

Point Reyes National Seashore  
Tomales Point Area Plan  
Public Scoping  
May 2024  
Non-Form Comment Letters 20,001–25,115

**Correspondence ID: 20001**

The way the Tule Elk have been treated in the recent past is absolutely unacceptable. I'm really hoping to see some progress made for the better in this area.

**Correspondence ID: 20002**

Confined native elk dying of thirst and malnutrition in a National Park is not acceptable. Once the elk fence is removed, the elk to roam freely and steps should be taken to allow avoid any culling, hazing, or harassment of the elk for any reason. I understand that these cattle ranchers have been occupying this land for generations, but culling tule elk and restricting them from natural resources is unethical.

**Correspondence ID: 20004**

Free Elk

**Correspondence ID: 20007**

I find it incomprehensible that a National Seashore Wildlife preserve would have any commercial "industry" located within its boundaries especially one that exists to the detriment of local wildlife populations most prominently a herd of the endangered Tule Elk that historically existed here long before they were exterminated in the 1800's and more recently reintroduced but confined to a fraction of their previous habitat limiting their ability to find food or water in times of drought.

I strongly support your "Alternative B" to remove the existing fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

And not only the elk but all wild animals will benefit when the polluting, for-profit cattle operations are removed from public land.

**Correspondence ID: 20010**

I support the Alternative B proposed action, which removes the elk fence and frees the confined elk.

**Correspondence ID: 20011**

Please protect the Tule elk herd. Ranchers using public lands should not take priority over wildlife. If they can't co-exist then the ranchers should go. It is not their land. It belongs to all of us and they treat it as if it was theirs alone.

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

**Correspondence ID: 20012**

Please always do what is best for the animals to protect them, keep them safe, fed, and free

from dehydration. You can never go wrong doing the right thing. Please protect the animals. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20013**

Dear NPS,

Please select Plan B to rewild Tomales Point on Point Reyes National Seashore. There are so few "wild" areas left and plenty of better places to pasture animals.

Thank you for your service in preserving national lands. I enjoy the spaces very much.

Cynthia Ofer

**Correspondence ID: 20015**

Please help save the endangered rare Tule elk.

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option.

- Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice.
- Removal of water structures, unlawfully built in the Wilderness, must be done by non-motorized means.
- Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.
- Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.
- Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

This is an endangered animal that we are talking about. Please protect the rare Tule elk and take these points into consideration.

Thank you for your help and commitment.

**Correspondence ID: 20016**

Protect the tule elk. We are destroying wild lands faster than we ever thought.

**Correspondence ID: 20017**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the native Tule Elk herd and urge the removal of ALL commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore. By failing to revise the 1980 General Management Plan (which is now 40+ years old) for Tomales Point, the Park Service has permitted Tule Elk to suffer slow and prolonged deaths from starvation and dehydration. It is unconscionable that the NPS is prioritizing commercial grazing on a wilderness-designated peninsula and allowing native species to continue starving and suffering needlessly. The Park Service should immediately revise its management plan for Tomales Point and adopt Alternative B so that Tule Elk are no longer doomed to die on federal lands.

**Correspondence ID: 20018**

it is your responsibility to protect wildlife!

**Correspondence ID: 20019**

Dear Sir or Madame,

To maximize protection for the rare and beautiful Tule elk, please add your support for Alternative B, the NPS preferred option that supports removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness.

Please oppose Alternatives A and C, as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk.

Please consider some changes to Alternative B, including:

Use of non-motorized mechanisms to remove water structures that were unlawfully built in the Wilderness. These structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Very importantly, please eliminate grazing by cattle. Per the original agreement, cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore.

Please halt use of herbicides in the Wilderness. Removal of the fence and the cattle would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Please allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape instead of manager-ignited fires, which creates artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants, which deprive the Tule elk of their natural sustenance.

Thank you very much for giving these thoughts your deep consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 20020**

Please select Alternative B and eliminate cattle grazing.

**Correspondence ID: 20021**

save the Tule Elk

**Correspondence ID: 20022**

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk.

However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness.

Thank you.

Doris Potter

**Correspondence ID: 20023**

I am asking that you continue to remove an inhumane fence in the Point Reyes National Seashore, to support the free roaming of the Tule Elk, a valuable and majestic species in our country.

Please choose "Alternative B: Unconfined Elk Heard and Pierce Ranch Core Area".

I want to sincerely thank the agency for listening to the public comments, in support of removing the elk fence in the Point Reyes National Seashore.

I ask the agency to take steps, which will ensure support for and the protection of, the native wildlife within Point Reyes National Seashore, and as required by the Point Reyes Enabling Legislation.

It is important to support the Tule Elk population in Point Reyes National Seashore, and in accordance with the purposes of the Organic Act, which designated National Parks "for the enjoyment of...wildlife, in such manner and by such means, as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

In other words, the well-being and free-roaming of the Tule Elk population, is not only a local matter, but is a matter of national interest.

As a concerned citizen, I further express that, upon removal of the fence, that Tule Elk should not be subject to harassment, hazing, or culling. I sincerely hope that the National Park Service will ban or discontinue these harmful practices in the Point Reyes National Seashore, and as it specifically applies to the Tule Elk population.

**Correspondence ID: 20024**

You have to help the Elk. It's the right thing to do.

**Correspondence ID: 20025**

It is cruel to keep them fenced away from food and water.

The fence needs to go!

**Correspondence ID: 20026**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Please do something before they die!

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms Nancy Jezior

**Correspondence ID: 20027**

I support Alternative B, the proposal to remove the fence for elk and allow them to roam free.

**Correspondence ID: 20031**

Please consider your plan for taking down the fence that is injuring and killing the Tule elk. NPS Alternative B Proposed Action. Thank you for your kind consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 20034**

If you care for the elk, tourists will come to see them and the park will become famous for them as Prairie Creek is for their elk.

That will bring in desperately needed funds to the park system. Don't be foolish and take quick money from the cattle industry when you can have a long term win with the elk.

**Correspondence ID: 20035**

Please, consider these points:

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 20036**

Shouldn't the NPS be caring for our living things?

Seems like a no brainer.

PLEASE remove the fence at Tomales Point

so these innocent Elk can survive as God intended.

**Correspondence ID: 20037**

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 20038**

I like Alternative B

**Correspondence ID: 20039**

Please save the elk

**Correspondence ID: 20040**

Please remove the fences! Let the animals roam free.

**Correspondence ID: 20041**

Please let the Point Reyes Tule Elk live without interference from us. Cattle don't need our protection. Wild animals do. Remove the damn fence.

**Correspondence ID: 20048**

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**Correspondence ID: 20050**

Animals should be protected.

**Correspondence ID: 20051**

Please help these beautiful animals and allow them to live and roam freely

**Correspondence ID: 20052**

Dear National Park Service:

I am writing regarding the fate of the tule elk herd at Point Reyes, and the critical importance of removing the fence that confines the herd, allowing the elk to move freely to find food and water. I strongly urge you to remove the fence. This is important not only to the health and well being of the elk but also to the ecosystem of which they have long been an integral part. Biodiversity is critical in maintaining a healthy ecosystem, The elk, other wildlife, and plants are all connected. If one "link" fails in this web of connections, everything else is impacted in some way. We must work toward biodiversity and the health of ecosystems. Again, I strongly urge you to remove the fence.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely, Anne Sousanis

**Correspondence ID: 20054**

I support the National Park Service in removing the fence that keeps elk from free-roaming. Please choose Alternative B, "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area."

I'm a frequent user of our national and state parks and support expanding the wildlife access generally. Private livestock operations aren't a good fit with Point Reyes and don't align with the charter of the National Seashore.

The natural environment should be the top priority within Point Reyes. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please help restore native wildlife and the associated ecosystem by removing the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 20055**

I write in relation to the General Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore in Northern California. I strongly support Alternative B (and I really dislike A & C), because it offers protection for the very endangered Tule Elk with the Phillip Burton Wilderness. In a wilderness area, it seems obvious to me that the animals should be able to roam as they would in any other wilderness; man-made obstacles such as fences should not exist.

I also very strongly support the removal of cattle, whose grazing has helped to degrade the land, and to invite invasive species to invade. I have always thought the NPS was supposed to protect land, water, animals, and the natural beauty and health of the parks given to them to oversee. So let's do that job!! Choose Alternative B as the General Plan to be implemented.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20056**

The ranchers sold their land to the federal government. The federal government generously allow them to lease their former property for a limited period of time, which would allow them to transition away from being ranchers at Point Reyes.

The ranchers have not acted in good faith, insisting they have the right to live permanently on land which they sold to the federal government/the American people.

The so-called "pastoral zone" was meant to transition into the native fauna and flora that once populated point Reyes. And the ranchers have refused to allow that to happen, and look upon the native fauna and flora as their enemies. Trying to perpetuate the growth of non-native fauna and flora is not appropriate for a national seashore.

I am sure this is very difficult for NPS, being in the position of protecting the fauna and flora of Point Reyes, but also of trying to be neighborly. This is understandable, but if a cop lived next-door to someone who was fencing stolen property, would it be more important to be a "good neighbor" or more important, to uphold the law? Having Out stayed there transitional leases, I consider that a Ranchers are now clinging to stolen property, property for which they were paid.

It's time for the ranchers to stand on their own 2 feet and stop taking advantage of a deal that should have ended long ago.

**Correspondence ID: 20058**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Image of a group of elk

However, after years of campaigns by PETA and other advocacy groups, the NPS is finally considering removing the fence. The NPS is now taking public comments on a proposed plan that would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

**Correspondence ID: 20059**

Removal of the Elk Fence will damage the seashore and the habitat. The family farms & ranches are essential to the local economy by providing jobs and income to the people living there. If the farms are eliminated then where will these families work & make a living? Certainly not by the expanding elk population. The elk provide NO benefits to the environment nor the economy.

I support Alternative C that would manage the elk population along with keeping the farms thriving. Each time we visit the coast, we are reminded how special these farms and ranches are & that they have been in the families for generations. These farms not only provide jobs and needed sustainable farming methods, they are the pillars of the community. The removal of the elk fence will damage the agricultural economy and make the price of dairy increase much

farther than it is now. Families are already struggling with the current prices as is. Also, the creation of the EIS is needed to be created for this ruling after the EA is completed.

Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 20060**

I frequently hike at Pt. Reyes, camp, bird, kayak and visit elephant seals. I enjoy the area and bring my kids here.

We went hiking for my husband's birthday at Pt. Reyes and were disgusted at the condition of manure and mud holes that were at least a half acre in size right next to sensitive riparian and salt marsh habitat near Drakes Bay. It was the end of summer and the cows were submerged up to their knees in mud and poop. They were pooping and peeing in the wallow as well, which was only about 100 feet from tidal areas near Drakes Head. This was mismanagement of our public lands, it impacted our recreation experience and there is documentation that it has impacted local water quality as well.

I am aware that local government was concerned about water quality issues associated with the density of cows in Pt. Reyes. This is so sad because it's PUBLIC land and should be managed for the public, as the original deal to transfer the area to the NPS stipulated. It's time for the NPS to keep to their promise of phasing out private ranching on public lands.

The NPS must remove the elk fence and let tule elk herds access our public lands. These lands should not be fenced for private dairy farms. That's simply not fair to the tax payers, impedes recreation and land stewardship mission of the NPS, and does not support the purpose and need of the Tomales Point Area Plan. Elk must have access to the entire Point Reyes area including lands leased to private dairy farms.

In addition, the NPS's Plan must:

- a. Ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the 8-foot elk fence is removed;
- b. Enhance and restore habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife within the planning area;
- c. Develop fire management practices within the planning area to maintain healthy ecosystems and natural processes;
- d. Inventory and restore native coastal prairies within the planning area;

Assess climate-related impacts on water resources and native vegetation within the planning area;

e. Increase public access, use and enjoyment via new trails, camping, and other activities that integrate the planning area into a parkwide trail network

f. Expand public education and interpretation of Native American culture and history in consultation with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and other descendants of Coast Miwok inhabitants;

g. Improve public education and interpretation about the Tomales Point elk and their role in the ecology of the Point Reyes peninsula.



I hope that the agency takes the time to correct the inequities of the past through better recreation and public land stewardship at Pt. Reyes. This starts with the termination of dairy leases, proper wilderness protections as well as proper elk herd management as a wild animal, not as a zoo animal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely, -Darca

**Correspondence ID: 20062**

Dairy farms do not belong in a unique place like Point Reyes. The elite few should not profit off of and cause irreparable environmental harm to public lands. Please do the right thing and get rid of the fencing and give notice to evict ranches.

**Correspondence ID: 20063**

I support Alternative C:

-Retain and continue to maintain the elk fence.

-Control the elk population through lethal removal to a pre-defined threshold to prevent dramatic swings in population levels resulting from year-to-year water availability.

-Remove non-historic supplementary water systems but enhance the availability of naturally occurring water at the springs and seeps.

-Continue active vegetation monitoring to understand the impact of the elk herd on Tomales Point vegetation

if we allow the elks to roam free, they will destroy our environment and local dairy farms will be eliminated. We need to support local farms, which are already scarce as is. It is concerning to know from where will we get our food supply in the future.

**Correspondence ID: 20064**

Tule elk are a native California subspecies, who were brought back from the brink of extinction after their population plummeted to near-zero during the 1800s. They now number in the hundreds — a conservation success — but their current situation threatens their population once again.

Prevented by the fence from traveling further in search of food and water, more than 150 elk died in 2020 alone during drought conditions.

The NPS has a responsibility to conserve and care for protected wild species but is instead prioritizing commercial animal agriculture interests over the needs of wildlife and public lands.

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

**Correspondence ID: 20065**

I support the removal of the fence and restrictions on commercial cow grazing. The continued restoration of our elk would serve as an excellent example of conservation and responsible land management.

Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 20067**

Please choose Alternative B.

Please eliminate grazing by cattle.

Please don't use herbicides in the Wilderness.

Thank you.

