Oyster Company, wants to continue operating beyond 2012.
- In 2008, NPS and DBOC signed a “Statement of Principles regarding NEPA Evaluation for the Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company” (Statement of Principles) outlining mutual communication for both cooperating parties in going forward with NEPA action.
- The Seashore has received direction from WASO to begin preparation of a NEPA document which will analyze the 10-year permit extension in 2012.

Background:

- The estuary where the oysters are grown was designated as potential Wilderness by Congress and can be administratively designated as full Wilderness by the Secretary once the oyster operation is gone (Public Law 94-544).
- The estuary’s streams are critical habitat for steelhead trout and the estuary provides extensive in-tact eelgrass beds. The area is critical habitat for the California red-legged frog and is home to one of the largest harbor seal colonies in California.
- The RUO is a 40-year reserved property right from the original owner that was sold to the present owner, Kevin Lunny, in 2005. The RUO expires in 2012 and Mr. Lunny was made aware of this in writing by the NPS when he purchased the business.
- To resolve issues regarding environmental impacts of mariculture and NPS interpretation of possible impacts, the NPS contracted the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to review scientific literature and expert opinions and to provide an independent analysis. The report was issued in May 2009.
- Biological monitoring and the NAS review indicate the oyster operation has the potential to have moderate (or greater) impacts to natural resources of the estuary. Specific concerns include disturbance of harbor seals and facilitation of the spread of invasive species.
- Previous to the Feinstein appropriations rider, per the Office of the DOI Solicitor, the NPS did not have the authority to extend the permit beyond 2012.

- California Fish and Game has issued an aquacultural lease to DBOC, but has conceded that the NPS has primary jurisdiction over the future of the commercial operation.
- Since acquiring the reservation interest, Drakes Bay Oyster Company has increased production from 1.4 million to 9.0 million oysters/year and has expanded active oyster racks by 65%.
- In response to a complaint from the Lunny family, the DOI Inspector General conducted a thorough investigation and found no indication that the park superintendent treated the Lunny family with any disparity or that he was planning to shut Drakes Bay Oyster Company down prior to 2012. The DOI IG stated that the park published a report and newspaper article on Drakes Estero that contained several inaccuracies regarding the source of sedimentation in the estero. There was no finding of scientific misconduct.

Current Status:

- (b) (5)



Prepared by: Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore, 415-464-5101
Date: August 2010

Briefing Statement FY 2010

Bureau: National Park Service
Issue: Non-Native Deer Management
Member: Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein and Representative Woolsey
Park: Point Reyes National Seashore

Key Points:

- Two species of non-native deer were released into the Point Reyes area by a local rancher in the 1940s, before the Seashore was established. The non-native deer were obtained from the San Francisco Zoo. In 2005, the total number of axis deer, originally from India, and fallow deer, originally from Asia Minor, was estimated at over 900 animals. Current estimates are fewer than 80 non-native deer in the park.
- From 1976 to 1994, park staff culled non-native deer annually and at a significant cost to keep the population from impacting park resources and leaving park boundaries. Approximately 3,000 total animals were removed. Because of litigation threat by animal rights groups and budget constraints, the park ceased culling deer and began development of a non-native deer management plan.
- During 5 years of public planning, the park developed the Non-Native Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (2006) with extensive public input.
- From 2007 through 2009, non-native deer were managed with fertility control and culling. Management was successful enough that park biologists believe at this time that the remaining herd can be managed and will eventually disappear without the use of lethal control.
- Over 75% of culled deer were donated to Bay Area food banks, local Native American tribes and condor recovery programs throughout California.
- NPS investigated the efficacy of several new contraceptive techniques for the non-native deer including GonaCon™, an experimental contraceptive developed by U.S. Department of Agriculture, and non-invasive sterilization through laparoscopy. This study constituted one of the largest contraceptive trials on free-ranging deer in the U.S.

Background:

- The presence of invasive axis and fallow deer was harmful to many elements of the natural ecosystem at PRNS. Some of the more serious effects these non-native deer had included competition for food with and displacement of native tule elk and black-tailed deer, destruction of riparian and oak woodland habitat, impacts to several special status species, and potential transmission of fatal diseases to native deer and elk.
- In the 1990s, populations of both species of deer increased and the range of fallow deer expanded eastward beyond Seashore boundaries. This population and range expansion, if allowed to continue, would have resulted in these same harmful impacts on private and public lands outside PRNS. In addition, had the deer become established outside NPS boundaries, future control of non-native deer would have been difficult.
- The Final Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was made public in July 2006. The Record of Decision was signed in October 2006. The environmental analysis assessed a range of alternatives from no action to removal of some or all of the axis and fallow deer, and the potential for beneficial or adverse effects on natural resources, human health and safety, visitor experience, park operations and the regional economy.

- Use of contraception or other non-lethal methods alone were considered by the NPS but, upon consultation with leading researchers in wildlife contraception, determined to be infeasible.

Current Status:

- Since 2007, approximately 150 axis deer and 520 fallow deer have been culled. Safety of visitors and staff, as well as humane treatment of dispatched animals, was paramount during the active control phase of the management program.
- The following language was included in the 2009 Federal Omnibus Bill (Sec 118) and 2010 Interior appropriations bill (Sec 116) contain the following language: “None of the funds in this Act may be used to further reduce the number of Axis or Fallow deer at Point Reyes National Seashore below the number as of the date of enactment of this Act.” Current management of the non-native deer, which consists of monitoring, is consistent with this legislation.
- In May 2008, PRNS received a report prepared by the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS) entitled “Strategies to Manage Axis and Fallow Deer at Pt. Reyes National Seashore and Environs, Including a Proposal to Designate such Deer a Cultural and Historic Resource at PRNS.” At the same time, the park superintendent also received a letter from a number of elected officials, including Senators Boxer and Feinstein and Congresswoman Pelosi, requesting that PRNS cease further deer culling until review of the report.
- After extensive review, PRNS cultural and resource managers determined that the HSUS report did not contain any new information or propose any new feasible alternatives. The proposal to designate non-native deer as “cultural and historic” resources was determined to have neither a historic nor a cultural rationale and is inconsistent with the enabling legislation that established the park.

Interested Parties:

- Signatories on the May 2008 letter to the superintendent were: CA Senators Feinstein and Boxer, CA Congresswomen Pelosi, Woolsey, Eshoo, and CA Congressman Miller.
- Animal welfare groups and their public supporters have expressed support for investigation of non-lethal methods of deer population control, oppose any culling of non-native deer and are the major source of controversy with this project.
- Environmental organizations (including Marin Audubon Club, Marin Sierra Club, and the National Parks Conservation Association) and many members of the public have voiced support for eradication of the non-native deer in order to protect native ecosystems and species. Most local ranchers and the state cattlemen’s association supported the park’s Preferred Alternative.
- California Department of Fish and Game, California State Parks, Marin Municipal Water District and Marin County Open Space supported the park’s Preferred Alternative.

Prepared by: Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent (415 464-5101)

Date: August 2010

Park Name Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE)

Park History PORE was created on September 13, 1962 to “save and preserve for purposes of public recreation, benefit, and inspiration, a portion of the diminishing seashore of the United States that remains undeveloped” (Public Law 87-657, 16 USC §459c). The Seashore also manages approximately 18,000 acres of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, northern district.

Cicely Muldoon, Park Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
(415) 464-5101
www.nps.gov/pore

Purpose To save and preserve for purposes of public recreation, benefit, and inspiration, a portion of the diminishing seashore of the United States that remains undeveloped. PORE’s 2009 Foundation for Planning lists the significant resources as follows: undeveloped coastal environment, marine environment, native species, opportunities for education and research, wilderness character, archeological resources, and cultural landscapes and historic structures.

Resources One of America’s greatest coastlines, PORE comprises over 71,000 acres, including 32,000 acres of Congressionally-designated wilderness area. Located just an hour’s drive from an urban area populated by eight million people, the park receives over two million visitors annually. Abundant recreational opportunities include over 80 miles of undeveloped coastline, 147 miles of hiking trails, backcountry campgrounds, and many beautiful beaches. Over 900 plant species can be found within the Park’s boundary, about 17% of the California flora. Twenty-seven threatened and endangered plants and animals are found within the Seashore’s boundary. With over 480 species of birds recorded at Point Reyes National Seashore, this total represents 45% of the species of avian fauna found in North America. At least 120 Coast Miwok archeological sites are known on the Peninsula. This represents one of the largest concentrations of archeological material in Marin County. The Seashore has roughly 300 historic structures including the over 130 year old historic Point Reyes Lighthouse. Additionally, the historic Point Reyes Lifeboat Station is a National Historic Landmark. The Seashore’s museum collection contains over 490,000 archeological and historical pieces. Over 20 working dairy and beef ranches remain in operation.

Statistics 71,070.28 acres (US - 65,092.47; Non-Federal – 5,977.81)
120 FTE
2.20 million visitors (2009)
\$7,694,450 (FY 2010 ONPS)

Interested Agencies And Organizations California Department of Parks and Recreation, Marin County Fire Department, PRBO Conservation Science, Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, National Marine Sanctuary Program, University of California system, and USGS.

Congressional District US Senator Dianne Feinstein (D); US Senator Barbara Boxer (D); US Rep. Lynn Woolsey, 6th Dist, (D)

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - C Ranch meeting



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

C Ranch meeting

1 message

Dave_Press@nps.gov <Dave_Press@nps.gov>
To: Kevin_McKay@nps.gov, Devi_Rao@nps.gov
Cc: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov

Mon, Jun 25, 2012 at 2:55 PM

Kevin and Devi,

Can we meet this Thursday to discuss the request by C Ranch to graze the Drakes Beach pasture as a means of mitigation for elk grazing on the C Ranch lease area? I think this is a reasonable request worth exploring further.

Thanks, Dave

David Press
Wildlife Ecologist
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5202
415-633-8132 (FAX)



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

CDFW 6/26 elk visit

1 message

Press, Dave <dave_press@nps.gov>

Fri, Jul 12, 2013 at 12:44 PM

To: Cicely Muldoon <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>, Gordon White <gordon_white@nps.gov>, John Dell'Osso <john_a_dell'osso@nps.gov>, David Schifsky <david_schifsky@nps.gov>, Brannon Ketcham <brannon_ketcham@nps.gov>, Melanie Gunn <melanie_gunn@nps.gov>, Kevin McKay <kevin_mckay@nps.gov>, Devii Rao <devii_rao@nps.gov>, Tim Bernot <tim_bernot@nps.gov>, Dylan Voeller <dylan_voeller@nps.gov>

Hi everyone,

I just wanted to give you all a summary of our meeting with elk biologists Joe Hobbs and Jon Fischer from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife who visited the park on June 26. Joe Hobbs is the state's current Elk and Pronghorn Coordinator. Jon Fisher has a long history with CDFW. He served as the E/P Coordinator for many years during the 1990s and 2000s and more recently was the Fish and Game Commission's acting executive director. Jon participated in the public meetings of the 1993 blue ribbon panel that provided guidance on elk management at Point Reyes.

Gordon, Tim, Devii, Dylan, Kevin, and I met with Joe and Jon. It was an opportunity for us to give an overview and history of free-ranging elk in the pastoral zone, the complaints we are hearing from ranchers, the short-term solutions that the park is pursuing in regards to elk management, and possible approaches for long-term elk management in the park. We were able to get feedback on our efforts and learn a considerable amount about the state's approaches to elk management in their herds.

We started at Home Ranch, where we walked up towards the back pastures looking out to the wilderness area to the south. We discussed elk movement patterns in the area and our proposal for an experimental electric fence along the Home Ranch boundary. After a long discussion in the field, we continued on to D Ranch. Here we discussed our recent collaring efforts, the patterns of elk movement that we have observed, and our project to improve water and forage availability for tule elk in the outer D Ranch area. We saw elk in the usual areas at both locations.

CDFW thought that both the Home Ranch electric fence project and the D Ranch water project were good ideas worth pursuing. They agreed with us that if successful, they would only be temporary solutions, but that the knowledge gained from these experiments would inform alternatives for long-term elk management in the park.

CDFW agreed that moving the elk back into the wilderness area was not a reasonable solution. There is nothing keeping the elk from going back into the pastoral zone. Elk are creatures of habit and will likely try to return to known areas. CDFW reported that male elk moved at Grizzly Island in the SF Bay Delta returned to where they were captured, which included a 2 mile swim. At Point Reyes, we observed female elk traveling back and forth between D Ranch and Limantour before a herd was permanently established at D Ranch in 2001.

Large scale captures are difficult and CDFW warned against using helicopters. Helicopter captures will ultimately lead to injuries or deaths of both elk and people. A CDFW helicopter carrying three department biologists on a deer survey in 2010 crashed when it clipped a powerline, killing all onboard. CDFW reported that individuals associated with the helicopter captures at Tomales Point in 1998, later died in crashes while conducting similar work.

As for the idea of a permanent elk fence to keep the elk in the wilderness, we got a good look at where this would be built from Home Ranch. The fence would need to be constructed on the back side of Mt Vision with no obvious start and end points. Construction and maintenance costs would be significant. We provided an overview of maintaining the Tomales Point elk fence, where despite our best efforts we are constantly finding holes that need to be patched and elk escape regularly and need to be returned.

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - CDFW 6/26 elk visit

As for disease, CDFW confirmed that to their knowledge, Point Reyes is the only tule elk herd known to carry John's disease. We reported that although we are not testing, we have seen very little obvious sign of John's in both the Tomales Point and free-range herds. Testing for this disease is difficult and can be inconclusive. Therefore, the idea of moving Point Reyes elk out the park to decrease our herd sizes and supplement the state's herds therefore seems like a challenge. As for other diseases, CDFW confirmed that chronic wasting disease does not occur in California and other diseases are detected in only a very small percent of elk tested in California.

The state regularly hears complaints from landowners, and not just ranchers, about elk. The complaints are similar to what we hear at Point Reyes – damaged fences, crops being eaten, grass intended for grazing cattle being eaten. The state only rarely issues depredation permits. From CDFW's perspective, shooting only one or two elk from an entire herd is not an effective management solution. Damaged fences are often the result of poor maintenance or designs that do not accommodate wildlife passage. There are several good fence designs to exclude elk, and from CDFW's perspective, landowners that fail in their efforts to exclude elk usually haven't tried hard enough. As for the lowered elk crossings that we installed along Drakes Beach Road, CDFW has installed similar structures. They have heard similar complaints that the crossings allow elk into areas where they are not wanted, but their perspective was the same as ours, which is that the elk are going anyway and the elk crossings, if used, will reduce instances of fence damage.

The state's primary means for controlling numbers in the state's elk herds is through annual, controlled, public hunts. In addition, through CDFW, many private landowners are able to sell a certain number of elk tags each year, which helps to compensate for elk damage sustained on private property. The target population sizes for the state's elk herds appears to be partly driven by ecological studies and determinations of carrying capacity, but also strongly driven by social determinations of how many elk are acceptable in certain areas.

In short, CDFW agreed that there was no obvious solution, no silver bullet, for addressing the issue of free-range elk in the pastoral zone at Point Reyes. They encouraged us to keep monitoring the elk and continue in our experimental efforts to alleviate the presence of elk on the ranches. CDFW expressed interest in staying informed of the situation here, an interest in returning to assist with elk captures and other projects, an interest in participating in our long-term planning efforts for elk, and a willingness to return in the near future to meet with the ranchers and other interested stakeholders to discuss issues around elk.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Dave

David Press
Wildlife Ecologist
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5202
415-633-8132 (FAX)

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - D Ranch elk update



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

D Ranch elk update

1 message

Dave_Press@nps.gov <Dave_Press@nps.gov>

Fri, Nov 9, 2012 at 3:58 PM

To: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov, Natalie_Gates@nps.gov, Gordon_White@nps.gov

Cc: Tim_Bernot@nps.gov

Hi all,

We have been predicting that the tule elk herd, which has been mostly in the center of C Ranch the last few months, would move back over to the east side of Drakes Beach Road once the grass started to green up after the first few rains. For now anyway - it looks like our prediction is holding up.

The main herd crossed over the road last Monday morning and the herd has not returned to C Ranch as of Friday afternoon. The herd has split with some of the animals near the road just north of the D Ranch residence and the rest in the outer area of D Ranch near the cliffs.

The male bachelor group is still up near Sir Francis Drake and have been exhibiting their usual pattern of moving across the road to C Ranch at night and then back to the east side of Drakes Beach road in the morning.

Although there will always be a few stray animals now and again, our field observations so far have confirmed that the collared elk represent a large number of animals, either the main herd or a bachelor group. In fact, when you look at the GPS data, you can often see how the points line up as the animals move together with the herd. The combination of our field observations with the GPS collars is working very well, and it is especially valuable to have data at night finally.

I will keep you posted as to other interesting events out there.

Have a great weekend.

Dave

David Press
Wildlife Ecologist
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5202
415-633-8132 (FAX)

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - DELIBERATIVE Ideas to consider for rancher meeting



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

DELIBERATIVE Ideas to consider for rancher meeting

1 message

Ketcham, Brannon <brannon_ketcham@nps.gov>

Thu, Mar 21, 2013 at 2:07 PM

To: Cicely Muldoon <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>, Gordon White <Gordon_White@nps.gov>

I took a shot at some thoughts for the 3rd...

—

Brannon Ketcham
Point Reyes National Seashore
Phone (415) 464-5192
Fax (415) 663-8132



Summary of Points from December rancher meetings.docx

20K

Welcome and appreciation for ranchers taking time to meet

Recognize a great deal has happened since our last meeting, and want to make sure that each of you hears directly how we are proceeding with respect to the Secretarial directive regarding ranching and 20 year permits.

We want to be clear that the enabling legislation and these recent directives strongly support continued multigenerational ranching within the Seashore and Northern District of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. In his November 29 memo, the Secretary affirmed that “working ranches are a vibrant and compatible part of Point Reyes National Seashore, and both now and in the future represent an important contribution to the Point Reyes' superlative natural and cultural resources.” He directed the NPS to pursue extension of permits to 20 year terms, for dairy and cattle ranches within the pastoral zone.

The first step in this process was the meetings that Department and park staff had with you in early December. We appreciated the candid feedback and assure you that we are looking at the points raised in these meeting as we proceed with the development of the new permit structure.

Summary of Points from December rancher meetings

- Elk
- Communications
- Appraisal/lease rates
 - 5 year reappraisal
- Road Maintenance
- Brush Control/Encroachment
- Interpretation of Ranching
- Worker Housing
- Potential to modify Stocking Rates/grazing practices
- Diversification
- dairy and beef operation??
- Incentivize Organic
- Water source maintenance/development
- Management of historic ranch structures

On January 31, 2013, the NPS director delegated the authority to establish 20 year permit provisions, and recognize that we need to evaluate current permit structure and make it a tool that provides better clarity and certainty for everyone involved.

DELIBERATIVE DRAFT – NOT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

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A large rectangular area of the document is redacted with a solid grey fill, covering approximately the bottom third of the page's content.

DELIBERATIVE DRAFT – NOT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

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(b) (5)

DRAFT

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - elk on B Rnach



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

elk on B Rnach

1 message

Ann_Nelson/PORE/NPS <Ann_Nelson/PORE/NPS>

Tue, Sep 7, 2010 at 2:48 PM

To: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov, Natalie_Gates@nps.gov, John_DiGregoria/PORE/NPS@nps

Joe Mendoza, Jr., called last week requesting appt w/Supt to discuss elk on B Ranch...we set up 10 am on 9/16...

Natalie and John DG can you please give Cicely background re this....do we know # elk in area, have fences been damaged, future projections, etc.

Also, will you please copy me on any messages that you may send to Cicely directly?

Thx,

a

Ann Nelson
Superintendent's Assistant
Point Reyes National Seashore
(415) 464-5120
Email ann_nelson@nps.gov
FAX (415) 663-8132

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Elk on Rogers Ranch



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Elk on Rogers Ranch

1 message

David Evans <david@marinsunfarms.com>

Wed, Nov 28, 2012 at 8:54 AM

To: "Tim_Bernot@nps.gov" <Tim_Bernot@nps.gov>

Cc: "cicely_muldoon@nps.gov" <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>, "Devi_Rao@nps.gov" <Devi_Rao@nps.gov>

Tim,

I wanted to touch base with you about the bull elk residing on Rogers Ranch. There have been 3 bull elk (and possibly more) here for quite a while. Are you monitoring this group and do you have dates when they have been upon the Rogers Ranch Lease? I would like to understand what data you are keeping, especially where they are and for how long.

Thank You

David Evans

Founder / CEO

Point Reyes Pastures, Inc.

(415) 717-1796 mobile

david@marinsunfarms.com

www.marinsunfarms.com

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - elk update on C Ranch



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

elk update on C Ranch

1 message

Dave_Press@nps.gov <Dave_Press@nps.gov>
To: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov
Cc: Tim_Bernot@nps.gov, Natalie_Gates@nps.gov

Wed, Jun 13, 2012 at 11:51 AM

Hi Cicely,

Tim received a call from Nicola Spaletta yesterday which he forwarded to you. I am sure that you have heard it by now. Essentially Nicola wanted to inform us that the main tule elk herd (cows, calves, and a few males) have been hanging out on the C Ranch side of Drakes Beach Road in the same pasture as their dairy cows. This is consistent with observations that Tim made early yesterday morning. In fact, the herd has been in this area for a week or more. Nicola said in her message that Ernie needed to talk to Tim and asked him to call. Tim called back but was only able to leave a message that he will be back out there early Thursday morning to survey the elk again and that he would stop by the ranch to talk. We will let you know what more we hear from the Spaletta Family ASAP.

Dave

David Press
Wildlife Ecologist
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5202
415-633-8132 (FAX)

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Final letter from Secretary Salazar to Senator Feinstein on Tule Elk



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Final letter from Secretary Salazar to Senator Feinstein on Tule Elk

1 message

Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov <Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov>
To: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov

Mon, Jun 25, 2012 at 1:05 PM

Brannon Ketcham
Point Reyes National Seashore
Phone (415) 464-5192
Fax: (415) 663-8132

(See attached file: feinstein elk.pdf)

 **feinstein elk.pdf**
184K



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAY 18 2012

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter of March 20, 2012, concerning tule elk at Point Reyes National Seashore. Point Reyes is the only national park with tule elk and reestablishment of a free-ranging elk herd in 1998 was an important ecological restoration effort for California.

The National Park Service (NPS) actively supports historic dairy and beef operations at Point Reyes and has made significant investments in ranching infrastructure. Point Reyes ranching permits are substantially discounted to reflect the complexities of managing agricultural operations within a national park.

Beef and dairy ranches operate in a challenging economic environment and we take the concerns raised by park ranchers seriously. The 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for Point Reyes did not contemplate, analyze, or assess the establishment of a tule elk herd in the pastoral ranching zone of the Park. Since the fall of 2010, the NPS has conducted extensive monitoring to better understand the behavior of the tule elk herd in the pastoral zone, experimented with wildlife-friendly fences, and repaired damaged fences. Ranchers have been asked to contact park staff any time that elk-related damage is suspected so that it can be documented. Collaboration with park ranchers and with the interested public is critical to successful ranch and wildlife management.

As dairies in the region succumb to larger market pressures, the NPS is proud to support the continued vitality of historic park ranches and to facilitate the reestablishment of both the historic B and L Ranch dairies in the last 2 years. The NPS will work directly with the park ranchers to address their concerns, preserve the unique ecological and cultural landscape of the Point Reyes peninsula, and continue to demonstrate that working ranches can be successful within the context of a national park.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Followup items



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Followup items

1 message

Ketcham, Brannon <brannon_ketcham@nps.gov>

Wed, Nov 13, 2013 at 2:18 PM

To: Jenny Callaway <jenny.callaway@mail.house.gov>, Cicely Muldoon <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Jenny-

It was good to see you today and thanks for meeting us on such short notice. I wanted to pass along a couple of items from our discussion.

In June park staff met with Joe Hobbs, the state's current Elk and Pronghorn Coordinator and Jon Fisher, the Elk and Pronghorn Coordinator for many years during the 1990s and 2000s. They visited a number of areas in the park and discussed the management challenges of the elk in the pastoral zone.

Joe Hobbs contact info:
916-445-9992
joe.hobbs@wildlife.ca.gov

I am also including the May 2012 letter from Secretary Salazar regarding the Tule Elk EA. This was a response to a letter from Senator Feinstein.

Thanks.
Brannon

—
Brannon Ketcham
Point Reyes National Seashore
Phone (415) 464-5192
Fax (415) 663-8132

SalazarLettertoFeinstein2012May18elk.pdf
188K



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAY 18 2012

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter of March 20, 2012, concerning tule elk at Point Reyes National Seashore. Point Reyes is the only national park with tule elk and reestablishment of a free-ranging elk herd in 1998 was an important ecological restoration effort for California.

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Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: August 18th Meeting Recap



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: August 18th Meeting Recap

1 message

Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov <Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>
To: Gordon_White@nps.gov

Tue, Sep 13, 2011 at 11:44 AM

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
Cicely Muldoon
Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5101

From: David Evans [david@marinsunfarms.com]
Sent: 09/12/2011 08:21 PM GMT
To: Cicely Muldoon
Subject: August 18th Meeting Recap

Superintendent Cicely Muldoon,

Thank you for hosting a meeting of the ranchers that are currently being effected by the elk population that has migrated from the Limantour Wilderness onto the Pastoral Zone.

We ranchers appreciate your willingness to improve communication and believe that the past lack of communication between PRNS and the ranchers has been problematic in addressing the elk migration problem. We are encouraged by your commitment and would like to request a detailed plan by which you intend to improve communication and begin addressing the problem. Please respond to me at your earliest convenience so that we can begin the necessary dialog required to solve this problem.

From our August 18th meeting, we have a few breakdowns in communication we

would like understood.

1) In understanding the established precedent set by Superintendent Don Neubacher, Natalie Gates was asked to confirm that 1 elk, who first migrated onto the Pastoral Zone (M, H, L Ranches) was removed. As background, several ranchers were told by Superintendent Neubacher, after their concerns about the potential of elk migrating on Pastoral Zone ranch leases, that indeed elk would be removed or returned to the Limantour Wilderness, where the elk were approved to range. Natalie Gates explained that the elk in question was removed and relocated. When ranchers accounted that the elk in question was in fact removed lethally, Natalie Gates emphatically rejected that any elk had been removed using lethal action. Ranchers further explained the timeline regarding the rouge elk. The elk had first appeared within the Pastoral Zone at M, H, and L Ranches, was observed aggressively spearing cattle and damaging fences, and PRNS staff tranquilized and relocated the elk to the Limantour Wilderness. Within weeks the elk returned to M, H, and L Ranch and was, again, disturbing cattle and fences. After further reports from affected ranchers, PRNS staff lethally shot the elk. At this point Natalie Gates, in a high tone of voice, emphatically declared that in no way had an elk been removed by PRNS staff using lethal action. Ranchers were stunned, as we went on further to explain that the lethally shot elk was photographed by one of the ranchers, not only the carcass, but the PRNS staff also, and that the antlers of the lethally shot elk were actually currently available at the L Ranch. In hearing this, Natalie Gates' expression turned to slight confusion, head turning, and she acknowledged that now she remembered, that yes, the elks antlers were at the L Ranch site.