FS

**Correspondence ID: 20068**

Please eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

**Correspondence ID: 20069**

Dear National Park Service,

I agree with your preferred "Alternative B" to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point inside Point Reyes National Seashore. — which has confined the elk (for 45 years, since 1978) only to benefit private cattle ranches. At least the Tule Elk are native to California and their charming beauty is an addition to the charm of a national park.

The National Park Service, furthermore, must take action to free the only National Seashore on the West Coast from the destruction of natural resources caused by the extensive grazing and defecating of invasive, European, dairy and beef cattle feed with invasive grasses cultivated on the farms and ranches in the unique Point Reyes National Seashore. These thousands of heads of invasive cattle produce millions of gallons of manure and urine every year, contaminating the park's streams and infecting elk, fish, marine mammals and potentially other native wild animals — and humans too! Commercial cattle operations pollute and have no business being in this or national seashore park.

As a tourist attraction in Marin County, the PRNS will be far more beneficial to the local economy and the national health than the dairy and beef production that in turn produce fat children and cholesterol burdened adults. Other federal lands, across California and the nation, are already burdening the American people with too many cattle, too much fat and too many invasive cow pies.

Prompt removal of the massive milking barn, the concrete slab loaded with the urine and feces of cattle at their outdoor feeding bin and the shabby dwellings of workers, forced to live across the public road I drove on from that slag, would make the drive to see the Tule Elk above the fence line much less distasteful.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20070**

As I am sure you also want our children grand children and their grand children to enjoy Mother Natjure at the Tomales Point Area and acres beyond.

**Correspondence ID: 20071**

This has gone on for several years, it's awful and cruel and maybe we can stop it!

**Correspondence ID: 20075**

The following comments are in support of Alternative B to remove the fence that confines the Elk and remove all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore so that the park is protected.

I have been following the plight of the Tule Elk at Point R eyes for several years. The horrific act of building a fence to confine the Elk so that they are unable to freely roam to find water and food is extremely cruel.

The National Park Service needs to do the right thing and dismantle the fence immediately so the Elk can have water and food as they choose. The Elk are living on public land, this is their home. Thank you for your time.

Caroline Bering

**Correspondence ID: 20079**

Stop selling out to a few greedy cattle ranchers!! The American public is appalled and disgusted at this wanton and intentional neglect of the very wildlife you are tasked to care for! How can you have a conscience, as protectors of wildlife? Instead submitting to the interests of a few wealthy ranchers?! Cattle ranching is NOT sustainable any longer, and has not been for years. Start facing reality, and stop coddling cattle. START supporting plant based diets. And stop killing wildlife- all wildlife. This includes elk, wolves, bears and every other that are critical to our ecosystem.

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 20082**

The NPS has a responsibility to conserve and care for protected wild species but is instead prioritizing commercial animal agriculture interests over the needs of wildlife and public lands.

**Correspondence ID: 20083**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Tomales Point Area Plan, the Tule Elk and the Phillip Burton Wilderness.

In my opinion, the best option is Alternative B. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered as follows:

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Do not allow the use of herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 20084**

Please remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. Allow them to roam naturally. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20085**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

I understand the NPS is finally considering removing the fence. I urge NPS to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Remove that fence and help the elk.

**Correspondence ID: 20088**

Allow these poor animals to use their own home and migrate without fencing!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20089**

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 20090**

Dear NPS -The wildlife and ecology of PRNS is of the highest priority.

I support Plan B to remove the Elk fencing and allow native tule elk access to water and forage for the Tomales Point Area Plan at Point Reyes National Seashore.

Thanks for your attention to this critical matter.

Nick Cedar

**Correspondence ID: 20091**

Please protect rare Tule elk in the Philip Burton Wilderness, thanks.

**Correspondence ID: 20092**

Remove domestic livestock, especially cattle, from the public's land. -- L.D. Bullock

**Correspondence ID: 20093**

I strongly support and promote Alternative B, which would take down the fence!

**Correspondence ID: 20094**

I am urging the NPS to remove the fence so that the Tule Elk can survive, and to remind the agency that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20095**

The National Park Service should choose Alternative B, called "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," which will remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free.

Thank the agency for listening to the overwhelming public support for removing the elk fence. Fences are inappropriate in wilderness areas, and the Park Service shouldn't prioritize cattle over native wildlife.

It's unacceptable to let confined native elk die of thirst and malnutrition, especially in a national park.

Once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

Private cattle operations aren't appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Urge the agency to remove the elk fence to protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore the ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 20097**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park. I have only recently learned about this endangered species. Please do all that you can to ensure their survival. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20100**

I ask for the plight of innocent animals be considered and am favor of Alternative B which would remove the fence that

controls the Tule elk herd.

Am also in favor of removing commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes national Seashore to protect the park.

**Correspondence ID: 20101**

The rich cattle industry speaks for their cattle and their profits, while the public speaks for the voiceless. Wilderness designation doesn't (shouldn't) mean stepping on cow pies! Methane produced by cattle is far more damaging to our environment than CO2. How come it always comes down to profits over our environment? When are we as a society going to wake up?

**Correspondence ID: 20102**

Please take down the fence and restore the elk herd to their natural territory/lands. Consider alternative livestock handling plans and give sustainable practices priority in regard to native species not those bred for human Design.

**Correspondence ID: 20103**

This is finally the chance to do the humane and correct thing, and remove the fence keeping the Tule elk prisoner and miserable. Please act for their best interests and you will have so many residents forever grateful.

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 20104**

I support plan B, and want the park to exclude cattle and other ranching activities from this park. The area also needs to be restored and preserved for future generations of native plants and animals. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20105**

This is finally the chance to do the humane and correct thing, and remove the fence keeping the Tule elk prisoner and miserable. Please act for their best interests and you will have so many residents forever grateful.

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 20110**

Removal of the Tomales Point Elk Fence is an opportunity for the NPS to take a small but meaningful step towards ending their embarrassing, ongoing mismanagement of Point Reyes National Seashore. The public comments and pressure will never, ever cease on this matter.

One day the cattle will finally be gone and the elk will be free to roam, and every day that NPS management and local policymakers stand in the way of this future is a day of their lives and our tax dollars wasted. The part that pains me the most is watching the rangers and staff of the park, who care so much about that land and share in the vision for returning it to a natural state, have to stand by with hands tied as the spineless decision makers pursue policy of inaction.

Please remove the fence now.

Please remove the cattle next.

Give us our land back.

**Correspondence ID: 20112**

Please do not confine the Elk! It is wrong to prioritize commercial farming over the well being of these animals!

**Correspondence ID: 20114**

Support Alternative B - Do the right thing for the Elk unlike last time!

Remove the elk fence and let the tule elk herds roam free! I can't believe how the NPS values cattle over an endemic species - to the detriment of the ecosystem.

Ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the 8-foot elk fence is removed; Enhance and restore habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife within the planning area. Stop coddling ranchers and their destructive habits.

The damage from the cattle is not limited to the lease lands; It's found all over Point Reyes. A 2013 NPS Coastal Watershed Assessment found that the peninsula's waterways and coastlines were heavily polluted by blooms of E. coli fueled by dairy cattle dung.

Tule elk play a “critical role in maintaining open grasslands,” according to Sonoma State University researchers, by browsing, threshing native shrubs with their antlers in territorial displays, and trampling invasive vegetation.

Stop valuing cattle over an endemic species and do the right thing Alt B!

**Correspondence ID: 20117**

Please choose Alternative B, called “Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area,” which will remove the fence and allow elk to roam free. Fences shouldn't be in wilderness areas, and the Park Service shouldn't prioritize cattle over native wildlife.

These elk have died from lack of water and food due to this fence, and they should be allowed to live in their natural environment without being hurt or harassed.

Private cattle operations end to honor the charter of the National Seashore.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20126**

Please remove the fence. As it will save lives of the elk, it's a win-win situation. Don't let greed or politics get in the way.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20127**

The so-called “management” of the wilderness where the Tule Elk reside is killing them. The best option of those proposed is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. This will remove structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness allowing the area to return to true wilderness.

Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles. This will better protect the elk.

Grazing by cattle for human consumption should have no place in “wilderness” as the cattle are not wild. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness as per the original agreement.

Using herbicides in the Wilderness jeopardizes the Tule Elk. Therefore, removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants without the use of herbicides. Plants natural to the area should be left alone to grow as they support the elk.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants. This is detrimental to the wild elk who feed on the plants that grow naturally in the area.



**Correspondence ID: 20129**

The National Park Service should choose Alternative B, called "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," which will remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free.

Thank the agency for listening to the overwhelming public support for removing the elk fence. Fences are inappropriate in wilderness areas, and the Park Service shouldn't prioritize cattle over native wildlife.

It's unacceptable to let confined native elk die of thirst and malnutrition, especially in a national park.

Once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

Private cattle operations aren't appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Urge the agency to remove the elk fence to protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore the ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 20131**

I implore the NPS to adopt Alternative B and remove fencing from Point Reyes National Seashore.

Most Americans support protecting the little wildlife we have left. I know I was shocked to learn that tule elk have died of starvation and dehydration as a direct result of the fencing. This is inhumane.

The National Park Service's priority should be protecting wildlife.

Please allow these animals a chance to survive - please remove fencing and remove commercial cow grazing from this land.

**Correspondence ID: 20132**

To the National Park Service. Please protect these beautiful Elk. The proposed plan that would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd, would be wonderful for the Elk and the environment.

Please note that cattle grazing, decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Your passing the plan to remove the fence confining the Tomales Point Elk Herd, will be greatly appreciated by all, and a wise decision.

Thank you for your attention in this important decision to help save the Tomales Point Elk Herd, and the environment.

**Correspondence ID: 20133**

PLEASE honor nature and these beautiful wild animals and allow the access to water that all

animals (human or non-human) need for survival! We humans have interfered way too much with Mother Nature. Time to stand back and allow ALL living beings to survive and thrive naturally!!!

Thank you for your kindness.

**Correspondence ID: 20134**

I support Alternative B and call on the NPS to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd from their natural habitat.

This message was sent as part of a public wildlife conservation campaign by Mission Rewild. I am not affiliated or employed with this organization, simply participating as an individual advocate.

**Correspondence ID: 20135**

It's vitally important that the Tomales Point Area Plan free the Tule Elk to roam!!!!!! It's the cattle who are destructive in this area, NOT THE ELK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20136**

I am solidly in favor of allowing the herds of Tule elk to free to roam again, as they had done before we white invaders came and put the profits of ranchers and other special interests erect barriers to natural patterns of existence. It's time we admit we have been wrong to try to "improve" nature in so many ways for far too long.

I lived near Pt. Reyes for quite a few years. One of the best pleasures I had while hiking so much above the seashore was watching the elk in their natural habitat, knowing it was a continuum of the way things had, been and should be.

**Correspondence ID: 20137**

It is time to remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free by choosing Alternative B ("Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area."). Fences do not belong in wilderness areas, especially national parks, and the public knows this and supports fence removal. Don't give in to livestock \$\$\$\$. Save thirsty and hungry native elk by freeing them from confinement. Also free them if culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes. Therefore, private cattle operations aren't appropriate in Point Reyes (see also the charter of the National Seashore and the Organic Act which designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.")

I urge you to save wildlife and the ecosystem by removing the elk fence now! Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20138**

The ranchers sold their land to the federal government. The federal government generously allow them to lease their former property for a limited period of time, which would allow them to transition away from being ranchers at Point Reyes.

The ranchers have not acted in good faith, insisting they have the right to live permanently on land which they sold to the federal government/the American people. The fence is only there to

appease the ranchers, who should have left long ago. I urge you to please implement Alternative B and remove the elk fence.

I, along with the majority of the public, are overwhelming in favor of the removal of the lethal Tule Elk fence. Almost half the enclosed, fenced in Tule Elk herd perished excruciating deaths in the last drought, while the non- fenced herds maintained and even grew their numbers. The Tule Elk prison fence is a death sentence for the Elk trapped within.

The elk fence should have been removed long ago. In 1993, the Report of the Scientific Advisory Panel on Control of Tule Elk on Point Reyes National Seashore concluded, "The long-range goal of elk management at PRNS should be the re-establishment of free-ranging elk throughout the seashore and associated public lands. This would involve elimination of exotic cervids and removal of the fence across Tomales Point. [The National Park Service] and [California Department of Fish and Game] should develop a long-range management plan with the goal of achieving a large, healthy, free-ranging elk population subjected to a minimum of management intervention."

I am opposed to cattle fences as described under Alternative B.

Fences, and cattle operations, are inappropriate in a National Park. The ranchers were paid handsomely for their land and are now tax payer subsidized squatters. Please respect the Point Reyes Enabling Legislation which requires "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment within the area," and in the Organic Act of 1916 as to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Please note that the current ranches are fully modernized commercial operations, and are anything but "historic objects". The remnants of Piece Point Ranch already adequately fulfills that obligation and intention.

Once the fence is removed, the elk should be allowed to roam freely. Point Reyes is a National Park, not a ranching operation. Hazing and especially culling is completely unacceptable . A National Park was defined to protect wildlife, for all generations to enjoy. The ranges are polluting, degrading, physically and visually destroying Point Reyes National Park.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please execute Alternative B, and please prioritize wildlife and the publics enjoyment of our National Park over pollution and destruction.

**Correspondence ID: 20139**

The ranchers sold their land to the federal government, and were paid handsomely for their land. The federal government generously allow them to lease their former property for a limited period of time, which would allow them to transition away from being ranchers at Point Reyes. The ranchers are essentially squatters subsidized by public funds.

The ranchers have not acted in good faith, insisting they have the right to live permanently on land which they sold to the federal government/the American people. The fence is only there to appease the ranchers, who should have left long ago. I urge you to

Please implement Alternative B and remove the elk fence.

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the last drought, while the non-fenced herds maintained and even grew their numbers. The Tule Elk prison fence is a death sentence for the Elk trapped within.

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Thank you for considering my comments. Please execute Alternative B, and please prioritize wildlife and the public's enjoyment of our National Park over pollution and destruction. It's time for the National Park Service to protect wildlife and wild lands, not subsidized commercial ranchers.