This account, from our meeting, not only shows a significant breakdown in communication from PRNS staff, but that an established precedent set by Superintendent Don Neubacher was in effect and signifies his agreement with ranchers regarding elk within the Pastoral Zone.

2) In response to a PRNS staff wide response regarding the elk migration onto the Pastoral Zone as a "New Problem", ranchers began communicating the establishment of benchmark interactions and communication with PRNS staff regarding the elk migration. One of these instances was directed to John DeGregoria. C Ranch lessee, Nichola Spaletta, explained of a conversation she had with John DeGregoria in 2004 at a visit he made to C Ranch to discuss elk on that ranch. John DeGregoria insisted that no meeting had taken place at that time.

Mrs. Spaletta continued, explaining to John DeGregoria that he was there to discuss a possible fence installation that Superintendent Neubacher had suggested that was designed to keep elk off of the C Ranch pastures. John DeGregoria loudly rejected the assentation's of Mrs. Spaletta. Then Mrs. Spaletta produced a copy of a topographic map of C ranch. On it was a proposed fence and a note, written in the handwriting of Superintendent Neubacher, "John - Please discuss with Ernie and Nichola.....". With this evidence submitted, John DeGregoria aggressively replied "It is your fault you did not like the fence!"

This account, from our meeting, is yet another sign of communication breakdown from PRNS staff. This account further proves that the elk migration onto the Pastoral Zone has been known by PRNS staff for many years, and in not a "New Problem". This account also continues to support that Superintendent Don Neubacher was actively engaged with ranchers in removing elk from the Pastoral Zone as he promised and that PRNS was fully aware the problem existed many years ago.

I myself was told by Superintendent Neubacher, in as early as 1999, that elk that entered the Pastoral Zone would be removed. I have most recently been told by PRNS staff Melanie Gunn ".....that all we need is better communication and through this we will realize our common goals to begin addressing this new problem...."

If PRNS is committed to better communication, I will await you plan of action.

David Evans

Elk Committee Chair

Point Reyes National Seashore Ranchers Association

P.O. Box 1136

16484 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

Inverness, CA 94937

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: August 18th Meeting Recap

(415) (b) (6) Home

david@marinsunfarms.com

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: Call with Solicitor



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: Call with Solicitor

1 message

Cicely Muldoon <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>
To: Barbara.Goodyear@sol.doi.gov

Mon, Nov 26, 2012 at 6:54 PM

From: Hartzell, Jessica (Feinstein) [mailto:Jessica_Hartzell@feinstein.senate.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2012 05:24 PM
To: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov <Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>
Subject: RE: Call with Solicitor

Hi Cicely,

Just checking in on this again. I know it's been crazy out there. Would it be better if I went through Congressional Affairs?

Thanks,
Jessica

Jessica Hartzell
Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
Direct: (415) 393-0716

From: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov [mailto:Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov]
Sent: Saturday, November 03, 2012 3:09 PM
To: Hartzell, Jessica (Feinstein)
Subject: Re: Call with Solicitor

Jessica, I passed the request along to the solicitors after our last call, I can ping them again Monday --

enjoy this unbelievable weather

Cicely

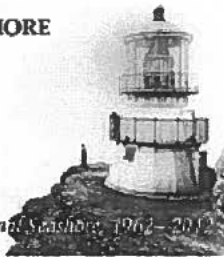
11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: Call with Solicitor



Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent
POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE

1 Bear Valley Road
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
phone (415) 464-5101
cicely_muldoon@nps.gov



Commemorating 50 years of Point Reyes National Seashore, 1962-2012

▼ "Hartzell, Jessica (Feinstein)" —11/02/2012 03:31:09 PM—Hi Cicely,

"Hartzell, Jessica
(Feinstein)"
<Jessica_Hartzell@feinstein.
senate.gov>

"Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov"
To<Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>

11/02/2012 03:30 PM

cc

Call with Solicitor
Subject

Hi Cicely,

I hope this note finds you well. I'm just checking in to see if you communicated my request to set up a call with the Solicitor's office regarding the tule elk. Any luck?

I look forward to your response. Have a great weekend.

Best,
Jessica

Jessica Hartzell
Field Representative
Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
One Post St., Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104
Tel (415) 393-0716
Fax (415) 989-3242



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: D and C ranch today

1 message

Natalie_Gates@nps.gov <Natalie_Gates@nps.gov>
To: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov

Sun, Aug 7, 2011 at 4:45 PM

fyi.

Let us know who you want at the Friday Spaletta meeting. Tim is standing by.

N

Natalie B. Gates
National Park Service
Chief of Natural Resource Management
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, CA 94956
Tel: 415-464-5189
Fax: 415-464-5183
Natalie_Gates@nps.gov

— Forwarded by Natalie Gates/PORE/NPS on 08/07/2011 04:32 PM —

Tim
Bernot/PORE/NPS

08/05/2011 03:49
PM

ToNatalie Gates/PORE/NPS@NPS, Dave
Press/PORE/NPS@NPS, John
DiGregoria/PORE/NPS@NPS

cc

SubjectD and C ranch today

I went to talk to the Spalettas this morning, first I spoke with Earnest (Jr.), I asked him about the recent newspaper article, what he thought of it, he had an unfavorable opinion of it and then we talked about other unrelated things...., Nicola then came out of the house and expressed that she was very frustrated with the elk, they were back on the ranch last night, and that the best solution was to get rid of all the bulls, I attempted to move towards discussion of practical solutions we might implement but I could not interject into the conversation, she continued to express frustration and reiterate past events regarding an elk fence promised by 2010 and how the elk are not supposed to be there at all, and about past dealings with park staff, I continued trying to get her to discuss current issues and to offer partnership in implementing future remediations but could make no progress towards that discussion, although she expressed that she wanted to work with the park on the issue. I listened to her accounts about where the elk were last night and where they may have crossed the fence so that I might investigate. Ernie Sr. had no comments, he said he was too busy to talk, I asked him to make time to discuss current elk issues and possibilities for remediations with me sometime in the near future, but he did not offer a time.

I inspected the entire fence along Drake's Beach road down to the D ranch compound and found no sign of crossing, no fence impacts, feces or tracks...I saw the elk near the frog ponds and D ranch barns then proceeded to the beach parking lot where I found elk feces, following the trail back I found a section of broken fencing and elk trails with elk feces in the bottom southeast corner of the non-permitted area near the Drake's cross- big pine trees along the section facing the road, I repaired the damage amounting to 9 poles of 2 and 3 strand damage,

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: D and C ranch today

both top and second strand breakage and loosened wire, which was not recent (grass had grown over the downed wire), then I proceeded along the fence up hill back towards the ranches following other elk trails and found a section of loosened fencing with recent elk hair in it where it appeared they had gone through the 2 middle strands last night, I repaired that section consisting of 4 poles length of 3 loosened strands and 2 sections of broken top strand, also tightening several adjacent sections, all repairs took approximately 2.5 hours.

TimB

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: D ranch issues recently



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: D ranch issues recently

1 message

Natalie_Gates@nps.gov <Natalie_Gates@nps.gov>
To: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov, Devii_Rao@nps.gov

Fri, Apr 13, 2012 at 3:44 PM

fyi

n

Natalie B. Gates
National Park Service
Chief of Natural Resource Management
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, CA 94956
Tel: 415-464-5189
Fax: 415-464-5183
Natalie_Gates@nps.gov

— Forwarded by Natalie Gates/PORE/NPS on 04/13/2012 03:44 PM —

Tim
Bernot/PORE/NPS

ToDave Press/PORE/NPS@NPS, Natalie
Gates/PORE/NPS@NPS

04/13/2012 03:23
PM

cc

SubjectD ranch issues recently

Here's a summary of the recent rancher-involved events at D ranch this past month....

On 3/20 I noticed that at least 6 heifers had escaped from the west D (Spaletta permit) area to the adjacent natural area towards drake's beach, there were also 9 beef cattle in the natural area on the other side of the road near the D ranch complex. Ernie and Nicola Spaletta came by in their truck while I was parked along the road looking at the cattle and we talked about it, Ernie said he knew about it and he would be rounding his cattle back in that afternoon, I said that sounded fine. I asked if there was a fence issue I could help with and he said that some beef cattle had escaped from E ranch and had broken fencing along drake's beach road over the weekend while they were away. There apparently had been breeding bulls in the group that had gotten in with the Spaletta's heifers and had bred them, he said that he would now have to induce abortions on those, and that he was naturally pretty upset about it. Nicola also added a few comments about how upsetting it was that this had happened and that they had asked the Nunes' to do something about it. I offered to help in any way I could, to have park staff contact the managers of E ranch or to help repair any fencing that would stabilize the situation, Ernie said that there were some sections of fence along the other side of drake's beach road that did not appear to be secure, I told him I would check the fences there and repair what I could and he thought that was a fine idea. I spent about 4 hours repairing multiple sections of fencing and replaced several fence posts. I reported the escaped cattle to range management staff and gave them the count of escaped cattle. During that time I saw a beef bull in the east D area (Nunez permit) breeding the heifers in there.

3/21 I counted 9 beef cattle on the natural area east of drakes beach road and 19 beef cattle inside the D ranch

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: D ranch issues recently

hay barn eating the hay. The 19 in the hay barn exited the hay barn when they saw me coming into the compound, ran out onto drake's beach road and headed downhill towards the parking lot. I was able to keep them from getting into the parking lot and herded them up onto the outer Horick area (it was about 1030 AM and there was a large group of birdwatchers in the lot).

On 3/23 I had been asked to meet with range management staff at D ranch who were meeting Betty Nunes and her ranch manager there to discuss the escaped cattle. I recounted for Betty what I had observed over the last several days regarding escaped cattle and told her I had made fence repairs, for which she thanked me. Myself, Dylan, and the Nunes' ranch hand then went out on the range to look for the breaks in the fence while Dewi stayed and spoke further with Betty, I found one break and they found two others. All the breaks were on the easternmost leg of the horseshoe pond drainage on the bay-facing boundary of the E ranch fence (near the showy clover experimental plots). Dylan indicated that the breaks he found had been documented on his fence condition maps many months before, the break I found was also not recent and it seems to me that I had known that there was no fence there several years earlier. We did not see any of the escaped cattle that day.

on 3/27 there were still escaped beef cattle on the natural area adjacent to D ranch, 9 in the remediation pond area and 36 inside the hay barn, including 2 bulls. I reported this again to range staff.

on 3/29 I noticed that all the dairy heifers had been removed from the Nunes portion of the D ranch and some number of beef cattle were now contained in there.

Monday 4/2 I had a phone message from Nicola that elk were in her front pasture, that they were affecting their ranching operation by foraging and damaging fences.

Tuesday 4/3 I followed up on the phone message by going to C ranch to look at the front pasture intending to see if there had been fence breakage and to try and find elk tracks and feces. After I parked near the gate leading to the front pasture, Nicola came out of the house and approached to speak with me. She was very upset and began to complain about the elk and how they were putting them out of business ("they are killing us"). She told me about how the elk were there every day and were eating grass in areas that they were keeping cattle out of in order to rest, and how they were breaking the fences. I asked if any of the electric fence in the front pasture had been broken by the elk and she said no. She then said many things that were very critical about park management said that she was not being listened to and that several things including the inclusion of elk in the newest permit agreement (ranch plan?) and the updating of the park website ("you're trying to turn the public against us") were done in order to cause her further difficulty, saying that the website update was in response to the recent letter written by the county supervisor to the senator. I tried to answer and to assure her that I was willing to listen to anything she had to say, but it was very difficult as she would not stop to listen to my replies. I did try to explain to her that I personally wrote the text of the park website at least 6 months ago and it had nothing to do with any of the ongoing letter writing. She also expressed that she thought that I did not believe her when she said that elk had been on the C ranch permit, I tried to assure her that I never doubted her and that I had observed elk there any number of times, although not as often this year as last year. Ernie came by and tried to join in the conversation, but he was not able to, he just tried to ask her to stop yelling and then rode off again, this happened at least twice during the conversation. At one point Nicola said that the elk were injuring cattle and I asked if she had any pictures or other documentation. She then said that they had found a couple of cows dead from unknown causes. I again asked if she had taken any pictures or had any evidence that elk had caused the deaths, she answered that I should believe her and that I could ask her husband. I replied that it was not an issue of belief, but that those sorts of things need to be documented. She said she was sick of documenting things and had documenting materials in the house, I asked her if she would like me to submit them but she did not respond. She at one point mentioned compensation and was angry that they had not received any, I said that it was my impression that they had declined to accept remediations or participate in any range management strategies, but if she would like to re-visit some of the ideas discussed over the last year and a half or so, I would always be available to work with them on strategies and to deliver any proposals she had to park management. She said that they had done everything they had been asked to do as far as range experiments and that it was the fault of the park service that nothing had been done. She repeatedly asked the question "do you think elk belong on my ranch?", I replied that I felt that it was a leading question in a couple of ways and I could not just answer yes or no. I tried to explain that elk were wildlife, and therefore free to roam within the park boundaries and that the lands she was referring to as her ranch were shared public lands within a national park. When Ernie came by again she said to him that I had said that elk belong on their ranch, and I told him that I did not say

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: D ranch issues recently

that.. NPS law enforcement officer Nate Knight stopped sometime towards the end of the conversation to make sure I was OK, and I told him it was fine. He stayed until I finally broke off, telling Nicola that I would be glad to talk further at some later time, since I was late for an appointment. I was not able to inspect the front pasture at that time as the conversation had taken all the time I had before I had to attend to something else, probably over an hour.