**Correspondence ID: 20144**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. Private livestock ranching should be prohibited on the Point Reyes National Seashore. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Suzanne Gooch

**Correspondence ID: 20146**

Please really consider removing the fence. Nothing deserves to be confined.

**Correspondence ID: 20149**

Please remove the fence holding back the tule-elk on Tomales Point in Point Reyes Nat'l Seashore.

You are not helping anything with that fence. You are simply doing harm to the environment.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20151**

Please use your own words, but consider the following talking points:

Please save the Tule elk.

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option: Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice.

No to alternatives A and C as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk.

Changes to Alternative B should be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20207**

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles. Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement. Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants. Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 20211**

It seems that having fences is equivalent to incarceration. Just remove them and/or do not erect any more. It is not hard.

**Correspondence ID: 20212**

Please stop this cruel action against these defenceless animals

**Correspondence ID: 20213**

Please remove yh r fence and help the elk to live and find water.

**Correspondence ID: 20214**

Please remove the fence so that the elk can roam free!

**Correspondence ID: 20215**

Please remove fence!

**Correspondence ID: 20216**

Hello,

I have gotten to know about the case and would like to express my opinion on that and to urge you to remove the fence. The agency that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20217**

STOP SAVAGE PRACTICE, Yesterday!

**Correspondence ID: 20218**

Please help these animals ,its so cruel to see them dying of starvation and lack of water

**Correspondence ID: 20219**

Remove the fence for the Tule elk

**Correspondence ID: 20220**

Animals were put here by God for us to care for and protect not to

Abuse

**Correspondence ID: 20221**

Please take down the fence for the elk to survive. To deny them their food source to the point of starvation is terrible and must end!

**Correspondence ID: 20222**

Remove the fence! Elk are dying because they can't get to water and food.

**Correspondence ID: 20223**

Please support the elk, not the cattle.

**Correspondence ID: 20224**

They have every right to be there! They deserve a fighting chance to survive, just like the rest of us.

**Correspondence ID: 20225**

Feed those animals or move them.

What is wrong is you?

**Correspondence ID: 20226**

The following text was suggested by the Wilderness Watch. I have read, and wholly concur with, the opinions expressed. Please treat these comments as my own.

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The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 20227**

Please help the native tule elk. Please remove the fences because they are dying from starvation and lack of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20228**

Please Remove Fence!

Thank You 🌲🌲🐕🎮🦉🦅

Michael Merenda

**Correspondence ID: 20229**

Please remove the fence so tule elk can live.

**Correspondence ID: 20230**

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20231**

The cruelty of forcing wildlife to live without adequate water- especially when it is readily available , is cruel! This can and must be rectified immediately ! Too many innocent lives have been lost because of this mistake on the part of your department . Change is needed immediately !

**Correspondence ID: 20232**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to

the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the NPS with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. Please consider removing the fence to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve. Meat depletes the state's water supply. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Protect tule elk, not Big AG.

**Correspondence ID: 20233**

Please, please remove the fence that's keeping these Elk from eating. Any cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Let these Ekk roam and live on their native land!

**Correspondence ID: 20234**

Please take down the fencing so these majestic creatures can graze and have access to water. We are destroying everything beautiful about this planet and God's creations. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Laura J

**Correspondence ID: 20235**

The NPS has a responsibility to conserve and care for protected wild species. Please protect the Tule elk.

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

Regards,

Dr. Philip de Carlo, Jr.

**Correspondence ID: 20236**

I am urging the NPS to remove the fence. Just a reminder to the that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20237**

Remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 20238**

Please remove the fence. Allow these elk to LIVE.

**Correspondence ID: 20239**

Remove the fence.

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.



Thank you.

John M

**Correspondence ID: 20240**

Please, stop starving these beautiful god given creatures. Life is not yours to take.

**Correspondence ID: 20241**

REMOVE THE FENCE!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20242**

All animals deserve access to clean water and food. That is how God intended it to be. Remove the fence that is preventing these majestic animals from having what they need to survive

**Correspondence ID: 20243**

Help you hear animals! We need them! More cattle, we don't need!

Remind the agency that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20244**

It is very cruel to starve any animal the way you are these beautiful animals. It should be against the law to do so. Maybe someone should sue for animal cruelty.

**Correspondence ID: 20245**

To whom it may concern. I am asking you to please remove any fences so that Tule Elk may roam free to obtain crucial food and water. I also remind you that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20246**

All sweet animals should be cared for like a parent cares for their children. The holocaust on sweet cows, etc is the very worst part of human history. Do NOT enable the demonic meat industry in ANY way. Remember God said that humans and animals were ALL vegan in the first chapter of Bible. Later on God says Earth will return to veganism. Right now humans are in punishment mode. The quicker you stop helping the demonic meat industry, the sooner God will help us fix things. Give us this day our daily bread. The Bible tells us bread is completely healthy vegan meal (Ezekiel 4:9).

**Correspondence ID: 20247**

SAVE THETULE ELK AND ALL ANIMALS AND LANDS.

**Correspondence ID: 20248**

Please remove the fence that is confining the Tomales Point elk herd. These animals are dying due to starvation and dehydration. Cattle grazing is more damaging to the environment and depletes water.

**Correspondence ID: 20249**

Dear NPS, please agree to takedown this fence. The elk need room and clean water and food. Please don't let them die.

**Correspondence ID: 20250**

This land needs to be open up all creatures used to share the land mankind has interfered and has made a mess of things besides this! Man needs to stop interfering and let nature take its course the elk have had been here way before the beef let's be fair about this all creatures have a right to eat and have water.

**Correspondence ID: 20251**

Please remove the fencing in Tomales Point so the elk do not starve. I understand management is a fine balance, but starving animals is not the answer.

**Correspondence ID: 20252**

This fence must be taken down as soon as possible so no more elk will starve and die needlessly. This is plain cruelty!

After reading this post I was sickened by the fact because of your three mile fence 153 elk died needlessly!!! Do the right thing

And take down the fence and let these poor deserving elk eat and drink and live the lives they deserve!!! Thank you!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20253**

Stop starving the elk!

**Correspondence ID: 20255**

Please remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. The elk herd should have access to better grazing land as well as better access to water. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20256**

Please stop starving the elk. So many have died already

**Correspondence ID: 20257**

yes, yes, remove the fence NOW. the area should remain free to all wild creatures. humans do not have the right to constraint nature.

**Correspondence ID: 20258**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

I implore you to free the Elk, it is not our land to imprison other wild species upon, we all have a right to life on this planet. This kind of evil is viewed worldwide as despicable and awful, do you want the rest of the civilised world to view you as such? This cannot go on, change for the better please, help these dear animals and help your own reputation worldwide!

**Correspondence ID: 20259**

Please remove the fence confining the native tule elk to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore. Also consider that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water

supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 20260**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

PLEASE REMOVE THE FENCE! STOP THE SENSELESS DEATHS!

**Correspondence ID: 20261**

All creatures deserve water, food and freedom. Be kind and good hearted, do the right thing. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20262**

Please remove the fence. The that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20263**

Please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20264**

Please stop this abusive behavior of humans to animals. Please do not trap Elk, sweet Elk, so they are

starving to death. Put YOURSELF in their position. YOU are no better, no worse than these beautiful animals

and they deserve what we deserve. Actually, humans are WORSE, of course, because WE know better. The

Elk and all animals do NOTHING to deserve any of this that humans do to them. It is truly despicable. Karma

will come around so don't wonder, why me. Please stop this horrific cruelty and death to these beautiful

animals.

Patti Olsen

**Correspondence ID: 20265**

Please remove the fence that is preventing native Tule Elk from grazing on nearby shore land.

This is cruel and causing these magnificent animals to die a horrible death by starvation when there is water & grass right over the fence. You are the National Park Service! You are supposed to work to keep our forest land and animals intact and healthy. I'm shocked that this fence was erected for this purpose.

PLEASE REMOVE THE FENCE IMMEDIATELY. Please take the time to find other solutions to any areas where you see a problem that DOES NOT INCLUDE HARMING ANIMALS.

It's my understanding that this was done to allow for cattle grazing. Why would cattle welfare be put ahead of another animal when it causes death? If water and grass are scarce in Point Reyes it should go to the endemic flora and fauna, not cattle raised by private businesses.

The NPS should be protecting animals, not businesses like cattle ranchers.

PLEASE DO WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT & PROTECT THE ELK & REMOVE THE FENCE.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 20266**

Please let the tule elk get access to food and water. How cruel are you to starve and let animals die of thirst. These animals do not belong to you. Ranchers should not make policy. Ever

**Correspondence ID: 20267**

Please, please bring down the fence so that these elk may graze and obtain water.

It seems a cruel thing to basically cause these beautiful creatures to die.

God created all things. We do not have the right to take their lives.

Thank you for choosing to bring the fence down,

**Correspondence ID: 20268**

Please remove the fence and let these animals roam freely.

**Correspondence ID: 20269**

Please remove the fence so that finally the Tule Elk can roam free again. I am seeing more and more preference given to herds of cattle that are destroying the ecosystem and ravaging the landscape. This is happening in many areas of our country where cattle ranchers enjoy cheap grazing rights and use of our federally protected lands interrupting the natural order of other living beings.

This is the case right now. Please let the Tule Elk run free on their homeland and PLEASE take down that fence and help restore the natural balance to the area.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20270**

Please remove the fence and stop the horrendous death of these beautiful Elk!

**Correspondence ID: 20271**

No more delays, please. It's past time to remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd.

**Correspondence ID: 20272**

Take the damn fences down!! Confining the elk is leading to too many negative effects including

lack of vegetation to feed these confined elk. LET THEM ROAM THE LARGE AREAS THEY'RE MEANT TO ROAM WITH NO FENCING!!

**Correspondence ID: 20273**

Please remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. Fencing the area increases grazing pressure which has an inimical effect for many species within the protected area. Conventional wisdom is that fragmentation of the lanscape, preventing the nautural movement of species, also reduces the genetic viability of local populations.

Please also be reminded that cattle grazing typically decimates ecosystems, spreads invasive species, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20274**

Dear Sirs and Madams, Please remove any restrictive fenciing. To prevent docile wildlife food and habitat goes against everything we strive for as caretakers of our planet and wildlife. It seems with all of the awareness, public and institutional knowledge would realize how important sustaining nature and wildlife is

To intentionally let the elk and too, the wild horse starve is unthinking and truly una- American. There is so little nowadays that is attainable, Let's preserve what we can, and give the opportunity of living to wildlife for us, are children, the eco system and something that is gracious and respectful.. Thank you, Judith Weber

**Correspondence ID: 20275**

Remove the fence! Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20276**

Dear Sirs and Madams, Please remove any restrictive fenciing. To prevent docile wildlife food and habitat goes against everything we strive for as caretakers of our planet and wildlife. It seems with all of the awareness, public and institutional knowledge would realize how important sustaining nature and wildlife is

To intentionally let the elk and too, the wild horse starve is unthinking and truly una- American. There is so little nowadays that is attainable, Let's preserve what we can, and give the opportunity of living to wildlife for us, are children, the eco system and something that is gracious and respectful.. Thank you, Judith Weber

**Correspondence ID: 20277**

Please remove the fence and allow the elk to roam free and live the lives they deserve.

**Correspondence ID: 20278**

Just remove the fence it doesn't belong there anyway

**Correspondence ID: 20279**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Image of a group of elk

However, after years of campaigns by PETA and other advocacy groups, the NPS is finally considering removing the fence. The NPS is now taking public comments on a proposed plan that would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Image of Meat Depletes banner

Please submit a comment by September 25 urging the NPS to remove the fence. Remind the agency that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water

**Correspondence ID: 20280**

We all need to work together to save our planet and everything on it. Saving our planet is everybody's job! Big business is destroying our planet for profit. Enabled by the useless dark money anti-Democracy GOP/Republicans. Wake up people!

**Correspondence ID: 20281**

I am urging the NPS to remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20282**

Protect the Tule Elk.

**Correspondence ID: 20283**

Take down the fence and Point Reyes and let the Elk get the food and water they need. They're dying of starvation!! This is animal abuse at its worst!!

**Correspondence ID: 20284**

NPS, please remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

**Correspondence ID: 20285**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Please consider the proposed plan that would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve. Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 20286**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Please help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**Correspondence ID: 20287**

I believe that decisions regarding the public land at Tomales Point should prioritize wildlife rather than the privately-owned ranches. The elk population is clearly struggling to survive, and in our guardianship role, I believe we should expand their territory by removing the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 20288**

These beautiful animals deserve the right to graze where they choose. Don't keep them from water & food. This is why we report NOTHING to you. It's truly sad to think a government agency set up for the protection of wildlife is now doing the opposite, presumably for the protection of humans who lack commonsense around animals that are wild. Not sure how to instill common sense in those humans, but for now let the animals out to prevent further death & starvation. Just say NO to fencing-esp. barbed wire.

**Correspondence ID: 20289**

Please help these poor animals

**Correspondence ID: 20290**

These beautiful animals deserve the right to graze where they choose. Don't keep them from water & food. This is why we report NOTHING to you. It's truly sad to think a government agency set up for the protection of wildlife is now doing the opposite, presumably for the protection of humans who lack commonsense around animals that are wild. Not sure how to instill common sense in those humans, but for now let the animals out to prevent further death & starvation. Just say NO to fencing-esp. barbed wire.

**Correspondence ID: 20291**

How many years does this have to go on?

You have the cattle industry bribing and coercing NPS officers and employees to construct fences on public land to protect

private interest.

And even if the NPS wasn't just another corrupt government organization, any educated individual knows the long term damage to the local ecosystem that this obvious favoritism creates.

The cattle grazing at Tomales Point is decimating the local ecosystem, not to mention contaminating the water supply with fecal coliforms and other bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes incredibly massive amounts of water.

And for what? To line the pockets of both 'officers' in the NPS along with the local rangers so they can attempt to keep people like us from protecting the Elk? What a corrupt bunch of people you are.

Have you no shame?

We will continue to fight both the ranchers and their paid gofers, the NPS by whatever means necessary.

In fact we plan to head up there in about a month to both remove sections of the fence and feed the animals you clowns are supposed to be protecting.

See you soon!

**Correspondence ID: 20292**

It's time to let these animals graze again. You need to let them feed before they are all wiped out and gone like so many other species we have lost.

**Correspondence ID: 20293**

Cattle grazing is no longer sustainable for the environment. Raising one species to only kill it is killing many more. This is animal genocide.

Remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 20294**

Please remove the 3-mile-long Tomales Point fence that was erected by the National Park Service with the intent to prevent elk from grazing nearby seashore land.

**Correspondence ID: 20295**

These native to California elk are majestic, highly social animals and were once hunted nearly to extinction. Only about 600 roam at Point Reyes National Seashore, the only national park where they live. They have been living under fenced conditions and with recent droughts, it's had deadly consequences: Unable to roam and forage naturally, many confined elk die of thirst and malnutrition. It is unacceptable and public outcry is growing.

I wholeheartedly support the Park Service in proposing to tear down the elk-killing fence. The livestock owners may not agree but times will and are changing. It is absolutely time to free the elk and protect Point Reyes for native wildlife — not for the cattle destroying it. We can do this better.

Thank you sincerely for allowing me the opportunity to comment.

**Correspondence ID: 20296**

Do the right thing for God sakes! Free those poor animals and let them live. How can you live with yourselves knowing that these animals are starving and dying? Free them now.

**Correspondence ID: 20298**

Elk have no constituency.

Please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you, Diane Durham



**Correspondence ID: 20299**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk. Please remove all the cows from the National Seashore as well. This park is for the citizens to enjoy, not farmers to exploit.

**Correspondence ID: 20300**

Free Gods creatures as a matter of humane treatment..Elk are ours to have dominion over and protect..Not selfiskly abuse..Do the moral thing..

**Correspondence ID: 20301**

Please end this savagery against God's creatures!

**Correspondence ID: 20302**

Please consider removing the fence that confines the Tomales Point elk herd. They are dying as a result of the confinement and need

access to food and water to continue to survive. These creatures are part of our national treasure.

Thank-you,

Sheldon Feuerstadt

**Correspondence ID: 20303**

Please don't let any more Tule Elk die. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20304**

Please remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. It is the right thing to do. The National Park Service is to protect the animals in our national parks and this is not happening with the Tomales Point elk. Hundreds of elk are dying of starvation and lack of water due to the fence that was erected by the National Park Service. Please do what is right and let these animals roam free. Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 20305**

Please remove the fences. You should not let these lovely animals die.

**Correspondence ID: 20306**

It is urgent tô remove the fence, só that the animals can get water and Food.

**Correspondence ID: 20307**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Please, NPS, remove the fence!

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 20308**

Preventing animals from accessing their ancestral sources of food and water is basically

murder. Please let these beautiful creatures get the water they need to survive by removing any impediments to their movements. Thank you, Zoe viles

**Correspondence ID: 20309**

I am urging NPS to remove the fence. The agency that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20310**

Please remove the fence that is causing the Tule Elk to suffer and die from starvation and lack of water. They have every right to be here, just like us humans. It's simply the right thing to do. Humankind.....BE BOTH.

**Correspondence ID: 20311**

Please do the right thing to protect and govern these beautiful creatures.

Give them the land and freedom they need to survive and thrive.

**Correspondence ID: 20312**

Animals have a right to live and be treated right and people need to protect animals because they can't protect themselves.

**Correspondence ID: 20314**

Please remove the three mile long fence at Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore. Please allow the Tule elk confined by this fence to roam free.

Sincerely, Judi Kerr

**Correspondence ID: 20319**

Please remove the fence ASAP that is preventing the elk from getting adequate food and to keep them from starving to death. This is completely heartbreaking.

**Correspondence ID: 20324**

Protect wildlife too (not just grazing cattle) - remove the fence to allow tule elk to survive

**Correspondence ID: 20327**

Tear down the fence, free the elk so they can drink, graze and roam!

**Correspondence ID: 20328**

Please remove the fencing and let the Tule Elk roam free!

**Correspondence ID: 20330**

People care about this, we've killed off enough of our wildlife as it is, but starvation?!? That's utterly inhumane and unacceptable!! We need to fix this problem....we are counting on your help and support

**Correspondence ID: 20334**

I find it unbelievable in the 21st century that we cannot live in harmony with animals. We persecute them for daring to exist. the morally right thing to do is to take the fence down and leave these magnificent animals in peace. You are a parks service, supposedly dedicated to up holding the park and its nature. shame on you. Take the fence down Lesley Morgan

**Correspondence ID: 20336**

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20338**

I'm writing today to urge the NPS to allow the Tomales Point Elk Herd to roam free by removing the fence that's not only preventing that, but causing starvation of the herd in it's wake, and decimating a vital ecosystem.

Thank You for your prompt consideration.

Eric Geier

**Correspondence ID: 20339**

I'm urging the NPS to remove the fence. Remind the agency that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20341**

Humanity.....Do you know the meaning of the word? Take the fence down and let these poor helpless creatures live!!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20344**

Elk are a national treasure. Ranchers are freeloaders polluters that give nothing to me. Please save the elk.

**Correspondence ID: 20346**

Good morning! I am writing you to thank you so very much for considering taking down the fence. I don't have any advice as to how to take the fence down, I am profoundly passionate about animal welfare and wildlife! Again I thank you for sticking up for animals and their welfare.

**Correspondence ID: 20347**

Please do not remove the fence, please let the elk's roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Delores Shire

**Correspondence ID: 20350**

The NPS needs to remove the fence that prevents the tule elk from getting the resources they need. It is cruel and inhumane to prevent wild animals from ranging as they need for their survival.

**Correspondence ID: 20351**

This cruelty has to end!!!!!!!!!!!! STOP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20357**

SAVE THE ELK GIVE THEM WATER

**Correspondence ID: 20358**

Please remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk.

Protect the tule elk...not Big Ag!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20361**

Stop your evil! Protect God's innocent creatures! Honor God and all of His creation by repenting now and saving these innocent, beloved elk! Repent! Repent! Repent! Return to God now!

**Correspondence ID: 20367**

Land is destroyed by humans, greed runs the world, stop the slaughter of wildlife for the horrible breeding and slaughter of cattle!!

Wildlife takes care of the earth just like God intended, stop the destruction before all is gone  
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20368**

This is outrageous, this us their wild lands

**Correspondence ID: 20370**

This must be stop!

**Correspondence ID: 20371**

Please release the elks. Please remove the fence so they may roam free and search for food.

Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 20373**

Please remove the fence! Animals are dying due to starvation & lack of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20376**

NPS must remove the fence as soon as possible , so that animals can access water and food!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20377**

I urge you to remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. Allow the elk to roam free and live.

**Correspondence ID: 20378**

I am trying to make sense of what is happening here. Why is the NPS letting these beautiful creatures die of starvation and keeping them from access to water. The fence is cruel and unjustified and must be removed. It's their land too.

**Correspondence ID: 20383**

The Elk living in National Parks are at the mercy of human decisions. Their suffering is a stain on our hands. Please, I implore you, make decisions best for all of the sentient beings that are affected, but have no say in, the decisions made by humans.

Thank you.

Dr. Michelle Sullivan MD

**Correspondence ID: 20385**

PLEASE REMOVE THE FENCE SO THAT THESE MAJESTIC ANIMALS MAY GRAZE AND WATER SO THEY CAN LIVE AN AMAZING LIFE. JUST THE FACT THAT 152 ELK DIED OF STARVATION AND NO WATER IS ALARMING ENOUGH IN ONE YEAR. SO MANY ANIMALS IN THIS WORLD ARE HAVING SUCH A HARD TIME JUST TRYING TO SURVIVE. ANIMAL ABUSE IS ON THE RISE ALL OVER FROM SENSELESS EXPERIMENTS AT THE NIH TO HORRIFIC LABS IN OUR COUNTRY AND ABROAD. THE LORD PUT THESE WONDERFUL

CREATURES ON THIS EARTH FOR ALL OF US TO RESPECT,ENJOY,LOVE AND PROTECT. THEY HAVE NO VOICE NOR CHOICE. WE MUST BE THEIR VOICE. THEY HAVE ABSOLUTELY HAVE NO ONE ELSE. WINSTON CHURCHILL ONCE SAID A COUNTRY SHALL BE JUDGED BY THE WAY IT TREATS THEIR ANIMALS.LET'S NOT FAIL OUR COUNTRY MISERABLY AND CONTINUE TO PROTECT ALL ANIMALS AND DO THE RIGHT THING. THE WORLD IS WATCHING AND WE MUST RISE TO THE OCCASION.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION,

Christine Stacey

**Correspondence ID: 20388**

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

It's time to change our way of life for our own good and our mother earth's.

**Correspondence ID: 20395**

Please remove the fencing from Reyes Point and prioritize the health and safety of the elk over cattle ranchers needs. It's cruel to trap the elk in this area, please do the right thing here. Thank you!

Lora Koch

**Correspondence ID: 20398**

Please remove the fence and save the elks asap

**Correspondence ID: 20400**

Animals are not ours to experiment on, eat, wear, use for entertainment, have them fenced in or abuse in any other way.

**Correspondence ID: 20401**

SHAME ON YOU! REMOVE THE FENCE! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!?!

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water waaaaaaaaaaaay more than Tule Elk!

**Correspondence ID: 20404**

Please seriously consider removing the 3-mile-long fence on Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore. It is unethical to confine animals, including your native tule elk, to a space ill-equipped to maintain their survival. With hundreds of elk dead due to starvation and lack of potable water, it is crucial that the remaining elk be able to survive and thrive outside of this enclosure. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Your choices impact future generations of these beautiful creatures native to your ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 20407**

Enough cattle. More Elk. Stop giving precious Land to graving cattle. Enough, let natural balance itself let it grow, your hurting everything and everyone just to give mire grazing to meat industry

**Correspondence ID: 20410**

Please remove the fence. It should be a more natural life for these animals. All animals. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20412**

Please take down the fence that traps the Tile Elk on Tomales Point Peninsula. They shouldn't be trapped there .They should be allowed to roam freely. Thanks.

**Correspondence ID: 20415**

Please remove the fence that is contingent the elk herd at Tomales Lake. It is cattle grazing, not the elk, that decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20416**

Please remove the 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service to keep elk from grazing on seashore land. They are starving because of this construction. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water--and the NPS takes this action against elks? At best, this horrific action was ill-advised. Please rectify this grave error, immediately. Thank you so much.

**Correspondence ID: 20422**

Please do what's right for the elk so they can live healthily on their native territory.

**Correspondence ID: 20429**

you were not on this land first, the elk or. You are driving out the natives of this land. God put them there and rather than caring for them you were only thinking about something that doesn't last... monetary value for your own selfish self

**Correspondence ID: 20431**

The tule elk situation illustrates man's cruelty towards his fellow living beings. This is a sad moment in history for humans where we would cruelly deny a species of it's basic right to access food and water. I cannot for the life of me relate to such an evil mindset!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20438**

TAKE DOWN THE FENCE THAT IS BLOCKING THE ELK FROM THEIR WATER SOURCE AND FOOD SOURCE.

YOU ARE KILLING THEM WITH DEHYDRATION AND STARVATION.

**Correspondence ID: 20451**

Remove the fencing to save the elk! Interfering with food sources is starving the animals and a violation of the responsibility you have been entrusted with.

**Correspondence ID: 20455**

Let the elk roam free by removing their Fence. They are starving and have a lack of water and resources, which they critically need. Stop hindering them from getting their basic needs met by

confinement. If you see there is a problem and there is something humanly possible for you to solve then why don't you just fix it. Why continue to make the issue worse when there is something you can do to help them. There are over 120 deaths and counting. They can't wait any longer and it's not fair or just not to help these innocent animals. Please urgently take action against this cruel, inhumane, and very easily to stop! You are therefore endangering them all by not taking action to save them from dying.

**Correspondence ID: 20456**

Remove the fence. The elk deer are starving!

**Correspondence ID: 20461**

Remove the stinking fence. Remove the damned cattle and do the right thing. Your actions are beyond reprehensible. But not surprising.

**Correspondence ID: 20470**

Kindly remove the fence. I want the elk to live.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20472**

Please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20480**

Please remove the 3-mile fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd in Point Reyes National Seashore. The native Tule elk have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 20486**

Please remove the fence. The cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20488**

Will you please stop killing, trapping, and torturing these beautiful animals. JUST STOP PLEASE!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20502**

Dear Sir/Madam,

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

As such, I respectfully urge you to remove the fencing to allow the elk to graze and survive.

**Correspondence ID: 20504**

Thank you for listening to the roaring public support for removing the elk fence.

If the National Park Service chooses Alternative B, called "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," it will remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free, which is the necessary and humane action to take. Park Services should support the population at large and shouldn't prioritize cattle over native wildlife.

It's inhumane and disgusting to let confined native elk die of thirst and malnutrition, especially in a national park. Once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk deserve to live free from culling, hazing or harassment for any reason. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20506**

Please remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. The elk are dying and we need to protect them.

Thanks in advance.

**Correspondence ID: 20507**

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**Correspondence ID: 20510**

Please remove the fencing that is destroying elk in Tomales Point.

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

**Correspondence ID: 20513**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Having said that, do something to save the elk. Let the elk roam free and remove fencing. Also, stop protecting the interest of greedy ranchers and developers. Put the interest of nature and wildlife first, before money.

**Correspondence ID: 20514**

hi

good morning

removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd

elks must be free



best regards

**Correspondence ID: 20520**

Please take the fence away.

**Correspondence ID: 20523**

It's time to stop being greedy and start sharing your land and water for animals. God didn't make everything for us.

**Correspondence ID: 20528**

Dear Sir/Mam,

Please let the elks roam free and prevent them from stealing. Thank you.

Best,

Wilson

**Correspondence ID: 20529**

Please remove the fence so elk can roam free. The fence is cruel and inhumane since elk are dying of starvation and lack of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20531**

Please stop this terrible thing that is going on!

**Correspondence ID: 20532**

Ecology works.

**Correspondence ID: 20535**

For years, native tule elk living in Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Please take down the fence that is preventing them from eating and drinking; it is cruel and the lives of these wild treasures is certainly worthy of protecting.