Wednesday 4/4 I arrived at sunrise to C and D ranches to observe the elk. I saw the bachelor group on the west D (Spaletta permit) area near the upper pond, there were 9 bulls in velvet, moving towards drake's beach road. There was a large group of the Spaletta heifers in the same area, and there were no interactions between the elk and the cattle. This is consistent with a pattern of movement I have seen many times before where the bulls bed down on the portion of C ranch facing sir francis drake road , then they move through west D to east D after sunrise. I later observed that the bulls had crossed to the east side of drakes beach road with no damage to the fences. The cow/calf/yearling elk group were near the D ranch compound on non-permit areas (this is typical during calving, which is currently happening). When I got back to the office there was a message from Nicola saying that she had seen me out there and that she knew I did not believe her, but that the elk were on their ranch at night and crossed drakes beach road in the morning (essentially describing the same thing I had observed) adding that I was not up early enough or late enough to see that.. On thursday the 5th Nicola called again leaving pretty much the same message, that the bull elk were there at night, bedding in the front field, then leaving to cross drakes beach road and that I did not believe her.

Friday 4/6 I arrived at sunrise at Spaletta C ranch and observed that bull elk were leaving the C ranch northern (front) pasture, going into west D (Spaletta) ranch, then crossing the road to east D (Nunes) ranch, the same pattern again. I attempted to count the number of heifers on the west D permit area and there were between 85 and 90 heifers. The cow, calf, and yearling elk were on the non-permit area on the west side of drakes beach road.

Monday april 9 Nicola left a message that the cow and calf elk were mixed in with their heifers. That morning I had observed the cow/calf group on the non-permit area west of drakes beach road, bulls were crossing from west D (Spaletta) to east D (Nunes), and several yearlings had crossed from the non-permit area west of the road to west D permit, with no fence damage.

Tuesday April 10 message from Nicola that the whole herd was in the center of C ranch on a resting pasture, I arrived sunrise Wednesday 11th and observed the bachelor and yearling groups together where she had described, a total of 26 animals. I saw a dead domestic calf on one of their pastures and reported it to them, making sure that they did not want me to examine it to see if it was elk related, Earnest jr. said they knew about it and it had been stomped by its mother because coyotes were circling them the night before so no need to examine it.

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: drake's elk



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: drake's elk

1 message

Natalie_Gates@nps.gov <Natalie_Gates@nps.gov>

Wed, Jan 25, 2012 at 3:41 PM

To: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov, Melanie_Gunn@nps.gov, Kevin_McKay@nps.gov, David_Schifsky@nps.gov

fyi

N

Natalie B. Gates
National Park Service
Chief of Natural Resource Management
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, CA 94956
Tel: 415-464-5189
Fax: 415-464-5183
Natalie_Gates@nps.gov

— Forwarded by Natalie Gates/PORE/NPS on 01/25/2012 03:30 PM —

**Tim
Bernot/PORE/NPS**

To: Natalie Gates/PORE/NPS@NPS, Dave
Press/PORE/NPS@NPS

01/25/2012 06:45
AM

cc

Subject: drake's elk

Last time I saw the Spalettas out in the field, we talked about where the elk had been this fall and winter, I commented that they seemed to be pretty happy with staying on the flat, green portions of east D ranch, and Ernie replied that he had been happy with that, he seemed to agree with my impression that trends had improved over last year.

TimB



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: Elk + Horseshoe Pond

1 message

Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov <Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>
To: Natalie_Gates@nps.gov, Dave_Press@nps.gov
Cc: Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov

Sat, Apr 7, 2012 at 1:59 PM

Can you pass on to devii, thx

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
Cicely Muldoon
Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5101

From: gbatmuirb
Sent: 04/07/2012 04:45 PM AST
To: Brannon Ketcham; Cicely Muldoon
Subject: Elk + Horseshoe Pond

Brannon/Cicely: I don't have the email of the new ranch manager, so please pass this on:

During my NOAA Beachwatch survey today (4/7/12) along Drakes Beach East and looking up from the former causeway at Horseshoe pond, I noticed a post down on the fence that divides and protects the Horseshoe Pond watershed from the "D" Ranch grazing lands. Former broken fences in this same area have meant that cattle have gotten into Horseshoe Pond, but today, I saw elk "limbo-ing" under the downed barb wire to get to the grazing side of the fence. About 10 elk (including one newborn) were on the "D" ranch side. I'm less concerned about the elk than I am that the cattle will also find this gap in the fence, which I suggest might consider getting repaired.

On the other hand, remnant fencing with intact barb wire still remains at the waterline of Horseshoe Pond at least on the west side. This fence is no longer needed for cattle enclosure, which is now accomplished by a fence further uphill. However, this remnant fence can trap wildlife (e.g. three back-tailed deer today) wandering along the edge of the pond that are startled and unwilling to about-face yet are also unable to jump across the wire from the mud to escape up the adjacent hillside. A half-day volunteer with a wire cutter would solve this problem permanently.

BTW: I counted ~500 ducks on Horseshoe Pond, which is the high in recent years and may be evidence that the pond is recovering from the restoration :) The pond still drains through the cut at the west end of the causeway, but storms have also carved out more of the east end where there appears to be regular interchange between the pond and the ocean during high-tide storms. I suspect that once the storms finally rip out the ammophila that is holding the causeway together, the mouth of the pond may be free to migrate as the rains and tides dictate.

And lastly in terms of things to do while not being FOIA'd...on the list of "Mammals of Point Reyes National

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: Elk + Horseshoe Pond

Seashore." <http://www.nps.gov/pore/naturescience/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&PageID=138963>

I suggest that "axis deer" (now first on the alphabetical list) should be downgraded to the section at the bottom for "Historically Present." That correction would leave this list leading off with a native species (elk), rather than an extirpated non-native species. Furthermore, in light of regular occurrences over the past few years, you might consider upgrading "black bear" by removing them from the "Historically Present" section of this list.

Gordon

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: elk follow-up



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: elk follow-up

1 message

John_A_Dell'Osso@nps.gov <John_A_Dell'Osso@nps.gov>

Thu, Oct 18, 2012 at 2:19 PM

To: Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov, Melanie_Gunn@nps.gov, Dave_Press@nps.gov, Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov, Gordon_White@nps.gov

Cc: Natalie_Gates@nps.gov

Let's check-in folks.

John A. Dell'Osso
Chief of Interpretation and Resource Education
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5135

Commemorating 50 years of Point Reyes National Seashore, 1962 - 2012

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

— Forwarded by John A Dell'Osso/PORE/NPS on 10/18/2012 02:04 PM —

Emily Yehle
<eyehle@eenews.net>

To: John_A_Dell'Osso@nps.gov'
<John_A_Dell'Osso@nps.gov>

10/18/2012 01:45 PM

cc

Subject: elk follow-up

John,

Other stories side-tracked me for awhile, but I'm back on track to write a story on the tule elk situation in Point Reyes. Who should I talk to about that?

Specifically, I'm hoping to find out:

- What is the history of the Park's efforts to restore the tule elk in Point Reyes? How were they introduced, etc?
- What does the park plan to do about the elk who have moved onto the ranches located in the pastoral zone?
- Why hasn't the park removed the elk, as per the management plan? Does it plan to move them?
- Has the park met with the ranchers as a group? If so, when? If not, why not?

Tentative deadline of COB Monday, so if I can talk to anyone before then, that would be great. Otherwise, let me know when I can talk with someone – or who I should refer this request to.

Thanks!

Emily Yehle
Reporter
eyehle@eenews.net

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: elk follow-up

202-446-0437 (p)

202-737-5299 (f)

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Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: Elk on Rogers Ranch, 1/24/12

1 message

Natalie_Gates@nps.gov <Natalie_Gates@nps.gov>
To: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov

Wed, Feb 8, 2012 at 7:53 PM

fyi,

N

Natalie B. Gates
National Park Service
Chief of Natural Resource Management
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, CA 94956
Tel: 415-464-5189
Fax: 415-464-5183
Natalie_Gates@nps.gov

— Forwarded by Natalie Gates/PORE/NPS on 02/08/2012 07:40 PM —

Dave
Press/PORE/NPS

ToNatalie Gates/PORE/NPS@NPS

02/07/2012 03:03
PM

ccTim Bernot/PORE/NPS@NPS, David
Schifsky/PORE/NPS@NPS

SubjectElk on Rogers Ranch, 1/24/12

Hi Natalie,

Here is an account of the 5 male elk that crossed Sir Francis Drake on Tues, 1/24/12, from the Home Ranch area to the Rogers Ranch, now leased by Dave Evans.

Tim has been monitoring the free-range elk in the Home Ranch and D Ranch areas regularly (2-3 days a week) for quite awhile now. He has regularly been seeing about 15 males around Home Ranch, and the group, including 4 that had already dropped their antlers, was near the main ranch complex on Monday morning, 1/23/12.

The next morning, 1/24/12, Tim could only find 10 elk. The four without antlers plus one more were missing. Tim soon found that they had crossed Sir Francis Drake (SFD) and were on the opposite hillside on the Rogers Ranch. Tim informed me by text at 08:46 that morning. Tim searched SFD and found the spot where they had crossed the road, which was about 1/4 mile up SFD towards Inverness from the Estero Road.

By radio, I instructed Tim to leave his vehicle and hike up onto the ranch to monitor the elk. Tim did as instructed. I headed his way at around 10:30. At around 10:45, Tim radioed me and relayed that he had just observed a large black or blue pick-up drive up to the elk from one of the back ranch roads. The truck went straight towards the elk, stopped, and 1 man and two ranch dogs got out. The dogs immediately chased the elk and the elk ran in a NW direction away from SFD. It was not until the elk had run a fair distance away that the dogs were called back. Tim watched the event from the adjacent hillside. After hearing of the event over the radio (the details of which were provided later), I instructed Tim to return to his vehicle and wait for me.

When I arrived, we got in Tim's truck and drove down to the Rogers Ranch. Tim immediately noted the truck he had seen with the dogs parked at the ranch. We were greeted by Joe Loera, the new ranch manager. We introduced ourselves and explained why we were there. Dave Evans came out of one of the buildings and promptly apologized for his dogs getting loose while he was out checking the ranch in this truck. We chatted for a bit. I described the data that we have been collecting on the free-range elk. I told them that we would need to regularly access the ranch as long as the elk remained. We asked them to inform of us any elk activity or damage that they notice. They asked us to provide notice when possible and check in at the ranch before driving in. We exchanged contact information. Dave indicated that he didn't think that 5 or 6 elk on the ranch would be a big deal. A herd of 50 or 60 would be different, but he would still be looking to see if there were any impacts. He watched the 5 elk easily jump one of his low electric fences when running from the dogs and indicated that "that worked our pretty well", meaning that the fence design resulted in no damage by the elk.

Tim and I accessed the ranch by driving the road with the new laid gravel around to near the start of the big line of eucalyptus trees that runs past the Coast Guard station to Abbotts Lagoon. The elk were resting on the east side of the farthest ridge on the ranch. We approached the elk from behind with hopes of moving back in the direction of SFD. They elk started in the right direction but then cut SW and finally headed directly west towards the Coast Guard road. We left the ranch but stopped and gave Joe Loera an update on our way out. That was at about 12:00.

On the Coast Guard road, we found the elk just on the western side of the road just before the final turn to the facility. We watched the elk from the truck for a good 30 minutes or so. I eventually exited the truck and circled back around them. A couple deer flushed in their direction and got the elk going again. The elk crossed back over the road, through the wetlands, and then back up over the opposite hill onto Rogers Ranch. Once they were back on Rogers Ranch and out of sight, we drove back around to Estero Road and hiked up atop the hills over SFD on the south side. This spot provides a view across the Rogers Ranch on the other side of SFD. We immediately saw the line of 5 elk heading over one of the ridges in the middle of the ranch towards SFD. The elk approached the road crossing spot but then stopped. Eventually a car came by and the elk retreated back up the hill. They came down once more to the crossing but then stopped again and were spooked by an approaching vehicle and retreated up the hill. We watched this happen a half a dozen times or more before the elk started looking for another location to cross. They headed in the direction of the ranch complex, veered back towards the road, and searched the fence along the open pasture next to the road for a good crossing. No luck and they eventually headed back up to the original crossing. We saw the same cycle play out again multiple times. Eventually Tim and I realized that the jump over the fence to the heavily vegetated, steep embankment on the edge of the road was likely holding them back. We returned to our truck and drove down to the crossing. We parked the truck past the crossing and then doubled-back down the road. The elk saw us coming and flushed back up the hillside. I scrambled up to the fence and cut all the barbed wire, then we retreated back up the road to watch. Within a few minutes, the four elk without antlers came back down and one-by-one crossed the road without hesitation. Several minutes later we saw the elk with the antlers cross farther up the road at an alternate location. All the elk were across the road and heading back towards Home Ranch by about 14:00. After this Tim went back and repaired the fence to better than its original condition.

Tim found the four without antlers back with the rest of the male elk the next day near Estero Road on the way out to Home Ranch.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Dave

David Press
Wildlife Ecologist
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5202
415-633-8132 (FAX)

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: Elk query



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: Elk query

1 message

Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov <Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>
To: Gordon_White@nps.gov, Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov

Thu, Aug 16, 2012 at 4:26 PM

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
Cicely Muldoon
Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5101

▼ John A Dell'Osso

— Original Message —

From: John A Dell'Osso
Sent: 08/16/2012 04:17 PM PDT
To: Cicely Muldoon; Brannon Ketcham; Dave Press
Subject: Fw: Elk query

avoiding this for now

John A. Dell'Osso
Chief of Interpretation and Resource Education
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5135

Commemorating 50 years of Point Reyes National Seashore, 1962 - 2012

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

— Forwarded by John A Dell'Osso/PORE/NPS on 08/16/2012 04:17 PM —

"John Hart"
<jh@johnhart.com>

08/16/2012 11:17 AM

To<John_A_Dell'Osso@nps.gov>

cc

SubjectElk query

Hello, John,

I hope this finds you well.