**Correspondence ID: 20538**

REMOVE THE FENCE! SAVE THE ELK! The elk were here long before we were and deserve to live their lives normally like they always have been. There's no need for stupid fence. You're leading them into Extinction because of the stupid fence. Remove it. Now. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20542**

TO: Tomales Point Area Plan - Public Scoping Comment Period

Animals are a vital part of creating and maintaining a healthy ecosystem, and the animals being healthy and having access to the needed elements they require to be healthy are a key part of the equation. I urge the NPS to reassess their actions and remove the fence to ensure that the animals in this ecosystem can remain a healthy part of the environmental system.

Thank you for your commitment to the stewardship to our country and to being open to factoring in all elements needed to ensure that the NPS plan is a healthy and sustainable approach.

Annette Tate

**Correspondence ID: 20543**

I care about wildlife and nature.

**Correspondence ID: 20552**

Native tule elk are confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore and have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. The elk are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Please remove the fence that confines the Tomales Point elk herd.

**Correspondence ID: 20556**

Native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water for years because a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land stops them from feeding/drinking. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Please remove this fence so the elks can graze freely, our wildlife doesn't ask much of us, only that they be allowed to survive as they have for centuries. It is the Park Service's moral duty to eliminate this fence that prevents their survival.

**Correspondence ID: 20569**

I find this situation literally incomprehensible.

This alleged professional behavior by NPS and its cohorts is right out of the Nineteenth Century. Protect shoreline ecology? BS. Protect cattle? You bet!

Bought and sold, the continuing saga of the NPS and the Interior Dept. Fenced elk are bad for the environment, just as fenced blooded cattle are. Release the elk, kill the cattle and DO NOT bring back any more cattle.

Even with a somewhat enlightened Interior Secretary, the rank and file Bush Crime Family appointees in the Civil Service continue their wanton ways. Trash the environment, feed the corporate empire, Kill the Planet.

Congratulations! Another massive success story in the long litany of corporate takeovers of the public's property. Another complete failure of human intelligence. Complete failure. Complete failure.

Once again, the joke is ON US, the public. You people disgust me. This is NOT democracy, it is Oligarchy. It is Death. It is perihelion. It is pathetic.

It is certainly not ecological science. That went the way of the Dodo bird. Humanity, what a joke.

**Correspondence ID: 20570**

Please, use your power to save these precious creatures.

Only you can help them survive for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20572**

cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20575**

Please remove the fence and allow the Tule Elk to roam and find food. Wildlife should be prioritized over cattle.

**Correspondence ID: 20584**

Absolutely remove the fence which confines the Tule Elk herd so that they may freely roam Point Reyes National Seashore park in order to find the food and water they need to survive. If the commercial cows cannot get along with the Elk, then it may be necessary to move the cows to another location as suggested in Alternative B.

**Correspondence ID: 20585**

Please, must remove the fence!

What if that were you...it's so simple to save a being.

Animals matter...much more deserving than any human I know.

**Correspondence ID: 20587**

Really hoping the fence will be removed so the Tule Deer can have the freedom to survive. Personally believe the fence should never have been erected.

**Correspondence ID: 20588**

Please help the Elk access water and freely graze by removing the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 20589**

I'm writing to encourage the National Park Service to choose Alternative B, the Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area plan for Point Reyes. Wild elk shouldn't be confined, particularly for the benefit of cattle ranching. Elk belong in wilderness areas. Cattle don't. Wilderness should be for the wild. Take the fence down and leave the elk alone.

**Correspondence ID: 20590**

Please help the elk! We can't allow another animal to disappear from our planet. We all need each other to survive-circle of life.

**Correspondence ID: 20591**

Greetings,

After reading the proposed alternatives, I am inclined to support "Plan B" of the NPS, in that the Elk Fence would be removed, and possibly a Cattle-excluding fence be installed. The Elk would have free range and a more natural life.

**Correspondence ID: 20592**

The elk deserve to roam free, and cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Please take this into consideration when making your decision.

**Correspondence ID: 20593**

Please, please protect these innocent, majestic animals.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20594**

Remove the fence, plain and simple. Let these creatures live. No excuse for animal abuse.

**Correspondence ID: 20595**

Please remove the 3 mile fencing to allow the Elk access to water. I hope you will consider allowing the elk to roam freely as opposed to being contained within a fence which impedes their quality of life as a wild animal.

Thank you, Patty

**Correspondence ID: 20596**

Tomales Point in Point Reyes.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The fence needs to come down. There are elk dying from starvation/lack of water! It was an idea that did not work well.

I am a concerned citizen and taxpayer.

Thank you, Barron Dalton

**Correspondence ID: 20597**

WILD ANIMALS NEED TO GO WHERE THEY NEED TO GO. GET RID OF THE DAMN FENCE! LET THEM LIVE! You're disgusting for penning in animals so they starve. Only demonic stupid people would do that. Tired of all the bad in government. Way tired.

**Correspondence ID: 20598**

Please remove the fence

**Correspondence ID: 20599**

Take Down the fence!! Save the elk

**Correspondence ID: 20600**

For years, the native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. Cattle grazing in nearby areas decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Please protect elk by removing the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd so they may survive and roam free.

**Correspondence ID: 20601**

I'm urging the NPS to remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. What are the wildlife supposed to do? You have them fenced in and it's killing them. Please save the wildlife!

**Correspondence ID: 20602**

Alternative B

Remove the fence

Remove the cows

This is a National Park, not a private farm

**Correspondence ID: 20603**

Alternative B

Remove the fence

Remove the cows

This is a National Park, not a private farm

**Correspondence ID: 20604**

Let nature be. These animals are basically in a jail. Remove the fence!

**Correspondence ID: 20605**

Please remove the fence. The Elk are dying.

Sincerely, Leilah Yanez

**Correspondence ID: 20606**

Why is no organization or government group helping these iconic animals? It seems to be a problem, HOW CAN YOU LET THEM STARVE TO DEATH? They are on park service land. The fish and wildlife should be aware and taking care of this problem.

**Correspondence ID: 20607**

National Park Service should not be part of poor care of the animals in the park. The issue of native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water is irresponsible activity by the NPS. Please get back to the purpose of having a park and care properly for the occupants and animals now!

**Correspondence ID: 20608**

leave the deers alone to be free so they can roam as they wish in search of food and water and please, no walls to halt their movements as well.

**Correspondence ID: 20609**

Please let the tulle elk roam free. Cattle grazing ruins ecosystems, contsm8nates water, wastes water,

Spreads invasive species and disease.

**Correspondence ID: 20610**

Please let the tulle elk roam free. Cattle grazing ruins ecosystems, contsm8nates water, wastes water,

Spreads invasive species and disease.

**Correspondence ID: 20611**

Give God's Creations the water and what they need. Know you will

be Held to account before Him 1 Day

**Correspondence ID: 20612**

Hello,

I am messaging you today in a desperate plea to have the National Park Service remove the 3-mile-long fence erected by NPS with the intent to prevent the native tule elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that 152 elk have died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 20613**

Please take down the fence confining the elk herd on the Tomales Point peninsula at Point Reyes National Seashore, so they can roam freely as they deserve.

**Correspondence ID: 20614**

Please remove the fence in Tomales Point Area. Let the elk roam free as nature intended.

Thank you, Lauren Sheytanian

**Correspondence ID: 20615**

It is absolutely horrific to have cut off native elk from their grazing grounds. They should have been provided with water. The seashore has been pruned by the elk for hundreds of years. There are always unintended consequences when you interfere in a natural process. Please allow the elk to roam. If a lack of predators that would have naturally controlled the population in the past results in too many elk, a far more humane cull or transfer could be organized. Re-establishing wildlife corridors and contiguous space is essential for the whole ecosystem to survive. Please consider removing the fencing and allowing the elk to use the natural range. Thank you very much.

**Correspondence ID: 20616**

Please take down the fence on Tomales Point. It prevents the elk from having access to water. Let the elk roam free as intended and allow the ecosystem to function naturally. Please!

**Correspondence ID: 20617**

PLEASE REMOVE FENCE, AS DEER AND ANIMALS STARVING, MANY HAVE DIED

PLEASE, PLEASE REMOVE FENCE, PLEASE PLEASE

**Correspondence ID: 20618**

It is time to remove the fence so elk and other wildlife can roam free. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems and decreases water availability for all other species.

**Correspondence ID: 20619**

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20620**

Please remove fence

**Correspondence ID: 20621**

Remove the fence!

**Correspondence ID: 20622**

Please save these animals. We have taken too much from them.

**Correspondence ID: 20623**

I don't know why a fence was erected and I wish I did know. What I do know is that beautiful and graceful animals are dying because of that fence. I am reminded to tell the NPS that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease and wastes massive amounts of water.

I can only add my voice to many other voices asking, nay begging, the NPS to, as President Reagan might have said, "Tear down that fence."

**Correspondence ID: 20624**

I am writing in support of the National Park Service removing the fencing that has confined the Tule Elk to the Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore. I am upset by these types of actions that have been taken all across the western part of the U.S. Containment of wild animals not only hurt the animals (I read that 152 elk died in Tomales Point in 2020.) but also harms the natural eco-system. I believe that allowing wild animals to have free range of their natural habitat should be our choice. We have seen time and time again how the Creator of all has designed a system that works for the benefit of all, but humans seem to think that we know better and more often than not what we do is catastrophic.

Please remove the fencing and allow the Tule Elk to graze where they choose.

Respectfully,

Rev. Kathryn C. Gilpin

**Correspondence ID: 20625**

Please allow the elk more land to eat, roam, and drink. This is being inhumane and their suffering is long and painful, plus pitiful!

Thanks

Teresa Sander

**Correspondence ID: 20627**

Please remove the fence and help the elk

**Correspondence ID: 20628**

PLEASE REMOVE THE TOMALES POINT AREA FENCE!

SAVE THE ELK!

**Correspondence ID: 20629**

As a taxpayer, I ask that the fence in the Tomales Point Area be taken down immediately! The Elk are starving! I do not consent to my tax dollars being used to create cruelty to these majestic animals! Instead, the government should be doing everything possible to feed them, make sure they have a clean water source and shelter in their area. Please do the right thing and remove this fence at once!

**Correspondence ID: 20630**

Please, help these beautiful animals survive providing fresh water for them!

Susy

**Correspondence ID: 20631**

All animals in all USA parks should be protected. How unconscionable to think less.

**Correspondence ID: 20632**

Please help these beautiful elk and remedy the situation in a humane and sustainable way. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

**Correspondence ID: 20633**

Since the NPS represents the US Government, Mahatma Gandhi said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Is it true that "cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water"?

Should not Tule Elk be allowed to graze naturally?

**Correspondence ID: 20634**

We are all meat. The animals have just as much right to the water as people do. We are the reason the water is in short supply. Not the animals. And I'm pretty sure the wild life was there first.

**Correspondence ID: 20635**

Cattle grazing is what ruins land, not wild animal grazing!!!! Remove the stupid fence so that the tule elk can survive and live in harmony with nature!!

**Correspondence ID: 20636**

Good Afternoon,

I am writing in support of removing the fence. This would allow the Elk to have access to food and water, basic necessities to sustain life.

Thank you for your consideration,time and efforts on this matter.

Sincerely, Gina N.D'Avella

**Correspondence ID: 20637**

This is totally immoral to me! I have to ask if cattle or sheep graze here? Are you allowing smaller mammals like rabbits graze? These elk were here before European people. Indigenous peoples allowed them there. When you confine them there's the possibility that diseases spread besides starvation and thirst.

**Correspondence ID: 20638**

Please do the right thing when it comes to animal survival and the eco-system.

Please remove the fence if it is hurting wildlife. Animals deserve to be respected.

Thank you for your consideration.



**Correspondence ID: 20639**

Please remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 20640**

Please pay attention to what is happening to the native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore. They Are Dying because there is No Water, No Food for them. Your a 3-mile-long fence completely limits them from being able to survive!

The fence is meant to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land but it is killing the tule elk; it is horrendous that 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

PLEASE REMOVE the FENCE so that they can live in the place they have been living for hundreds of years!

Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 20642**

I can't believe The national Park Serves in the Tomales Point Area would be so cruel. Surely our fellow creatures deserve food and water! Please remove that fence!

**Correspondence ID: 20643**

Remove the fence please!!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20644**

Tule Elk native to and confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. Why, this grazing is natural to that ecology. PETA says that the problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. This cruel to these beautiful animals. Please remove the fence and allow these animals to roam their historical range. In the meantime, NPS has a moral obligation to feed and water them. Thank you, Rick and Sharon Norlund

**Correspondence ID: 20645**

Please remove the fence and allow these beautiful creatures to roam free as they were meant to!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We are dying off, don't rush it.

**Correspondence ID: 20646**

Please NPS remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20647**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the NPS with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve. Please remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20648**

Remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20649**

Please remove the fence. What a horrid death to suffer. Intentionally dehydration due to man made obstacle.

**Correspondence ID: 20650**

To whom it may concern,

Please remove the fence so that the elk can graze freely.

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Liliane Bushman

**Correspondence ID: 20651**

PLEASE remove the fence. Remember that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20652**

Protect our beautiful animals

**Correspondence ID: 20653**

Please remove the fence and give these animals a chance.

**Correspondence ID: 20654**

Please remove the fence so the Tule Elk can survive!

**Correspondence ID: 20655**

We do not own animals. Killing animals by not providing clean fresh water daily and food stop it you are killers

**Correspondence ID: 20656**

Please remove the fence on Tomales Point peninsula!

This year, I had the chance to visit Tomales Point peninsula. I came across native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore that have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. At the same time, cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Therefore, I urge you to please remove the fence urgently! Thank you in advance.

**Correspondence ID: 20657**

Hello, I urge the NPS to remove the fence to help these elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20658**

Please free these Elk they have a right to enjoy life and live free. How would you feel if you were pinned up and trapped and starving . Elk need to roam. They are beautiful animals let others enjoy them that loves nature.

**Correspondence ID: 20659**

Dear NPS - Please select Plan B! Remove the elk fence and allow native tule elk access to water and forage in Point Reyes National Seashore. Protecting wildlife should be the priority for our local national park, not cattle ranching.

**Correspondence ID: 20660**

Please remove the fence and save the starving elk.

**Correspondence ID: 20661**

Please remove the fence that is causing hundreds of tule elk to die a slow agonizing death of dehydration and starvation. This is unconscionable and should not happen in a civilized society that purports to care about animal welfare and environmental issues.

**Correspondence ID: 20662**

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

These animals deserve an environment which allows them to be unrestrictive and natural. This is public land and not intended for raising cattle.

If this is not done now, there goes another species that we left to join the many species we are allowing to go extinct at human hands.

Enough is enough. We are supposed to be stewards of this planet not it's destroyer.

**Correspondence ID: 20663**

I'm writing to urge the NPS to remove the fence because cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20664**

Please remove fence to help these animals!

**Correspondence ID: 20665**

Gentlemen, please remove the fence so that the animals in the region can move freely, we strongly ask that you do this urgently, thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20666**

We appreciate you wanted to preserve the native tule elk. They are confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore and have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. We get that the intent is to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe, though, that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. Please remove the fence. The cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 20667**

You take on animal abuse and demand help. Yet you are doing that very something. Tear down the fence and allow free access to food and water. Are you willing to face lawsuit or worse?

**Correspondence ID: 20668**

You take on animal abuse and demand help. Yet you are doing that very something. Tear down the fence and allow free access to food and water. Are you willing to face lawsuit or worse?

**Correspondence ID: 20669**

The fence is cruel and unnecessary the people that proposed this should get a taste of what they think is ok

**Correspondence ID: 20670**

THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ARE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT THE WILDLIFE AND OCEAN LIFE AND THE LANDS AND THE FOREST BUT DOING A PISS POOR JOB OF IT TO MANY ANIMALS ARE DYING BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO FOOD OR WATER BECAUSE THEY CAN'T GET TO IT OR THE MURDERING BIG GREEDY CORPORATIONS AND THE DISGUSTING MURDERING TROPHY HUNTERS ARE DESTROYING THEM NO ANIMALS DESERVE TO BE TREATED LIKE THAT AND ALL ANIMALS DESERVES TO BE TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY AND LOVE AND CARED FOR AND FEEL SAFE NOT BRUTALIZED AND TORTURED AND CRUEL AND USUAL PUNISHMENT AND EXPLOITED AND MURDERED FOR PROFIT OR ANY OTHER REASON BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND THOSE DISGUSTING MURDERING TROPHY HUNTERS AND THOSE DISGUSTING MURDERING BIG GREEDY CORPORATIONS DESERVE TO BE THROWN SO FAR UNDER A PRISON CELL FOR LIFE WHAT A BUNCH OF DISGUSTING AND SICKENING AND HORRIBLE AND

BARBARIC AND PATHETIC EXCUSES FOR HUMAN BEINGS AND WHAT A TOTAL DISGRACE YOU'RE ALL DESPICABLE DEGENERATE MORONS

**Correspondence ID: 20671**

I respectfully request the removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd.

Thank you!!

**Correspondence ID: 20672**

The elk are the natural and rightful inhabitants, NOT cattle.

Allow these elk to graze where they should.

**Correspondence ID: 20673**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

REMOVE THE FENCE. There won't be a need for it anyway if all the elk are dead. Please don't wait until that happens before the fence is removed!

**Correspondence ID: 20674**

I pray you will take the necessary action and let the elk roam free and have the life they deserve - suffering animals can mean suffering humans ultimately. We are all one. Please immediately remove the fence preventing them from getting the water and food they need. Also as a reminder, cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

I know you will do the right thing. Our brains record our actions and I do believe we continue on when we leave earth.

Blessings and all the best,

Mary Radice

**Correspondence ID: 20675**

Get rid of the fence. The elk were there first. The cattle can graze somewhere else.

**Correspondence ID: 20676**

Please remove the fence that is currently trapping the tule elk. Why condemn this wild species to inhumane starvation yet allow domestic cattle to remain in the area to graze and destroy the ecosystem?? Domestic cattle are contaminating the land and the water sources with their fecal bacteria and antibiotics shed from their waste. Our parks are meant to preserve wildlife and our delicate ecosystems not to be abused by private cattle operations. It is appalling our national park system is endorsing this animal cruelty. I was disgusted to learn the NPS has been sitting on the sidelines totally aware these regal elk are slowly starving and dying tortuous deaths and doing nothing while the domestic cattle get fat and destroy the ecosystem. Please Take down the fence ASAP!!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20677**

cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20678**

Please save the Elk!

**Correspondence ID: 20679**

Please save the Elk!

**Correspondence ID: 20680**

Remove the fence! Quit killing these beautiful animals. How horrible.

**Correspondence ID: 20681**

Enough is enough with God's animals. We will all pay the price for the mistreatment of these elk.

Do the correct thing and make sure they are fed and taken care of.

God bless each of you.

Father Douglas Michael, M Div., MA, MSN, RN

Rector

Ministries of Hope

Wallingford, PA 19086 6670

484 947 1920 Mobile

HopeMinisterialGroup@gmail.com

**Correspondence ID: 20682**

Please remove the fence containing the elk at Tomales Point, to allow them access to water and food that they need to prevent sickness, starvation and death. They are a natural resource for us.

Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 20683**

cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20684**

Stop harming our elk!

**Correspondence ID: 20685**

If the National Park Service is tasked with protecting the land then it should be protecting the native species, not domesticated invaders. How can this organization standby and let so many tule elk suffer and die in Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore?! I am sick and tired of native species being pushed back on their own territory by greedy ranchers and landowners as well as greedy state and federal agencies seeking to make a buck no matter how measly. If the NPS is in charge of caring for the land then heed this reminder: cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and

disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. There are domesticated cattle everywhere in this country, but these elk are area specific. Stop the genocide of these unique tule elk and remove the fence!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20686**

No animal should be in peril due to human boundaries..

**Correspondence ID: 20687**

Please remove the fence that is confining elk at Tomalas Point at Point Reyes National Seashore. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20688**

Elk are starving to death because of the the fence you put up.

Take down the fence and let the elk roam free to sustain themselves.

**Correspondence ID: 20689**

PLEASE! Let elk run free! If we can low cattle to graze the land, certainly we can accommodate the elk as well. My understanding is that just as winter is settling in, these elk are malnourished and severely dehydrated.

Just fljy in some DECENT food, remove that abominable barbed wire fence, anx

**Correspondence ID: 20690**

Why would you not supply the necessary care for theses majestic animals? They are corralled by humans so why are we not obligated to provide them with resources for survival?

**Correspondence ID: 20691**

Please remove a fence that is preventing elk from grazing and accessing water. The purpose of this fence is probably to protect the cattle from some diseases. If I rember correctly, the NPS is supposed to protect our park resources. A fence should be keeping the cattle contained so they don't pollute water, spread their diseases, etc. I don't eat beef. I don't buy anything with leather on it. I don't eat jello. If the NPS exists to protect cattle, I am no longer a supporter of NPS. My tax dollars are not being used the way I want and I will vote accordingly.

**Correspondence ID: 20692**

The National Park Service should choose Alternative B, called "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," which will remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free.

There is overwhelming public support for removing the elk fence. Fences are inappropriate in wilderness areas, and the Park Service shouldn't prioritize cattle over native wildlife.

It's unacceptable to let confined native elk die of thirst and malnutrition, especially in a national park.

Once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

Private cattle operations aren't appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the

maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment” within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to “provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

I urge the agency to remove the elk fence to protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore the ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 20693**

Please let them be free. Remove the Tule elk fence

**Correspondence ID: 20694**

NPS. This situation has been ongoing far too long for it not to be resolved IN THE ELKS FAVOR. Give. It a try. What does the park service have to lose while the elks lose their lives in a slow death. As a top tier predator it seems the the human could make a decision IN FAVOR OF THE ELKS. WHAT DO WE HUMANS REALLY HAVE TO LOSE BY ALLOWING LIFE.

LET THEM LIVE. LIFE FOR THEM IS HARD ENOUGH.

R HAAS

**Correspondence ID: 20696**

Please remove the fence and allow the Tomales Point elk herd to roam free and likely live a more healthy life. These are living breathing animals. The 152 elk that died in 2020 is a wake up call. Thanks

**Correspondence ID: 20697**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Please remove the fence. include removal of the fence that is. confining the Tomales Point elk herd. We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Please be Reminded that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water

**Correspondence ID: 20698**

PLEASE REMOVE THE FENCING. !!!! This is abuse. These elks are dying!!

**Correspondence ID: 20699**

Please remove the fence,cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20700**

Please remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd.

Antoine



**Correspondence ID: 20702**

Please treat all animals humanely.

**Correspondence ID: 20703**

Alternative B is the NPS preferred and logical option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk.

**Correspondence ID: 20704**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

I understand that after years of campaigns by PETA and other advocacy groups, the NPS is finally considering removing the fence. This would be a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

I urge the NPS to please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20705**

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE do the right thing for these poor elk that have been dying for years at Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore because of a fence not allowing them to get to water! How terrible, just terrible that this has been happening.

Do the right thing National Park Service (NPS) and accept the new proposed plan that includes removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd.

if your reasoning has been protect the cattle - cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water!

You have a chance to correct the wrong that has been done and crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve!

**Correspondence ID: 20706**

Hello....Please remove the fence forbidding Tule Elk on Tomales Point from grazing free. in 2020 alone 152 elk have died from starvation and lack of water. And please note...that it is cattle grazing that demolishes the ecosystem, not free-ranging elk. I know what I say next must sound old-fashioned and even heretical....but we have to fight to protect what we have left of nature...not confine it to the point of dying. I know you will make the right decision, if not for yourself, but for your children's sake to be able to bear witness to one of nature's wonders....the majestic elk. Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 20707**

Stop Animals Cruelty

**Correspondence ID: 20708**

why are you starving those elks .? shame on you killing our biodiversity

**Correspondence ID: 20709**

Dear National Park Service Supervisor:

Please consider the following:

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

Thank you, Lynn N Friesner

**Correspondence ID: 20710**

The Tule Elk must be allowed to roam free to survive as nature intended.

**Correspondence ID: 20711**

Greetings, I was saddened to learn that these Elk are dying a slow death due to lack of food and water. As they are there they need to have what they need to live. if they are not wanted in that location please move them to a suitable habitat. There are those in the West who go on and on about the predators killing the Elk and asking for predator"control" yet these elk are dying due to neglect by not being in a place where they have what they need to survive.

Sincerely, Greg Hamby

**Correspondence ID: 20712**

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20713**

Humans & their cows are destroying nature/wildlife!!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20714**

Please let the elk roam freely. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 20715**

Remove the fence. These Elks should not have to die.

**Correspondence ID: 20716**

Please remove the fence so elk have access to water.

**Correspondence ID: 20717**

what kind of evil demons do these demonic acts - i can only pray God send you all to hell - and that you starve and suffer eternally for such evil premeditated deeds.

**Correspondence ID: 20718**

Please immediately remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd, STOP the dying of innocent animals and respect their rights to live and rights to resources of water and foods etc. Do NOT favor the big ag businesses and continue letting these elks die of thirst and hunger, that is such a cruel decision to put up the fence in the first place !!!! Have compassion to them and all animals and stop giving all the advantages to only the big ag businesses.

**Correspondence ID: 20719**

NPS,

Please remove the fence that confines the Tule Elk. Let the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Protect Tule Elk not Big Ag. It is cattle grazing that decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Let the elk graze and be free.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20720**

Let wildlife be wild.

**Correspondence ID: 20721**

the national parks are to save our wild life and not kill them. who ever built these fences should go and save these animals or was it the farmer and cattlemen that paid for these fences in that case they should pull them down

**Correspondence ID: 20722**

I realize sometimes we move forward on an idea that we think will solve a problem ie the fence you erected and also am aware that you are pressured from the side of the cattle ranchers. However by now you must conclude that the fence is doing more harm than good. Harm in the form of the Elk not only dying but dying a painful death. Can you look at yourself and know there is a solution to their suffering (remove the fence) and do nothing because you are afraid to face the ranchers. These individuals have notoriously caused destruction over the lands and the other creatures who depend on the areas for life. However, the cattlemen stand strong and always get their way at the cost of all else. They lobby in Washington and do not admit to the damage great herds of cows cause far greater damage than that of a small group of Elk and by the way, natural herds often aid the land ie wild horses, elk, deer who eat weeds seeds & berries and nothing more and have evolved to survive on so little but in turn keep weeds & brush down avoiding wild fires and reseed the ground with their excrement. I hope that in time you will stand up to the meat men and give nature a chance to thrive.

Respectfully,

Carol Darrough

P.S. Believe it or not, all these herd animals do graze together on the same land (in peace) and the land survives. Wouldn't it be amazing if we humans could do the same.

**Correspondence ID: 20723**

Please show some compassion and remove the barrier so no more animals starve to death because of human ignorance.

**Correspondence ID: 20724**

One of our favorite places in the world is Pt. Reyes. We are particularly thrilled when we see the elk. It's one of the reasons people visit the park.

Please keep them safe; after all, they were there first!

Judie Rae

**Correspondence ID: 20727**

No animal deserves to be treated that way . Take down the damn fence before all those majestic creatures starve to death. They deserve to live free without crap in there way so they can eat normally.

**Correspondence ID: 20728**

Dear NPS - Please select Plan B! Remove the elk fence and allow native tule elk access to water and forage in Point Reyes National Seashore. Protecting wildlife should be the priority for our local national park, not cattle ranching. Thank you for your consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 20731**

Tule elk are put in a very stressing situation, pushing them to starvation due to the fence built for private cattle to graze.

Please, remove fence, and remind cattle owners to feed their animals paying for it, not by exploiting public lands y starving wild herbivores.

Thank you for consuting independent voices..

**Correspondence ID: 20746**

It is completely obvious that the fence confining the elk heard at Tomales Point should be removed, thereby allowing the herd to move freely.