As you know, my Point Reyes book is in production. As a very-last-minute update, I wonder if you or perhaps Tom Bernot would want to provide any new "take" on the question of park policy toward the D Ranch elk—are fencing experiments working out, for example—or whatever you might wish to put in the record on the subject.

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: Elk query

Regards,

John

John Hart
Writer/Consultant, Planning & Environmental Literature
jh@johnhart.com / www.johnhart.com
415-507-9230
415-755-3234 cell
13 Jefferson Avenue
San Rafael CA 94903

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: end of year money - elk



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: end of year money - elk

1 message

Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov <Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>
To: Rose_Worley@nps.gov

Fri, Jul 27, 2012 at 2:57 PM

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
Cicely Muldoon
Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5101

▼ Dave Press

— Original Message —

From: Dave Press
Sent: 07/27/2012 02:52 PM PDT
To: Cicely Muldoon; Gordon White
Subject: end of year money - elk

Hey there,

We could really benefit from some extra funds. Please keep elk in my for anything you hear about end of year money through the region or elsewhere.

Thanks, Dave

David Press
Wildlife Ecologist
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5202
415-633-8132 (FAX)

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: Final letter from Secretary Salazar to Senator Feinstein on Tule Elk



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: Final letter from Secretary Salazar to Senator Feinstein on Tule Elk

1 message

Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov <Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov> Thu, Jun 28, 2012 at 4:47 PM
To: Melanie_Gunn@nps.gov, Dave_Press@nps.gov, Devi_Rao@nps.gov, Gordon_White@nps.gov,
Natalie_Gates@nps.gov, David_Schifsky@nps.gov, John_A_Dell'Osso@nps.gov
Cc: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov

Attached is the final letter from the Secretary regarding tule elk...

Brannon Ketcham
Point Reyes National Seashore
Phone (415) 464-5192
Fax: (415) 663-8132

(See attached file: feinstein elk.pdf)

 **feinstein elk.pdf**
184K



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAY 18 2012

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter of March 20, 2012, concerning tule elk at Point Reyes National Seashore. Point Reyes is the only national park with tule elk and reestablishment of a free-ranging elk herd in 1998 was an important ecological restoration effort for California.

The National Park Service (NPS) actively supports historic dairy and beef operations at Point Reyes and has made significant investments in ranching infrastructure. Point Reyes ranching permits are substantially discounted to reflect the complexities of managing agricultural operations within a national park.

Beef and dairy ranches operate in a challenging economic environment and we take the concerns raised by park ranchers seriously. The 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for Point Reyes did not contemplate, analyze, or assess the establishment of a tule elk herd in the pastoral ranching zone of the Park. Since the fall of 2010, the NPS has conducted extensive monitoring to better understand the behavior of the tule elk herd in the pastoral zone, experimented with wildlife-friendly fences, and repaired damaged fences. Ranchers have been asked to contact park staff any time that elk-related damage is suspected so that it can be documented. Collaboration with park ranchers and with the interested public is critical to successful ranch and wildlife management.

As dairies in the region succumb to larger market pressures, the NPS is proud to support the continued vitality of historic park ranches and to facilitate the reestablishment of both the historic B and L Ranch dairies in the last 2 years. The NPS will work directly with the park ranchers to address their concerns, preserve the unique ecological and cultural landscape of the Point Reyes peninsula, and continue to demonstrate that working ranches can be successful within the context of a national park.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: From NPS.gov: Tule elk swimming in ocean



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: From NPS.gov: Tule elk swimming in ocean

1 message

Dave_Press@nps.gov <Dave_Press@nps.gov>
To: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov, Natalie_Gates@nps.gov, Gordon_White@nps.gov

Fri, Jun 22, 2012 at 1:43 PM

Interesting observation and nice comments from visitor. See below.

Dave

David Press
Wildlife Ecologist
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5202
415-633-8132 (FAX)

— Forwarded by Dave Press/PORE/NPS on 06/22/2012 13:41 —

(b) (6)

To: Dave_Press@nps.gov

06/20/2012 23:35

cc

(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Fw: From NPS.gov: Tule elk swimming in ocean

Dear Dr. Press,

Thank you for your comments! It didn't seem to us that an elk could have a viable familiarity with something as vast as the Pacific Ocean, so we worried it would just keep swimming further and further, expecting to reach land. But given your observation of elk in the Delta, it would be interesting to know if the elk that we saw was using the ocean to travel to some point elsewhere on the shoreline, perhaps to where relatives/mates live. Otherwise, treading water far off-shore is a pretty good alternative to hiding and perhaps their fur coats give them enough insulation against the cold water. Pt. Reyes never fails to provide first-hand educational experiences like this, we are truly grateful for its existence.

Cheers,

Garry W. Martin

(b) (6)

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: From NPS.gov: Tule elk swimming in ocean

--- On Tue, 6/19/12, Dave_Press@nps.gov <Dave_Press@nps.gov> wrote:

From: Dave_Press@nps.gov <Dave_Press@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Fw: From NPS.gov: Tule elk swimming in ocean
To: (b) (6)
Date: Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 3:59 PM

Mr. Martin,

Thank you very much for sharing your observation with the Park. That was indeed unusual behavior that you observed. It is possible that the elk felt vulnerable in your presence and decided to flee into the the water. The cliffs behind the beach are rather tall and perhaps the elk did not perceive an alternate route. Although the conditions did not sound favorable, elk can actually swim very well. A colleague of mine observed a radio-collared elk swim over 2 miles in the San Francisco Bay Delta area. Again - thanks for contacting us. This is a very good observation for our team to be aware of.

Best regards,
David

David Press
Wildlife Ecologist
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5202
415-633-8132 (FAX)

Email submitted from (b) (6) at /pore/contacts.htm

A tule elk ran straight off the beach into the surf and kept swimming until it was about 150 yards offshore. We were very concerned because the ocean water is quite cold and there are rip currents, and this did not seem like normal behavior to us. We left the area as fast as we could in case it had been our appearance that spooked the animal. However, the animal continued to swim (or be swept) further out to sea until we could barely see its head above the water. The location where this happened was the west end of Sculptured Beach, at about 5:00 PM, Monday June 11, 2012. Please can one of the naturalists or rangers comment on this by email? Thank you, Garry W.

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: From NPS.gov: Tule elk swimming in ocean

(b) (6)

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the majority of the page's content, starting below the header and extending down to just above the footer.

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: KWMR - Tuesday, January 17 - Cicely Muldoon on 2012



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: KWMR - Tuesday, January 17 - Cicely Muldoon on 2012

1 message

Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov <Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>
To: Melanie_Gunn@nps.gov

Tue, Jan 17, 2012 at 7:22 AM

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
Cicely Muldoon
Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5101

From: "George Clyde" (b) (2)
Sent: 01/17/2012 07:06 AM PST
To: Cicely Muldoon
Subject: FW: KWMR - Tuesday, January 17 - Cicely Muldoon on 2012

Cicely, Thanks for the great interview, which I divided into two parts. It's on-line now (click the green headline or download the mp3) and will be on the air at 8 AM and 6:30 PM. You'll get another email when the local host (silicon valley north) gets back in gear – probably too cold for the server! Best, G.

From: George Clyde - KWMR News [mailto:news@kwmr.org]
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 5:55 AM
To: 'kwmr-west-marin-report-news@googlegroups.com'
Subject: KWMR – Tuesday, January 17 – Cicely Muldoon on 2012

Tuesday, January 17 – Cicely Muldoon on 2012

http://kwmr.org/idbfiles/0000/1071/muldoon_c_gallerythumb.jpg **What's Ahead for the Point Reyes National Seashore This Year?** Park Superintendent Cicely Muldoon

discusses some early accomplishments this year and looks forward to celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Park, a decision in the Drakes Bay Oyster matter, opening Duck Cove on Tomales Bay to the public, dealing with the roaming (and swimming) tule elk, and more. This is the first of two installments of an interview with Muldoon by KWMR's *George Clyde*.

Download MP3

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: KWMR - Tuesday, January 17 - Cicely Muldoon on 2012





Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: Meeting

1 message

Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov <Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>
To: John_DiGregoria@nps.gov, Kevin_McKay@nps.gov, Gordon_White@nps.gov

Thu, Jul 21, 2011 at 11:24 AM

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
Cicely Muldoon
Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5101

From: David Evans [david@marinsunfarms.com]
Sent: 07/21/2011 06:14 PM GMT
To: Cicely Muldoon
Subject: Meeting

Cicely,

Thank you for the meeting yesterday. I am glad we were able to clear the air on issues surrounding our first association meeting on elk. I look forward to a condensed meeting with the individual ranchers currently effected by the elk population and yourself. I feel very hopeful we will find our way through this dilemma with mutual success.

Please let me know if a date is chosen for the mentioned meeting.

I mentioned to the Grossi' your interest in attending their yearly round up next Thursday. They will likely be in contact.

I hope you get a chance to enjoy the beautiful weather!

David Evans

Owner

Marin Sun Farms, Inc.

P.O. Box 1136

10905 Shoreline Highway

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

(415) 663-8997, Ext. 201

(415) 663-8987 Fax

david@marinsunfarms.com

www.marinsunfarms.com

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: November 3 Correspondence re: Tule Elk



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: November 3 Correspondence re: Tule Elk

1 message

Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov <Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>

Thu, Nov 3, 2011 at 2:12 PM

To: Stephanie_Burkhart@nps.gov, George_Turnbull@nps.gov, Chris_Lehnertz@nps.gov

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
Cicely Muldoon
Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5101

▼ Brannon Ketcham

— Original Message —

From: Brannon Ketcham

Sent: 11/03/2011 02:05 PM PDT

To: "Hartzell, Jessica (Feinstein)" <Jessica_Hartzell@feinstein.senate.gov>; "Quigley, Joshua (Boxer)" <Joshua_Quigley@boxer.senate.gov>; "Friefeld, Wendy" <Wendy.Friefeld@mail.house.gov>

Cc: Cicely Muldoon

Subject: November 3 Correspondence re: Tule Elk

On behalf of Superintendent Cicely Muldoon, I am forwarding a letter that is in today's mail regarding tule elk within the pastoral zone.

Cicely is on travel through Friday but will be in next week and is happy to discuss if you have any questions.

Thanks.
Brannon

(See attached file: NPS to PRSRA 2011 Nov 3.PDF)

Brannon Ketcham
Point Reyes National Seashore
Phone (415) 464-5192
Fax: (415) 663-8132

NPS to PRSRA 2011 Nov 3.PDF
44K



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, California 94956

IN REPLY REFER TO

L3019

NOV 03 2011

Gino Lucchesi
Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association
P. O. Box 1403
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Gino,

Thank you for the September 29, 2011 Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association (PRSRA) letter regarding tule elk within the pastoral zone at Point Reyes National Seashore (park). This is a complex issue of concern to all of us, and I hope we can all agree that working constructively together is the best approach.

We've faced a number of challenges together over the last 50 years, and the NPS remains committed to working with park ranchers on creative strategies for shared stewardship of our public lands into the future. The beef and dairy ranches of the park's pastoral zone are clearly authorized in the park's founding legislation and are components of a valuable historic landscape at Point Reyes National Seashore.

The NPS and park ranchers have important, unique, and longstanding business relationships. We will continue to consult with individual ranchers about all aspects of their current permits, on a wide range of topics including permit conditions and fees, proposed projects, and resource management issues. The elk are another topic in this continuing conversation. As you know, park personnel have met with park ranchers regarding tule elk on several occasions, including the all park rancher meeting on March 10, and the PRSRA meetings on July 11 and August 18 of this year, and additionally with individual ranchers numerous times. As we've stated in previous letters and during these meetings, we will continue working with park ranchers and the PRSRA on this and other issues of mutual concern.

The park's management of the tule elk is consistent with the 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. The 1998 plan did not discuss the current distribution of the free-ranging elk herd within the pastoral zone. The 1998 plan did describe that the free-ranging herd "would be adaptively managed, revising this plan as necessary to best fit new situations and information." Effective techniques for maintaining both free-ranging wildlife and working ranches are being developed and we ask again for your cooperation and assistance in creating new approaches.

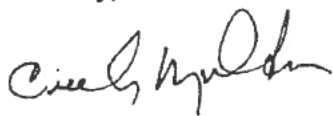
We have heard from affected ranchers that this is a financial issue. For the park to consider compensation for damages, it is essential that ranchers notify the park of any impacts to their operations and infrastructure caused by elk so that it can be documented. This documentation is the best tool we will have to account for remediation through existing permits. It is also critical for any future planning efforts. Wildlife technician Tim Bernot (415-464-5194) is the NPS contact for elk issues. We look forward to continuing our work on this together.

Your letter expresses concern over the installation of experimental elk fencing without rancher concurrence. The experimental fencing, designed to prevent fence damage, was installed in early July. It is my understanding that the design was developed in discussion with ranchers to reduce damage that was occurring to the fences at locations regularly used by elk. We will continue to assess the effectiveness of the fencing, and will update you on our findings.

As we all know there are complexities to ranching in a national park that would not be encountered on private land. We are proud that together, the NPS and the ranching families have made this model work here at Point Reyes for almost 50 years. Evidence for NPS support for beef and dairy ranches is the investment of more than \$2 million in direct improvements to ranch infrastructure we have made since 2000. The park's Historic Preservation Crew has overseen more than \$1.1 million in direct and contracted repairs to historic ranch buildings. More than \$750,000 has been expended by the Facilities Management Division on roads, and water and septic systems repairs. Natural Resources staff has procured more than \$500,000 from various grant sources to support implementing agricultural Best Management Practices to protect water quality and riparian habitat throughout the park. In addition, our Natural Resource staff has worked diligently with ranchers to complete compliance and permitting for other projects funded in conjunction with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and others.