Please let science, rather than stupidity prevail.

Sincerely,

Craig B Knapp

Wildlife Biologist USFS

**Correspondence ID: 20747**

Seriously... All these elk are dying of thirst and starvation, and you can't figure out to take the fence down so they can get to food and water??? Take the damned fence down, and let these animals live!

**Correspondence ID: 20748**

This needs to change .

**Correspondence ID: 20754**

cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

We need to support the elk with removal of the fence so they can survive or relocate them. Just letting them starve is inhumane!

**Correspondence ID: 20776**

These beautiful animals are dying needlessly. Please remove this fence and allow them to roam where food and water is available. This appears to be cruel and inhumane treatment by the National Park Service. Is there no other solution to this problem? If we can jettison into space, I would think this could be resolved in a manner acceptable to all.

**Correspondence ID: 20779**

These animals are in the care of the National Park Service. How can this be care if they don't have what they need to survive?? Remove the fence so they can roam free as they were meant to.

**Correspondence ID: 20781**

Remove the fence! Let the animals go where they need to get food and water and travel. We should not have the right to keep these beautiful animals from getting what they need off the land.

**Correspondence ID: 20784**

Hello,

I am writing to you in regards to the removal of the fence at Tomales Point. For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These magnificent animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

This is absolutely cruel and inhumane. This is their natural habitat and we humans are infringing on them, not the other way around. Please do the right thing and remove the fence!

Thank you, Sal

**Correspondence ID: 20788**

This is deeply disturbing that these Tule Elk are being held in a fence in THEIR native environment. Please remove the fencing and let them live. We the people do not need more cattle farming to ruin native habitat. Please remove the fencing once and for all and allow these native creatures to live as God intended.

**Correspondence ID: 20791**

I am a farmer and forestland owner. while I have kept a few farm animals, most of my land is managed for wildlife. we humans claim to be smart, but refuse to accept that maintaining wildlife and the diversity of life on earth includes not only them but us.

the least we can do is not allow cattle on public land or the natural range of wild species with fences.

**Correspondence ID: 20796**

Please help the Elk - they need water and food ! Thank you.!

**Correspondence ID: 20801**

I urge the NPS to remove the fence. 152 elk died and dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water! Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Pleased help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve! Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 20802**

Please remove the Tomales Point peninsula 3-mile-long fence. Allowing so many Tule Elk to die from hunger seems counterintuitive to the mission of the NPS.

**Correspondence ID: 20803**

Please remove the fence so these beautiful animals will not continue to suffer cruel & inhumane deaths.

**Correspondence ID: 20804**

Free the elk.

How can you be so inhumane as to watch them starve to death because of your fence?

**Correspondence ID: 20805**

Tule elk need protection, not abuse. Please correct this situation before they are lost.

**Correspondence ID: 20806**

Elk are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. Remove the fence. The fence is killing the elk.

**Correspondence ID: 20807**

I urge you to please remove this fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20808**

Families of elk need expansive areas in which to drink water and eat sufficient food. They cannot be captured behind a fence and survive. You must remove the fence to protect these marvelous creatures. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20810**

This is absurd. You are the National Park Service ... you exist to serve wild lands and resources. That is your mission. Point Reyes National Seashore is the home first and foremost of wild native species. We are at a point in our history where we have to start seeing things and doing things differently. Putting up fences to impede the natural movement of wild animals is life denying. These animals have a right to life. They are not ours to control or dispose of to give priority to domesticated, livestock production, which frankly compromises the balance a natural wild landscape and is at odds with you reason for being. I think we have quite enough of that going on in the world right now. We don't need the NPS to continue this kind of policy and practice. You do not answer to a cohort of ranchers ... you are beholden to the people of this

country and to all those that love, enjoy, and want to protect wild places for the beings that belong there.

**Correspondence ID: 20816**

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20819**

Please help save the Elks, Almighty Gods creatures deserve to be respected and Loved.

**Correspondence ID: 20823**

Please tear down the fence, it is the right thing to do.

**Correspondence ID: 20825**

Dear Sir/Madame

I am writing regarding the fate of native Tule Elk, the smallest and rarest elk subspecies in North America, which are endemic to California.

Please help these animals by removing cattle and fences, and eliminate grazing by cattle in Point Reyes or the Wilderness as per the original agreement. Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Additionally, removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

Jackie Grguric

**Correspondence ID: 20828**

PLEASE remove the fence that prevent elk from grazing. The National Park Service should preserve animal life, not destroy it.

THANK YOU for your consideration!

**Correspondence ID: 20832**

remove the fence. Remind the agency that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20833**

How is this abuse right? No water, food

**Correspondence ID: 20835**

remove the fence. Remind the agency that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20839**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. Remove this fence immediately!

Keep cattle off this land. As you know, cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20841**

The fence needs to come down. All animals need to be able to find food and water.

**Correspondence ID: 20842**

Please consider the elk and help them survive and even thrive.

**Correspondence ID: 20847**

Please take down the fence in

tomalas point

**Correspondence ID: 20849**

Remove the fences.

**Correspondence ID: 20856**

Thank you for accepting my comments on the Tomales Point Area Plan proposals.

I believe the best option is Alternative B, which is also the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice.

However, changes to Alternative B should be considered. The removal of water structures, unlawfully built in the Wilderness, must only be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles. Cattle grazing should be eliminated; cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness as the original agreement states.

Herbicides should not be used in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate the expansion of invasive plants.

Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they will degrade the Wilderness and endanger the rare Tule elk.

**Correspondence ID: 20857**

Please, please remove the fence at Tomales Point and save the elks from dying.

**Correspondence ID: 20862**

NPS: Please remove the 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service at Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore. Tule elk are dying and need space to roam and live freely. The welfare of the elk should take precedence over the interests of the greedy, immoral meat industry. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal



bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Protect tule elk not big ag! Everyone seriously needs to wake up to the massive destruction the animal agriculture is doing to Earth. That most certainly is takes priority over all else, especially this evil industry that is insanely destroying the planet.

**Correspondence ID: 20868**

Please free the Tule elk now. Find it in your heart to do the right thing. Empathy and compassion is what makes us human not just being physically human. What if you were in their place? There can be no "right" justification for what is "wrong". Nothing makes starving them and torturing them with thirst till they die ok. Nothing. Show that you have a heart. Show that you can do better. Show mercy, please! No one should have to beg you to do what you absolutely ought to do!

**Correspondence ID: 20869**

Remove the fence, wildlife have the right to roam free without your restrictions. They need to be able to find food and water. If a Fire, they need to be able to escape.

Remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 20871**

Let the elk be free to move. We don't want anymore deaths.

**Correspondence ID: 20875**

You loathsome, revolting, disgusting CREEPS! STOP SLAUGHTERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE, WHETHER FROM STUPIDITY OR DESIGN!!!

**Correspondence ID: 20884**

Please show compassion for these magnificent animals and take down that barrier. Must humans always torture animals? Please, do the right thing and save these beautiful animals. Thank you~

**Correspondence ID: 20889**

Please remove the fence and allow the elk to roam Tomales point freely as they had done for centuries before ranchers got priority. They are endangered and we must do everything we can to protect them not the businesses like ranching that encroach on their survival.

**Correspondence ID: 20899**

You are not any better than Peta and the other people. You are abusive and neglected these animals. I have an idea. Why don't we put all of you in the fenced area and let you starve. Free these animals and save them. Some people are are to stupid to make a difference in this world.

**Correspondence ID: 20906**

Protect & work with the organic farmers.

**Correspondence ID: 20908**

This is an urgent request to remove the fence that is keeping the Tule Elk without access to food and water, and its disturbing that over 220 elk died as a result of the fence in year 2022.

The rancher with grazing cattle is not sustainable with cattle grazing which decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. There are ways in Nature to allow the both species to live together, its Man who interferes with the natural system. Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 20913**

Stop harming animals please

**Correspondence ID: 20917**

Please don't remove the fence

**Correspondence ID: 20918**

September 22, 2023

Point Reyes National Seashore

Attn: Superintendent

Tomales Point Area Plan

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Superintendent Kenkel:

Enclosed are comments from Wilderness Watch on the scoping newsletter for the Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP). Wilderness Watch is a national nonprofit wilderness conservation organization dedicated to the protection and proper administration of the National Wilderness Preservation System. We provided input in the past on this proposal. We are pleased to see the change in direction in this scoping newsletter and commend the National Park Service in coming up with a proposed action that is much more in keeping with proper administration of the Wilderness and National Seashore. We do have some important suggestions, directed at the proposed action, that would improve it even more.

Introduction

The scoping newsletter indicates the project area is 85 percent Wilderness. Thus, preserving the Wilderness is of utmost importance. The National Park Service (NPS) proposed action is a commendable plan that is the right direction. Our comments that follow focus mainly on the following:

- The proposed action (Alternative B) would implement, as the part of the alternative title indicates, an "unconfined elk herd" by removing the elk fence just outside of the Wilderness. Removing this fence is a positive step in administration of this portion of the Wilderness.
- The proposed action would also remove water structures in the Wilderness. This too is a positive direction and should be done in a manner compatible with Wilderness, without the use of motorized equipment.
- There are some actions that could be (not mandated) proposed for Wilderness, that are trammeling actions and incompatible with Wilderness.

Lastly, since the goal is to allow the elk to be wild, might it make sense to expand the project area to the entire National Seashore? Would better address an unconfined elk herd?

Wilderness and the Proposed Action

The proposed action contains important proposals, many of which would greatly improve the wild character of the Phillip Burton Wilderness in the project area. The proposed action items, taken from the scoping newsletter, are reprinted below with questions and comments about those points.

Remove existing elk fence. Consider adding a fence to exclude cattle from Tomales Point.

The elk fence, located entirely outside of the Wilderness according to the map in the scoping newsletter, is a most serious problem. Its removal is necessary to meet the minimum necessary for preservation of the area as Wilderness as required under the 1964 Wilderness Act. That said, would any new cattle fence be in the Wilderness and would it prevent elk movement? If the answer is yes to either of those questions, it should be dropped. If so, rather than build a cattle fence, cattle should be removed from the National Seashore as per the original agreement.

Discontinue provision of supplemental water and minerals for tule elk. Remove all existing, non-historic supplementary water systems.

The removal of these supplementary water systems is positive, especially in Wilderness where such structures are generally prohibited. However, it should be done in Wilderness without the use of motorized or mechanized equipment. It would be informative for the NPS to provide to the public a list and a map showing these structures as well. What would constitute a historic supplementary water system and where would such systems be located? We find it hard to believe any water system as meeting the extent necessary for the preservation of the area as Wilderness. Please provide more details.

Retain historic, cultural landscape features, unless they are incompatible with natural resources.

What are considered historic, cultural landscape features? Without more information, we are a skeptical whether such features would meet the extent necessary for the preservation of the area as Wilderness. Please provide more details.

Inventory and manage invasive plant species, which may include manual removal and use of herbicides.

The use of herbicides is a trammeling action incompatible with Wilderness. Herbicides also can have negative impacts on non-target species.

Evaluate use of prescribed fire to meet desired conditions of native plant communities.

Human-ignited fire in Wilderness is a trammeling action incompatible with wilderness preservation. Further, frequent fire tends to favor annual invasive species over native ones. It is better to allow natural fire to occur, to the extent possible, in Wilderness.

Terminate vegetation monitoring projects that rely on the use of the twelve elk exclosures and remove elk exclosures. Encourage further vegetation research at Tomales Point that does not rely on the installation of permanent infrastructure within the Phillip Burton Wilderness.

This is a positive direction. Again, this should be done by wilderness-compatible means, without the use of motorized equipment or mechanized or motorized transport.

Improve and maintain the Tomales Point and McClures Beach trails to better protect resources while also providing access.

These are both wilderness trails and should be the minimum necessary for preservation of the area as Wilderness. What kind of improvements are planned? Any maintenance and/or improvements must be done by wilderness-compatible means. More information would be important to share with the public.

Improve visitor use management for Tomales Bay beaches and coves through refinement of the camping program (e.g., site-based reservation system) or other options. Permitted camping locations may be limited to protect natural and cultural resources. Additionally, daytime use of beaches could also be limited to protect natural and cultural resources.

Visitor use management is obviously needed. It may be better to consider a permit system rather than specific camping sites. There needs to more site-specific information on this issue.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment. Please keep us updated on this plan.

Sincerely, Kevin Proescholdt

Conservation Director

Wilderness Watch

PO Box 9175

Missoula, MT 59807

**Correspondence ID: 20922**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

However, after years of campaigns by PETA and other advocacy groups, the NPS is finally considering removing the fence. The NPS is now taking public comments on a proposed plan that would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Thank you

Patrick BOOT

**Correspondence ID: 20924**

Hello the team,

Please let those beautiful animals live.

Be compassionate.

Remove the fence that put the Tule Elk in a sort of a jail.

Let them roam freely

Than you for your attention

Dr. I Liberman

**Correspondence ID: 20925**

I am concerned about the Tule elk and their future survival.

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Agribusiness and profits made from exploitation of public lands should not be a consideration in this case.

Also, once the fence is removed, don't allow them to be hunted and killed.

**Correspondence ID: 20927**

Please have a heart. Do something GOOD while you're on this earth. Stop allowing the elk to starve to death. When something is wrong, please do the RIGHT THING! Help all of Gods creation. Kindly remove the fence. We all need to coexist. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cordially,

J. Combs

**Correspondence ID: 20932**

Please remove the fence for the Tule elk. It's horribly cruel to see them starve to death and the cows just cause destruction of the ecosystem, spread bacteria etc.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 20934**

I vote in favor of removing the fence at Pt Reyes to ensure the native Elk have natural resources to live off and hopefully we can curb them dying of starvation.

**Correspondence ID: 20936**

Please save the elk at Tomales Point. They are the innocents in this terrible situation, blocked off from their food and water supply and their normal foraging and migration routes by a fence erected by you, the National Park Service. We are witnessing a mass murder of sentient animals, allowing them to starve and/or dehydrate to death - certainly a horrible, painful, miserable way to have one's life end. Fencing off their access to food and water is not a responsible or humane way to solve the problems at Tomales Point. The current "plan" for the area, and especially for the elk, is not a plan at all. It is extermination. Surely, the NPS can do better.