Complex issues, like wildlife management in the pastoral zone, have arisen before and are part of the challenges that we have successfully managed together over the years. I am confident that we can find positive approaches that both protect the working ranches and adhere to national park resource protection law and policy. We look forward to continuing this important conversation with the park ranching community in the future.

Sincerely,



Cicely A. Muldoon
Superintendent

Cc: Park Ranchers



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: one more question

1 message

Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov <Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>
To: Stephanie_Burkhart@nps.gov

Tue, Mar 27, 2012 at 2:40 PM

Fyi

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
Cicely Muldoon
Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5101

From: Cicely Muldoon
Sent: 03/27/2012 05:30 PM EDT
To: Brannon Ketcham; Natalie Gates; Dave Press; Melanie Gunn; Gordon White
Subject: Fw: one more question

Fyi

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
Cicely Muldoon
Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5101

From: Cicely Muldoon
Sent: 03/27/2012 05:30 PM EDT
To: "Peterson, James (Feinstein)" <James_Peterson@feinstein.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: one more question

James,

Looks like the numbers are 53 elk in the c and d ranch areas, all outside of the permitted grazing areas at present. There are another 17 that are transient in the home ranch area that also spend part of the year in the

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: one more question

limantour wilderness area. An additional 48 are full time in the wilderness. This is all a snapshot of conditions right now of course. We do not have funding for an elk management plan, but are working to gather the basic information needed to inform a public planning effort in the future. In the meantime, assistance from those ranchers affected would be very helpful in documenting the scope of the issue. Will be able to provide more detail on current state of planning and management actions in the response letter but happy to discuss further anytime. I think with this one we can be creative and successful in demonstrating how wilderness and pastoral values can intersect. We've been engaged in similar issues for years with rare plants, wildlife, and t and e species on park lands under permit to ranchers with good success. The appraisals for the ranches reflect some of these resource issues of ranching in a national park, and that's something to explore specifically with the elk as well.

Cicely

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
Cicely Muldoon
Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5101

From: "Peterson, James (Feinstein)" [James_Peterson@feinstein.senate.gov]
Sent: 03/27/2012 07:35 PM GMT
To: Cicely Muldoon
Subject: one more question

Do you have funding to do NEPA to move the elk off of the pastoral zone?

James Peterson

Legislative Assistant

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

331 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Tel (202) 224-3841

Fax (202) 228-3954

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: one more question



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

FW: Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association

1 message

Hartzell, Jessica (Feinstein) <Jessica_Hartzell@feinstein.senate.gov>
To: "Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov" <Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>

Fri, Jun 14, 2013 at 11:12 AM

Hi Cicely,

Heads up, you've probably already seen this.

Have a great weekend.

Take care,

Jessica

Jessica Hartzell

Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein

(415) 393-0716

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2013 8:07 PM

To: ben.miller@mail.house.gov; Jenny.Callaway@mail.house.gov; Hartzell, Jessica (Feinstein); Yeung, Felix (Feinstein); john_ormsby@boxer.senate.gov; caittin.doyle@asm.ca.gov; george.haris@asm.ca.gov; lcrosse@marincounty.org; skinsey@marincounty.org

Subject: Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association

Please deliver this letter to Representative Huffman from the PRSRA.

Thank You

Joyce Grossi
Seashore Rancher

2 attachments

 **2013_06_13_PRSRA_to_Rep_Huffman.pdf**
56K

 **20110617_Final_Letter_fr_PRSRA_to_PRNS_Muldoon.pdf**
1353K

Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association
15000 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard
Inverness, CA 94937

June 13, 2013

Congressman Jared Huffman
1630 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Huffman,

The Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association (Ranchers Association) thanks you for your April 15, 2013 letter to National Park Service (NPS) director Jon Jarvis supporting the “continuing economic viability” of agriculture of all types in the Seashore. Unfortunately, recent NPS actions are threatening the continuing economic viability of agriculture in the Seashore. The Ranchers Association would like to meet with you to discuss the problem and the ways you can help.

In 2001, the ranchers within the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) came together to form the Ranchers Association. The Ranchers Association mission statement is tri-fold: 1) to protect agricultural interests in PRNS and GGNRA, 2) to facilitate a healthy relationship between permittees and the National Park Service, and 3) to educate the public on the historic stewardship of the land by the ranchers in the PRNS and GGNRA. (Please see our membership list, attached.)

The Ranchers Association is concerned about the current commitment of NPS to agriculture in the Seashore. NPS’s recent treatment of the Drakes Bay Oyster Company has only heightened our concerns. The oyster farm, like the surrounding ranches, has been an integral part of agriculture in the Seashore for many decades. The ranching operations are tied to the fate of the oyster farm. Until 2004, NPS supported the continuation—and even the expansion—of the oyster farm in every way. But in 2004, NPS reversed its position for reasons never explained, and insisted that the oyster farm had to be shut down. Since then, NPS has used bad science to try to show that the Drakes Bay Oyster Company was causing environmental harm to Drakes Estero. Then last November, Interior Department Secretary Salazar cited some of that same bad science in support of his decision to shutter the oyster farm. If the NPS is using incorrect claims of environmental harm with regard to agriculture in the seashore, it must be identified and corrected, or it will certainly continue. The Ranchers Association asks both that you demonstrate your commitment to agriculture in the Seashore by supporting the oyster farm, and by supporting the House Natural Resources Committee’s ongoing effort to investigate the scientific claims by made by NPS about the oyster farm.

As you are likely aware, after the oyster farm, the most pressing regional issue is NPS's refusal to comply with its management plan for the introduced Tule elk. The elk were originally placed into the "elk range" and were not to interfere with any other permitted use within the seashore. NPS is now allowing the Tule elk to proliferate outside their designated range and within the Pastoral Zone. The newly introduced elk are making it impossible for our historic, permitted uses to remain viable and must be removed from the designated ranch lands. Already this elk issue has threatened some of our members' organic certifications, and it threatens to put all of them out of business. And to be sure, serious issues relating from unrestricted elk to health and safety are being ignored by NPS. Please understand that the Ranchers Association and its members have met with NPS staff dozens of times to resolve the elk invasion issue. Only recently NPS staff has told the Ranchers Association that they will make no effort to follow the elk management plan that resulted from a NPS NEPA process in 1998. Congress must step in to correct this deficiency if agriculture is to persist in the Seashore.

Our association respectfully requests that you organize meetings through, and meet with, the Ranchers Association on all matters affecting the ranchers and farmers in the Seashore. Our concerns with NPS are regional issues that should be addressed collectively, so meeting and being addressed as an association rather than individually is critical to our ability to resolve problems.

Although we have asked Superintendent Muldoon to work with the Ranchers Association as a group on regional issues, the NPS ignores our request and continues to arrange meetings with individual ranchers on issues that affect many members of the Ranchers Association – including the elk management plan compliance issue. (Please see the attached letter that the Ranchers Association sent to PRNS Superintendent Cicely Muldoon on this matter.)

The Ranchers Association respectfully requests that you meet to discuss these important matters.

We will be contacting Jenny Callaway to set up an appointment to meet with you. For your future reference, you may contact our Secretary (Jackie Grossi at (b) (6) or (b) (6) for scheduling matters.

Sincerely yours,

The Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association

cc: US Senator, Dianne Feinstein
US Senator, Barbara Boxer
State Assembly Member, Marc Levine
Marin County Supervisor, Steve Kinsey
Jenny Callaway, District Director for Congressman Huffman

Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association

P.O Box 1403

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

June 17, 2011

Cicely A. Muldoon, Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
One Bear Valley Road
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Superintendent Muldoon,

The Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association (PRSRA) writes this letter to request that Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) join us to address the elk migration into the Pastoral Zone of the Seashore. We, the undersigned members of the PRSRA, respectfully request that this issue be addressed with the Association, as a group, not with us as individual ranchers. This is a regional issue that is impacting some of the ranchers on a daily basis and will certainly impact all of the ranchers if left unresolved.

PRSRA members have repeatedly met with the PRNS since the onset of the elk encroachment onto the ranchers' leased lands to discuss potential solutions. During these meetings, PRSRA members have presented proof of damage inflicted by elk upon their livestock operations including, but not limited to, the following:

- damaging fences and other ranch infrastructure,
- competing for forage with grazing livestock,
- causing physical harm to livestock,
- exposing grazing livestock to transmittable disease, and
- impacting ranch water quality and quantity.

Your leadership is requested to resolve this critical issue. The next PRSRA meeting will be July 11, from 3-5 pm at the Freitas Center in Olema, and we request your attendance at the meeting in order to discuss this concern with the Association. It is the Association's intent to resolve this situation by working together with you. Please contact David Evans, Elk Subcommittee Chair, at (b) (6) or david@marinsunfarms.com, to confirm your participation.

Sincerely,

Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association*

*See attached signature pages.

We, the undersigned Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) and Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) ranchers are in support of the Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association (PRSRA) June 9, 2011 letter to Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent, PRNS re: elk migration into the Pastoral Zone of the PRNS.

| <u>Ranch Name</u> | <u>Rancher Signature</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Westwell Ranch | Charles Westwell |
| Senazzi Ranch | May Senazzi |
| Ralph Giacomini | Ralph Giacomini |
| ROBERT GIACOMINI DAIRY | Tot |
| MIKE GUMMERT | |
| ROGERS Ranch | |
| Dolores Evans | Dolores Evans |
| Kelroe Dairy | Don White |
| Nunes Ranches (A D+E Ranches) | Betty Nunes |
| Spalatta Dairy Co's | Emilia |
| Joe Mendosa | |
| Branch & Co Ranch | |
| The Clure Ranch | Ronald Clure |
| Niman Ranch | Bill |

We, the undersigned Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) and Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) ranchers are in support of the Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association (PRSRA) June 9, 2011 letter to Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent, PRNS re: elk migration into the Pastoral Zone of the PRNS.

Ranch Name

Rancher Signature

N-Ranch

Mervin McDonald

HOME Ranch

Line Lucchesi Jr

Zanardi Ranch

Art Martin

Home Ranch

Gene Murphy

M Ranch

Rich Gross

McIsaac Ranch

McIsaac

F RANCH

Richard H. Malaghas

Rogers Ranch

Fred Rogers

LUNNY Ranch

Joe Lunny

Drakes Bay Oyster Company

Ken Fung



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

FW: PRNS ELK

1 message

Jessica_Hartzell@feinstein.senate.gov <Jessica_Hartzell@feinstein.senate.gov> Wed, Mar 14, 2012 at 9:41 AM
To: Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov
Cc: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov

Brandon,

Mr. Bennett says in his letter that there are 400 cattle that have been "misplaced" outside of the pastoral zone. Any chance you, or someone at PRNS, could help me understand what he means?

Thanks,

Jessica

Jessica Hartzell

Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

Direct: (415) 393-0716

From: gbatmuirb@aol.com [mailto:gbatmuirb@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 8:38 AM
To: Peterson, James (Feinstein); Watts, John (Feinstein); Hartzell, Jessica (Feinstein); Molinari, Jim (Feinstein)
Subject: PRNS ELK

(See attached file: 12-03-SOS to PRNS re Elk.pdf)

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - FW: PRNS ELK



12-03-SOS to PRNS re Elk.pdf

199K

Save our Seashore

40 Sunnyside Dr. Inverness, CA 94937 415-663-1881 gbatmuirb@aol.com

March 10, 2012

Superintendent Cicely Muldoon, Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS)

RE: March 9, 2012 letter from Supervisor Kinsey to Senator Feinstein re Tule elk.

Dear Superintendent: As you likely know, there would be a vigorous public outcry should PRNS propose any action, such as implied in Supervisor Kinsey's letter, to cull native wildlife that the public comes to the Seashore to view and that the Seashore was established to preserve.

Supervisor Kinsey's letter states that there are 50 elk that are "misplaced" by grazing inside the pastoral zone. However, the Supervisor's letter does not mention that there are also 400 cattle that are "misplaced" by grazing outside the pastoral zone. Since elk are half the weight of cattle, the impact of the 400 cattle on wildlife forage is over sixteen times the impact of the 50 elk on cattle forage. Thus the Supervisor's letter presents a one-sided view across the fencing that divides parklands zoned for ranching from parklands zoned for wildlife.

We also contest the Supervisor's claim that the elk are "misplaced." As is well-known, these elk are free-ranging and while they may have wandered into the pastoral zone, they have not been "placed" there. In contrast, the 400 cattle that are outside of the pastoral zone have indeed been "misplaced" there. We believe that the unintended impacts of free-range elk on ranching can be managed without removing or culling the elk. However, should action be proposed to remove elk from pastorally-zoned parkland, then there must be a contemporaneous and commensurate action to replace cattle on non-pastorally-zoned lands with native ungulates.

We also believe that the Seashore must enhance its wildlife and the sustainability of its ranching. Free-ranging elk, as browsers, reduce fire danger by foraging on brush unpalatable to cattle. Furthermore, elk perform other important ecological functions without negative impacts to water quality associated with some ranching activities. Thus, we believe that any effort to manage the impact of elk on ranching must be accompanied by a contemporaneous and commensurate effort to manage impacts of ranching.

As the Seashore's own data demonstrates, the existence of the Seashore is the major reason that its ranching operations continue to be viable. The Seashore provides direct funding assistance to its ranchers as well as technical assistance to meet environmental regulations. Low animal-unit-month rents (\$7-\$9 inside the Seashore compared to \$15-20 outside) compensate ranchers for wildlife impacts. Additional compensation may be warranted for expanding elk populations.

However, the Seashore should not consider culling native elk as any reasonable alternative.

Sincerely,



Gordon Bennett, President, Save Our Seashore cc: Senator Feinstein and Marin Supervisors



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

FW: Pt. Reyes grazing

1 message

Peterson, James (Feinstein) <James_Peterson@feinstein.senate.gov>
To: "Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov" <Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>

Thu, Oct 10, 2013 at 4:05 PM

Hi Cicely,

My email to Jorge bounced back. Are you available to provide me an update tomorrow?

James Peterson

Legislative Assistant

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

331 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Tel (202) 224-3841

Fax (202) 228-3954

From: Peterson, James (Feinstein)
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 3:45 PM
To: 'Silva-Banuelos, Jorge'
Subject: RE: Pt. Reyes grazing

Hi Jorge,

In light of this piece, can you give me an update on where things stand re the 20 year permits for Pt. Reyes ranchers and efforts to remove the Tule Elk from grazing lands?

http://www.marinij.com/marinnews/ci_24268623/dick-spotswood-is-pt-reyes-oyster-farm-harbinger

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - FW: Pt. Reyes grazing

James Peterson

Legislative Assistant

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

331 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Tel (202) 224-3841

Fax (202) 228-3954

From: Silva-Banuelos, Jorge [mailto:jorge_silva-banuelos@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 10:53 AM

To: Peterson, James (Feinstein)

Subject: Re: Pt. Reyes grazing

No, it was myself and Melissa Koenigsberg, Rachel's Chief of Staff. It was good talking with you as well. Let me know if I can help answer any other questions.

Jorge Silva-Bañuelos | Special Assistant | Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 3148 | Washington, DC 20240 | ☎ 202.208.6211 (direct)

jorge@ios.doi.gov

On Tue, Mar 26, 2013 at 10:50 AM, Peterson, James (Feinstein) <James_Peterson@feinstein.senate.gov> wrote:

Thanks for the call. Was Rachel Jacobson also part of the December meetings.

James Peterson

Legislative Assistant

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

331 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Tel (202) 224-3841

Fax (202) 228-3954

From: Silva-Banuelos, Jorge [mailto:jorge_silva-banuelos@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 7:23 PM
To: Peterson, James (Feinstein)
Subject: Re: Pt. Reyes grazing

Hi James -

Just got your email and voicemail. I'm available to chat with you tonight if you're available, my cell # is (b) (6) (b) (6) I can also call you if you send me your cell #. Thanks.

The short of it is that a colleague of mine and I met with every Point Reyes rancher in mid-December and we discussed the Secretary's direction to NPS to develop 20 year permits. Among the many comments we got back was an appreciation of our visits and of the Secretary's renewed commitment to the partnership with area ranchers. Most were interested in the 20 year permit option but some were not (mostly those were the older ranchers who didn't see themselves out there for that long). For some, it sparked conversations about how to hand off the ranches to their kids who would be interested in the 20 year permits. And NPS is supportive of assisting the ranchers pass the permits down to the next generation.

We informed them that NPS will need to work out the details of the 20 year permits and that would take a little time, but that we would involve the ranchers in that process. The first step was to delegate authority from Washington to the region to develop these permits, which was done back in late January. I'll need to check in with the Seashore to see where things stand otherwise. In the meantime, NPS has informed all ranchers that their current permits (if expiring soon or already expired) will be extended until they work out more details on the 20 year permits.

As for the elk issue, this is a misreading of the existing permits - a standard boiler plate section of the permits describes all wildlife species known to exist on the Seashore, which includes Tule elk. But that is not intended to bind them somehow to having elk on their land. The NPS staff at the Seashore (and at DOI) know this issue is of significant concern to many of the ranchers, and we are committed to seeking ways to address it. And NPS views this as a separate discussion from the development of the 20-year permits.

I hope this helps, and I hope we can connect via phone soon so that I can answer any other questions and/or fill you in on more of the details that were discussed with the ranchers.

Best,

Jorge Silva-Bañuelos | Special Assistant | Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 3148 | Washington, DC 20240 | ☎ 202.208.6211 (direct)

jorge@ios.doi.gov

On Mon, Mar 25, 2013 at 4:55 PM, Peterson, James (Feinstein) <James_Peterson@feinstein.senate.gov> wrote:

Hi Jorge,

Just left you a vm. Can you tell me:

1. Did a representative of Secretary Salazar visit with the ranchers late last year to offer the 20 year permit he discussed with Sen. Feinstein? Can you tell me who that was and when the visit occurred?
2. What are the conditions of those permits? This story suggest it is acceptance of the Tule Elk on their land.
3. What is the status of the permit extension discussion with the ranchers?

I am trying to get this information to the Senator tonight, so if you could spare a couple minutes for an update that would be much appreciated. 224-5416 is my direct line.

James Peterson

Legislative Assistant

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

331 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Tel (202) 224-3841

Fax (202) 228-3954

From: Silva-Banuelos, Jorge [mailto:jorge_silva-banuelos@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 10:18 AM

To: Peterson, James (Feinstein)

Subject: Re: Re:

Thanks. I'll be around until about 12:30pm, then in meetings after that. Look forward to speaking with you.

Jorge Silva-Bañuelos | Special Assistant | Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 3148 | Washington, DC 20240 | ☎ 202.208.6211 (direct)

jorge@ios.doi.gov

On Tue, Mar 12, 2013 at 6:46 PM, Peterson, James (Feinstein) <James_Peterson@feinstein.senate.gov> wrote:
Just left you a vm. Sorry I was unable to get back to you earlier; will try you in the morning.

PDF of the article attached here as well.

James Peterson
Legislative Assistant
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Tel (202) 224-3841
Fax (202) 228-3954

From: Silva-Banuelos, Jorge [mailto:jorge_silva-banuelos@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 3:32 PM
To: Peterson, James (Feinstein)
Subject: Re:

Hi James -

Not sure if you sent me the article or not, but it didn't get to me. But in the meantime, I had Chris Mansour forward it to me, so feel free to give me a call back whenever you have a chance.

Best,

Jorge Silva-Bañuelos | Special Assistant | Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 3148 | Washington, DC 20240 | ☎ 202.208.6211 (direct)
jorge@ios.doi.gov

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - FW: Pt. Reyes grazing



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: The Seashore and ag

1 message

Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov <Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>
To: Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov, Gordon_White@nps.gov

Mon, May 21, 2012 at 1:21 PM

please take a look - not sure who exactly is meeting with Steve, but would be happy to provide information. Can you two give Steve a call, and let him know I'm on the road. Remain puzzled by the assertion that we don't meet with the Ranchers Association as a group, when we've done so every time invited.



Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent
POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE

1 Bear Valley Road
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
phone (415) 464-5101
cicely_muldoon@nps.gov



Commemorating 30 years of Point Reyes National Seashore 1976 - 2012

— Forwarded by Cicely Muldoon/PORE/NPS on 05/21/2012 01:18 PM —

Steve Costa
(b) (6)

ToCicely_Muldoon@nps.gov

05/20/2012 11:39 AM

cc

SubjectRe: The Seashore and ag

Can someone on staff help with list of achievements and responses?
SC

Sent from my iPhone

On May 20, 2012, at 10:40 AM, "Kinsey, Steven" <SKinsey@marincounty.org> wrote:

Gentlemen,

I would be pleased to meet to discuss issues related to ag in the Seashore. I will offer the following times:

Thursday (24th), Friday (25th), or Tuesday (29th) morning at 8:30AM at the Bovine or somewhere nearby.

Thursday (24th) at 1PM at the Civic Center.

I will alert you now that I do not hold the view that the NPS is trying to phase out ranches. I do however, believe that the combination of their process for handling both the Oyster lease and the Tule Elk migration issue has created a distrust within the Seashore ranchers about the Seashore's

concern for them.

I encourage you to put together your list of positive achievements, some of which I am aware of. For example, the Seashore's willingness to provide for longer leases to allow amortization of investments is significant and welcome. After seeking to increase grazing fees 5 or 6 years ago, their recognition that the minimal financial benefit for the Park wasn't sufficient to justify the greater challenge it would create for Park ranches is another positive example I'm aware of.

I remain concerned about these additional items:

How long it has taken to publish a revised General Management Plan that could impact ranchers
Lack of a formal acknowledgment that diverse ag activities such as free range chickens and limited row crops are acceptable, leaving ranchers vulnerable to citation
Unwillingness to meet with the Seashore Ranchers Association as a group
Appearance of favoring conservation advocates over sustainable ag advocates in their ongoing communication and strategic positioning

I look forward to meeting with each of you. I deeply appreciate our good fortune to have our National Parks in West Marin, and I will arrive with an open mind and a keen interest in hearing how you think I can improve my own efforts to reflect that.

Steve

From: Burr Heneman [mailto:burr@igc.org]
Sent: Saturday, May 19, 2012 4:53 PM
To: Kinsey, Steven
Cc: Michael Mery; Richard Plant; Carlos Porrata; Steve Costa
Subject: The Seashore and ag

Dear Steve,

We are inviting you to meet with us briefly -- really -- about the Seashore and agriculture. We would like to talk this month if at all possible.

Some people suggest that the Seashore wants to phase out the ranches. As far as we can tell, you have subscribed to that view, and we don't understand why. We are aware of many examples of recent and ongoing meaningful Seashore support for agriculture, some of it requiring flexibility and creativity. If you have examples to the contrary, we'd like to know about them. And we'd like to be sure you are aware of the substantial efforts the Seashore has made in helping the ranches.

It's a busy season for you, but we hope you can fit us in.

Regards,

Burr Heneman
Steve Costa
Michael Mery
Richard Plant
Carlos Porrata

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: The Seashore and ag

Email Disclaimer: <http://marincounty.org/nav/misc/EmailDisclaimer.cfm>



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: Tule elk at Point Reyes

1 message

Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov <Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>

Tue, Oct 23, 2012 at 8:41 AM

To: Melanie_Gunn@nps.gov, John_A_Dell'Oso@nps.gov, Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
Cicely Muldoon
Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5101

▼ David Barna

— Original Message —

From: David Barna
Sent: 10/23/2012 10:59 AM EDT
To: Emily Yehle <eyehle@eenews.net>
Cc: David Barna
Subject: Tule elk at Point Reyes

Emily

Should have sent this to you yesterday.=

David

Point Reyes is the only national park with tule elk and reestablishment of a free-ranging elk herd in 1998 was an important ecological restoration effort for California. The National Park Service (NPS) actively supports historic dairy and beef operations at Point Reyes and has made significant investments in ranching infrastructure. Beef and dairy ranches operate in a challenging economic environment and we take the concerns raised by park ranchers seriously. Collaboration with park ranchers and with the interested public is critical to successful ranch and wildlife management. The NPS is proud to support the continued vitality of historic park ranches and to facilitate the establishment of both the historic B and L Ranch dairies in the last 2 years. The NPS will work directly with the park ranchers to address their concerns, preserve the unique ecological and cultural landscape of the Point Reyes peninsula, and continue to demonstrate that working ranches can be successful within the context of a national park.



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fw: Tule Elk

1 message

Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov <Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov>
To: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov

Wed, Oct 19, 2011 at 4:36 PM

----- Original Message -----

From: "Hartzell, Jessica (Feinstein)" [Jessica_Hartzell@feinstein.senate.gov]
Sent: 10/19/2011 07:27 PM AST
To: Brannon Ketcham
Subject: RE: Tule Elk

Brandon:

Thank you for this information, it is really helpful. I will pull the EA off of the website.

I won't be able to make it to Fort Mason this evening, but I look forward to speaking to you soon.

Best,
Jessica

Jessica Hartzell
Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
Direct: (415) 393-0716

-----Original Message-----

From: Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov [mailto:Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 9:08 PM
To: Hartzell, Jessica (Feinstein)
Cc: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov
Subject: Re: Tule Elk

Jessica -

I wanted to get back to you on the location of the 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan and Environmental Assessment and FONSI. It is posted on the park web site:

http://www.nps.gov/pore/parkmgmt/planning_otherplanning.htm

It is the last project on this page, with the EA and FONSI accessible from there. I can also email the documents if you prefer, however the EA is 10.5MB. Let me know your preference.

Regarding your question, there are a few locations in the EA which address herd size and procedures for removal from the pastoral zone.

Page 43 of the EA provides a summary of the actions under Alternative A

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: Tule Elk

(selected alternative). Items 5 and 6 under interim or short-term actions identify population targets and how population thresholds would be established.

Interim or short-term actions:

.....

5. Set interim management limit for Point Reyes tule elk population at 600-800 animals, with Tomales Point set at 350-450 and Limantour set at 250-350.
6. Establish threshold for tule elk, vegetation, and other resource indicators to replace interim management limits.

from Pages 44-45 of the EA

Management Limits

The Seashore intends to manage the tule elk population over time with as little population manipulation as possible. This may require occasional intervention to dampen the potential for negative impacts in order to provide adequate response time and detect negative effects through monitoring, the Seashore intends to manage the number of elk by establishing a range of acceptable limits. This range is being called the interim "management limit" for Point Reyes tule elk. The management limit for Point Reyes National Seashore is set at this time as 600-800 animals. Included in this value is the limit set for Tomales Point of 350-450 animals and for Limantour of 250-350 animals. The management limit is an estimate of the number of animals that can be successfully maintained, monitored, studied, and as necessary, controlled. It provides an interim objective for elk management that is the *best estimate of sustainable herd size. As the herd size exceeds this limit, efforts will most likely be undertaken to reduce the herd size. Under this alternative, this level would probably be reached by the year 2001. It should be noted that it is not the intention of the Seashore to maintain the herd at this upper limit for a sustained period of time. The interim management limit will be used until thresholds are developed.

The description of Alternative A (Pages 43 and 50) of the EA present what was contemplated at the time the EA was written.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks.
Brannon

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fw: Tule Elk

(note - I got a bounceback on my first email attempt this afternoon - sorry if this is a duplicate).

Brannon Ketcham
Point Reyes National Seashore
Phone (415) 464-5192
Fax: (415) 663-8132

From: "Hartzell, Jessica (Feinstein)"
[Jessica_Hartzell@feinstein.senate.gov]

Sent: 10/17/2011 11:37 AM AST
To: Cicely Muldoon
Cc: Brannon Ketcham
Subject: Tule Elk

Superintendent Muldoon:

Can you assist me in obtaining a copy of the 1998 Environmental Assessment done on the Tule Elk? Attached is the only information I could find online about the issue. Specifically, I would like to see the language that says that an overpopulation is defined as a herd of 350 or more, and the absence of any outlined procedures for removal from the pastoral zone.

Any assistance you can provide, including direction to the appropriate party to request the EA from, would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,
Jessica

Jessica Hartzell
Field Representative
Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
One Post St., Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104
Tel (415) 393-0707
Fax (415) 989-3242

Brannon Ketcham
Point Reyes National Seashore
Phone (415) 464-5192
Fax: (415) 663-8132



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fwd: A couple of comments

1 message

Gunn, Melanie <melanie_gunn@nps.gov>

Thu, Nov 21, 2013 at 9:53 AM

To: Cicely Muldoon <Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov>, Brannon Ketcham <Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov>

Melanie Gunn
Outreach Coordinator
Point Reyes National Seashore
1 Bear Valley Road
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
(415) 464-5131

——— Forwarded message ———

From: **Linda** <editor@westmarincitizen.com>

Date: Thu, Nov 21, 2013 at 9:45 AM

Subject: A couple of comments

To: Melanie_Gunn@nps.gov

Hi Melanie,

I have a few thoughts on the elk issue. I know you don't set policy but it sure would be helpful in this situation if the Park would seriously try to work with the ranchers including finding ways to move the elk off their grazing lands. Not just quote official policy and repair fences now and then. That is what is very frustrating both for the ranchers and the community. The white deer were successfully removed (against much protest) so there is precedent. The intent of the Seashore was to create an unusual collaboration between farming and recreation, yet it appears that the long-term goal was always to eliminate human activity. With the elk situation many are saying "look, it is just as we have been predicting, the ranchers will be forced out". I am NOT saying this to challenge you or make trouble, it's better to know what people are feeling and possibly adjust Park policies. Speaking of lobbyists, what are EAC, Bennett, Desai, even PRNSA, if not lobbyists, supporters of anything the NPS does? They do a lot of good but there is no balance in their policies. The engaged people on the side of AG are not dummies, they are among the most knowledgeable, interesting, passionate people I have met. There must be a way that the Park can meet them half-way. Nothing would please me (and the majority of our readers) more if this can be resolved using diplomacy rather than confrontation.

Linda Petersen, Publisher
editor@westmarincitizen.com



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fwd: Agriculture Planning & Permits

1 message

Ketcham, Brannon <brannon_ketcham@nps.gov>

Mon, Aug 26, 2013 at 8:40 AM

To: Palmer Jenkins <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>, Cicely Muldoon <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Chip

I am in all week if you need anything else from me

Thanks.

Brannon

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Frost, Herbert** <bert_frost@nps.gov>

Date: Mon, Aug 26, 2013 at 7:38 AM

Subject: Re: Agriculture Planning & Permits

To: Christine Lehnertz <chris_lehnertz@nps.gov>

Cc: Palmer Jenkins <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>, Cicely Muldoon <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>, Martha Lee <Martha_Lee@nps.gov>, Martha Crusius <martha_crusius@nps.gov>, Barbara Goodyear <barbara.goodyear@sol.doi.gov>, Raymond Sauvajot <ray_sauvajot@nps.gov>, Brannon Ketcham <Brannon_Ketcham@nps.gov>

Bruce Peacock and Pat Walsh are going to talk to Chip this week, as I understand.

Bert

On Fri, Aug 23, 2013 at 4:45 PM, Christine Lehnertz <chris_lehnertz@nps.gov> wrote:

Hi Bert,

(b) (5)

Thanks

Chris

Chris Lehnertz, Regional Director
National Park Service
Pacific West Region

(w) 415-623-2101

(m) 415-652-8811

On Aug 23, 2013, at 1:21 PM, "Ketcham, Brannon" <brannon_ketcham@nps.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)

completing the effort in 2 to 2.5 years.

(b) (5)

Thanks.
Brannon

On Fri, Aug 16, 2013 at 12:43 PM, Ketcham, Brannon <brannon_ketcham@nps.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks.
Brannon

—
Brannon Ketcham
Point Reyes National Seashore
Phone (415) 464-5192
Fax (415) 663-8132

—
Brannon Ketcham
Point Reyes National Seashore
Phone (415) 464-5192
Fax (415) 663-8132

—
Herbert C. Frost, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW

11/22/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: Agriculture Planning & Permits

Washington, DC 20240
202-208-3884

—

Brannon Ketcham
Point Reyes National Seashore
Phone (415) 464-5192
Fax (415) 663-8132



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fwd: book

1 message

burr(b) (6)

Mon, Oct 1, 2012 at 11:31 AM

To: Cicely_Muldoon@nps.gov, John_A_Dell'Ossso@nps.gov

FYI, Cicely and John.

Burr

Begin forwarded message:

On Sep 30, 2012, at 8:56 PM, Michael Mery <(b) (6)> wrote:

Richard: here's the full post including the comment by Weiman, lobbyist.

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Re: FW: THE BOOK NPS DOESN'T WANT VISITORS TO SEE -- BANNED AT NPS VISITOR'S CENTERS BOOKSHOPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY 1 post by 1 author in West Marin Soapbox | | [IMAGE] [IMAGE] [IMAGE] |
| [IMAGE] | Dave Brast | [IMAGE] Post reply More message actions 3:33 PM (5 hours ago) |

Jane, I hope you'll report on all this, including a report on what happened at Toby's today, in a letter to the editor to the local papers. If what you say is true, then this is something everyone who's concerned about survival of agriculture in West Marin should know about it. As you may notice, I'm cc'ing West Marin Soapbox.

At 11:30 AM 9/30/2012, Jane Gyorgy wrote:
Good Sunday Morning!

(See the Marin IJ Story below my email for details)

1. This book signing today will commence with a reading and an interview of the author

- The author included a note about the existence of the oyster farm in his book.
- The PRNS / NPS told the author his book would not be sold in the Park Service's Visitors Centers unless he REMOVED ALL MENTION of the oyster farm
- The author refused stating, it is part of the history.
- Not only is the book banned, but also the Park Service went to the author's publisher and convinced him or her not to publish the book.
- The author had to find another publisher.

1. What else? There was a meeting between the Ranchers and the PRNS / NPS regarding the Tule Elk situation

- PRNS / NPS presented a letter signed by Ken Salazar, DOI, dated May of this year (FOUR MONTHS OLD) to the ranchers stating that the elk cannot be touched.
- The PRNS / NPS reps said that the letter from Salazar requires a full EIS before anything can be done about the elk.
- When asked where it stated it since the reader couldn't find such wording, they replied, it is implicit and our hands are tied.
- The ranchers asked, " why not just follow the General Management Plan for the Elk written in 1998?"
- The PRNS / NPS told the ranchers no such plan exists!
- The ranchers held up a copy of the Point Reyes Tule Elk Management Plan and many of the panel looked perplexed and uncomfortable.
- The PRNS / NPS said the plan had expired but couldn't back that point up with fact.
- Phyllis Faber stated that it appears as if the PRNS / NPS wants to drive the ranchers out of business to which Melanie Gunn lost control and accused Ms. Faber of being the cause of the acrimony, of making up stories, etc.
- The organic ranchers, on whose property the Elk are consuming the natural grasses, are losing their organic status for it is written that a certain percentage of the feed for a ranch to retain the "Organic" status must come from the land upon which they graze. Due to the Elk's consumption of the grazing areas, the ranchers have had to supplement their cattle with feed, albeit organic and expensive feed, purchased feed nonetheless. The amount necessary to feed their cattle sufficient to live exceeds the "Organic Standards Limits".

I will be at the presentation at Toby's today. I hope to see you there.

Jane

All.

This book, in draft, was provided to NPS – to Superintendent Muldoon.

Hart, I understand, was told it couldn't be sold in the Visitor's Center.

So, here you have it – banned in West Marin – John Hart's new book on Point Reyes.

West Marin's been inundated with NPS serial false science, hopeless distorted policies, fabricated accusations, made up stuff -- and now, NPS censorship.

Real NPS Policy for West Marin – “no policy left unabused...”

What's next, NPS book burning?

If you have a chance today, go visit John at Tobey's Feed Barn today.

Dave W.

Description: Description: <http://extras.mnginteractive.com/live> Description:
Description: Part of the Bay Area News Group

Author to read from new book on Point Reyes

Marin Independent Journal

Posted: 09/29/2012 08:00:00 AM PDT

POINT REYES STATION

John Hart will present and sign his new book, "An Island in time: 50 Years of Point Reyes National Seashore," from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Sunday at Toby's Feed Barn in Point Reyes Station.

Hart, an award-winning author of books on the environment, will be interviewed by Marin conservation pioneer Martin Rosen. The book is in honor of the park's first half-century and has been published by Lighthouse Press.

Toby's Feed Barn is at 11250 Highway 1 in Point Reyes Station. Refreshments will be served.

Send us your news: We want more news items from Marin's cities and towns. Email them to our City Desk at loca...@marinij.com, mail them to City Desk, Marin Independent Journal, 4000 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903, or fax them to 415-382-7209. For more information about towns in Marin, visit the IJ's website at marinij.com.

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Attachments (2)



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fwd: C Ranch

1 message

Press, Dave <dave_press@nps.gov>

Fri, Aug 2, 2013 at 7:48 AM

To: Cicely Muldoon <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>, Gordon White <gordon_white@nps.gov>

FYI

David Press
Wildlife Ecologist
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5202
415-633-8132 (FAX)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Harrigan, Kaitlin** <kaitlin_harrigan@partner.nps.gov>
Date: Thu, Aug 1, 2013 at 4:56 PM
Subject: C Ranch
To: Dave Press <dave_press@nps.gov>

Hi Dave,

The following is a description of my interaction with Nichola Spaletta.

On Wednesday, July 31, 2013 at 1:45pm on Sir Francis Drake road at C Ranch, Mrs. Spaletta motioned for me to stop while she approached my truck on her ATV, with her granddaughter Julia on the seat. She asked me who I was and what I was doing. She told me that I should have stopped at the ranch and introduced myself, that she felt awkward that I was sitting in the truck with binoculars, observing the ranch. I explained that I was usually on a tight schedule, that I only stopped at her ranch for a few minutes, that I was only looking for ravens. She said that she felt like she didn't have any privacy and that she was upset that she never heard anything from the Park. She talked about wanting to help, but that they couldn't do things differently if she never heard anything.

Throughout the conversation, I asserted that I was only surveying for ravens, that as a tech I wasn't the right person to answer these questions, and I encouraged her to speak to you, Dave.

She asked how C Ranch was doing in terms of ravens, and I told her vaguely that I hadn't seen many ravens there, which is the case, and that it looked like C Ranch was running a tight ship. She wanted to know if C Ranch was the only ranch I surveyed. I told her that we surveyed A, B, and C Ranch and that these were the same raven surveys that had been conducted in the past. She wanted to know why her ranch was surveyed, and not others aside from A and B. I told her that we surveyed her ranch because of its proximity to the bird populations we were concerned about. She wanted to know why we didn't survey McClure's and other ranches north of hers. I didn't have an answer, and it wasn't clear that she was listening to my responses.

She continued, saying that she was hurt by the fact that B Ranch had received calf huts, that she would have really liked to have been included on that order because shipping is expensive. I told her that I didn't have any information about that. She concluded by saying that they were having "a hell of a time" with the elk. I had no response.

I can see how introducing myself would have been beneficial but I was aware of the tension between C Ranch and

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: C Ranch

the Park, and I thought it best to simply do my job. Unfortunately, Mrs. Spaletta's tone was confrontational.

Kaitlin



Muldoon, Cicely <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>

Fwd: CDFW elk visit tomorrow

1 message

Press, Dave <dave_press@nps.gov>

Fri, Jun 28, 2013 at 7:27 AM

To: Cicely Muldoon <cicely_muldoon@nps.gov>, Gordon White <gordon_white@nps.gov>, Brannon Ketcham <brannon_ketcham@nps.gov>, Melanie Gunn <melanie_gunn@nps.gov>, Devii Rao <devii_rao@nps.gov>, Kevin McKay <kevin_mckay@nps.gov>, Tim Bernot <tim_bernot@nps.gov>

FYI

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Wildlife Ecologist
Point Reyes National Seashore
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nichola Spaletta** (b) (6)
Date: Fri, Jun 28, 2013 at 6:56 AM
Subject: Re: CDFW elk visit tomorrow
To: "Press, Dave" <dave_press@nps.gov>

Dave,

The elk are affecting our ranch lease. Why were we not invited to your meeting? Ernie and I were out of town. To bad you did not let us know sooner.
Sincerely, Nichola Spaletta

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On Tue, Jun 25, 2013 at 3:33 PM, Press, Dave <dave_press@nps.gov> wrote:

Hi Nichola,

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: CDFW elk visit tomorrow

I am writing to let you know that the park will be meeting with two elk experts from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife tomorrow (Wed, June 26) to discuss free-range tule elk within the park. This will be an opportunity for us to get their feedback on what we have been doing and planning on around elk, and an opportunity for us learn to from their experiences managing elk in other parts of the state. We will be up on Drakes Beach Road and around the D Ranch compound. We will be visiting the Home Ranch/Estero Road area as well. Please pass the word to Emie and Ernest and let me know if you have any questions.

Best, Dave

David Press
Wildlife Ecologist
Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5202
415-633-8132 (FAX)