**Correspondence ID: 20938**

Death by starvation? How can anyone watch this and be OK? Shameful.

**Correspondence ID: 20940**

It is imperative that the National Park Service completely remove the Tule elk border fence at Tomales Point. The fence is responsible for elk deaths during drought years, when these animals cannot roam to gain access to a sustainable supply of food and water resources. Please choose Alternative B, the "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," remove the fencing, and permit elk to naturally roam free, as they did historically.

Wildlife fencing has no place in wilderness areas, and it's unacceptable to create safe space for commercial cattle while native elk die of thirst and malnutrition—especially in a national park. And when the fence is removed, the elk herd shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment-or any other kind of take- for any reason. Further, citizen taxes shouldn't be supporting private cattle operations on public land. This is highly inappropriate in a national park; subsidizing ranchers with land leases should be ended to honor the Park's statement of purpose. The Point Reyes' mandate to afford “the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment”, and the Organic Act designating national park lands to “provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations,” are your priorities.

This situation is NO different than when oyster farming was curtailed in the Park due to environmental degradation. It is your job to protect Point Reyes for native wildlife — not for ranchers whose cattle are destroying the park's ecosystem. I worked for Point Reyes National Seashore, and I saw and photographed first hand all the cow manure polluting the Park's creeks—two of which support the endangered CA Freshwater shrimp. Again, please reconsider allowing ranchers on our Park lands, and please REMOVE the elk fence to protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore its ecological integrity.

Thank you, Roman LoBianco

**Correspondence ID: 20947**

Please remove the fence. Tule elk are dying. Save these magnificent animals.

**Correspondence ID: 20948**

The elk must have freedom without fences!

**Correspondence ID: 20949**

The rare Tule elk are endangered by options A & C, both of which degrade the Wilderness. Option B is best, removing the structures within the Wilderness, but needs some modifications. The structure removal should conform to the spirit and rule of Wilderness and use non-mechanized, non-motorized means. Cattle grazing inside the Wilderness, which degrades everything, including helping the spread of invasive plants, needs to be eliminated. This eliminates the "need" for spraying herbicides inside the Wilderness, where natural fires should be allowed to burn and shape the landscape. Thank you, and happy Fall.

**Correspondence ID: 20951**

There is no excuse for this situation to continue. If these animals are so unimportant, then why doesn't the agency simply euthanize the entire herd instead of sentencing all of them to a slow painful death.

**Correspondence ID: 20959**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone

However, after years of campaigns by PETA and other advocacy groups, the NPS is finally considering removing the fence. The NPS is now taking public comments on a proposed plan that would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Sherri Hodges

**Correspondence ID: 20963**

Please permanently remove the fence that not only deprives the wonderful nimal of their entitled freedom but are a terrible risk to their lives, so many having died of cruel thirst and starvation

**Correspondence ID: 20966**

Please help the tule elk in Point Reyes to receive proper nutrition and water by removing all legal issues. These animals are unique and deserve to live. I am appalled that such treatment goes on in California, usually a state that cares about its inhabitants, whether animal or human.

**Correspondence ID: 20967**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

However, after years of campaigns by PETA and other advocacy groups, the NPS is finally considering removing the fence. The NPS is now taking public comments on a proposed plan that would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

NPS, please remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 20968**

Please FINALLY remove this fence. These naturally occurring animals are dying so cattle can survive. This is absurd. It is unnatural and very, very cruel. Save these elk before they all starve to death or die from lack of water. When I heard about this I thought at first it couldn't be true, but sadly it is. Do the right thing. Do the natural thing. Stop the cruelty, please.

**Correspondence ID: 20969**

Cattle, not the elk, destroy the open areas. It's time to return the land to its natural state.

**Correspondence ID: 20970**

Something needs to be done to help the elk that are dying in droves this fence was not a good idea in terms of the environment,

elk are an important part of the ecosystem, please act responsibly and help these Majestic creatures,

Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 20971**

Please take down the fence and make arrangements for a more survivable area for these elk.

**Correspondence ID: 20973**

Dear NPS,

I urge to please remove the fence that confines native tule elk population to the Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore and prevents the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. Elk are dying. I have visited the park in the past and tule elk sighting makes it even more beautiful.

I also would like to remind you that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Regards,

Monica Lacayo

**Correspondence ID: 20974**

You must protect the elk!

**Correspondence ID: 20975**

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favour non native invasive plants.

For far too long the Tule Elk have been the victim of mis management. Cattle should not be allowed to trespass on land that the Tule elk are dependant on for survival. Because of the victimisation of the Tule elk many have starved to death and their numbers have decreased dramatically. Its time to put the survival of the Tule elk above the greed of the cattle ranchers.

**Correspondence ID: 20976**

NPS please remove the fence

**Correspondence ID: 20977**

Please save the elk at Tomales Point by removing the fence and allowing them to graze ...

**Correspondence ID: 20979**

PLEASE TAKE THE FENCE DOWNt these poor souls are dying without water so be so cruel



**Correspondence ID: 20980**

To whom it may concern: please do remove the NPS fence which is causing the Tomales Point tule elk herd to die of thirst and (apparent) starvation.

It is a tragedy to lose these beautiful animals, especially now when so many species are disappearing from our planet.

Very grateful if that fence could be removed - thank you for your consideration.

best wishes

Madeleine A Broman

**Correspondence ID: 20981**

Please do the right and humane thing. All it takes for evil to prevail is enough good people to do nothing. Please do the right thing!

**Correspondence ID: 20982**

I just recently moved to Santa Fe NM, but lived in beautiful Marin County for the past 30 Years...I've always believed that the natural beauty of Marin included and was enhanced by the animal that live there. This NPS containment and neglect of the Tule Elk has been going on for a long time. It's a tragedy what the NPS is doing to these lovely and docile animals. Shame on you! Yes there are other "interests" involved, but please, consider the interests of the animals, who don't get a vote or pay taxes and can't weigh in on the politics and the regulations.

**Correspondence ID: 20983**

Please remove the Tomales Point peninsula fence so that the elk may roam freely and live the life they need to survive and deserve

**Correspondence ID: 20984**

BASIC COMPASSION SURELY DICTATES THESE CREATURES HAVE TO BE HELPED.

**Correspondence ID: 20985**

The National Park Service should choose Alternative B, called "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," which will remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free.

Thank you for listening to the overwhelming public support for removing the elk fence. Fences are inappropriate in wilderness areas, and the Park Service shouldn't prioritize cattle over native wildlife.

It's unacceptable to let confined native elk die of thirst and malnutrition, especially in a national park.

Once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

Private cattle operations aren't appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

I urge you to remove the elk fence to protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore the ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 20986**

Please take all appropriate measures to aid the tule elk. Thanks.

**Correspondence ID: 20987**

Please remove the fence killing elk roam free and preventing them from living the lives they deserve. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Please remove the fence killing elk roam free.

**Correspondence ID: 20988**

Dear Sirs

This is a situation that desperately needs to change. Remove this fence that is preventing the elk to feed and water. We have to protect wildlife!

**Correspondence ID: 20989**

Dear NPS Administrators,

Please elect to remove the fence that confines the Tomales Point elk herd. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Now is the time to spare the environment and allow the majestic elk to roam freely and live the lives all of God's critters deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Shelly Dobransky

**Correspondence ID: 20990**

Please remove the fence. The Thule Deer deserve to roam free to survive!!! Thank You

**Correspondence ID: 20991**

These animals have needs and we need to address those needs, especially when we have created a problem getting those needs met

**Correspondence ID: 20992**

Please remove the fence and save the Tule Elk!

**Correspondence ID: 20994**

please be humane and do what you can to help the elk!

**Correspondence ID: 20995**

Please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 20996**

Please remove the fence and save the Tule Elk!

**Correspondence ID: 21000**

21 September 2023

Re: Comments for Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP) - Public Scoping Comment

Period

Superintendent Craig Kenkel

National Park Service

Point Reyes National Seashore

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Superintendent Kenkel,

Turtle Island Restoration Network (TIRN) is a national conservation organization with over 160,000 supporters and members throughout the US, with a high concentration of supporters in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The Salmon Protection and Watershed Network (SPAWN) was initiated as part of Turtle Island Restoration Network in 1997. Each year, we engage hundreds of people to see and learn about the majestic endangered salmon, restore riparian habitat, raise native redwood trees, and study salmon health.

TIRN and SPAWN submit these comments on the Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP) as part of the NPS's public scoping comments period, per NPS's NEPA policy.

We believe the reintroduction of tule elk to the Point Reyes peninsula has so far been a success story for the conservation of native species and restoring ecosystems, in keeping with the mission of the National Park Service.

Protection of resources is the most important responsibility of the Seashore as Congress intended. It requires the Department of the Interior to administer Point Reyes lands "without impairment of its natural values, in a manner which provides for such recreational, educational, historic preservation, interpretation, and scientific research opportunities as are consistent with, based upon, and supportive of the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment within the area" 16 USC Sec. 459c (6)(a).

Turtle Island Restoration Network believes that the priority for the Tomales Point Area Plan should be to improve native wildlife preservation, ecosystem health and function, and ecological integrity. Accommodations for increased visitor use are encouraged insofar as they do not conflict with these priorities.

For this reason, we endorse and support Alternative B: Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area. We thank the National Park Service for indicating a proposed action in line with its basic charter and legal responsibilities. Specific comments and requested modifications for Alternative B follow:

- We are in favor of cattle exclusion fences if and only if they are necessary. Even though the ranch core south of the elk preserve is out of scope for this planning process, we repeat our

previous opposition to continued ranching in Point Reyes National Seashore, as we don't believe it is in the best interest in preservation of natural resources of the Seashore. If the elk fence is removed, the elk should be allowed to truly roam freely south of the reserve.

Actions should be taken to minimize harassment, hazing, and culling of elk, or other management practices which fail to prioritize commercial wildlife and natural resources in the Seashore.

- Water tanks & troughs and supplemental minerals such as salt licks are not appropriate in designated wilderness and should not be necessary once the elk fence is removed.

- NPS should dedicate planning and management resources towards improved ecosystem health in the TPAP, including but not limited to invasive plant management and native species protection, including all species present listed as endangered or otherwise threatened by any relevant federal or state agency.

Please note that California Fish and Wildlife, which has jurisdiction over tule elk across the state of California, has an explicit management goal to reduce the number of confined tule elk herds and reduce the frequency for removing "excess" animals. (California Fish and Wildlife Elk Conservation and Management Plan, December 2018, p 454.

TIRN and SPAWN appreciate the opportunity to comment on the TPAP. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with NPS in restoring and protecting the natural ecosystem at Tomales Point and elsewhere in Point Reyes.

Sincerely, Todd Steiner

Executive Director

Turtle Island Restoration Network

Salmon Protection and Watershed Network

PO Box 370 Forest Knolls, CA. 94933

415-663-9590

**Correspondence ID: 21002**

The Tule Elk need to be protected and saved. National Parks are important places for wildlife not big farms.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21003**

Please allow the animals to live and not die of dehydration. Good grief. Find a creative way to solve the problem. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21004**

Please remove fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. Elks are dying of starvation and lack if water. Please let them roam free. Protect the tule elk herd. Remove the fence

**Correspondence ID: 21006**

Lets save wildwife!

**Correspondence ID: 21007**

Please remove the fence and let the native Tule elk have access to water and food. It is the right thing to do. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21008**

This situation must end now! These animals are starving and without water!

**Correspondence ID: 21009**

remove the fence. cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21010**

set them free to roam

**Correspondence ID: 21011**

I am please urging the NPS to remove the fence. There are cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE remove the fence! Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21012**

I support Alternative B which removes the elk fence.

I urge the park to ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the fence is removed.

In addition, I ask that the park inventory and restore native coastal habitat in planning area.

**Correspondence ID: 21013**

Hello.

I just learned that the NPS is accepting public comments regarding a proposed plan that would finally include the removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. I strongly urge the NPS to approve this crucial plan.

Studies have long-proven that animal grazing destroys the Earth's delicate and vital ecosystems, pollutes the water supply with fecal matter and diseases, spreads invasive species, and wastes huge volumes of water.

Again, I urge the NPS to approve this environmentally friendly and life-enhancing plan.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Michelle Lynn

**Correspondence ID: 21014**

Stop worrying about cattle and take the fence down and help the Elk. The Elk should be the #1 priority. Let them roam and live!

**Correspondence ID: 21015**

remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 21016**

As a mother and grandmother, I believe it is our duty to protect and preserve wildlife as precious natural resources held in trust for all future generations. I also feel a deep responsibility as a

Steward for all of Earth's Divine Creation. That responsibility will always be more important than politics or profit.

So I strongly support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for taking my comment.

**Correspondence ID: 21017**

Pleeeeeeeeeease stop hurting animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21018**

I standby PETA urging the NPS to remove the fence. The cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21019**

Please, please let the native tule elk at Tomales Point roam free. Please take down the confining fence that keeps them from the seashore.

Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 21020**

Native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water for years. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. To date, 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Remove the fence and let the elk roam free! What is the point of knowingly allowing these animals to die unnecessarily when you have the power to save them?

Maxine K Bookbinder

**Correspondence ID: 21021**

I standby PETA urging the NPS to remove the fence. The cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21022**

Please help the elk and all animals! They are a vital part of our ecosystem and need to be protected!

**Correspondence ID: 21023**

You need to remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. It is common sense and dignity to do this for the beautiful animals. Native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone....REMOVE the fence for god's sake.

**Correspondence ID: 21025**

You have got to be kidding me, let these beautiful creatures live a hunger and thirst free life. How bad would it be to just let them roam free. There has got to be a monetary gain explanation to why you have done this fencing to these poor creatures. There is always the almighty dollar involved when animals are deprived of something, captured, tortured, starved, killed, or any life altering done to them. Come on, do the right thing and let them roam free.

**Correspondence ID: 21027**

Hello,

I strongly support Alternative B with the removal fence. A national park should not favor farming interests over wildlife.

**Correspondence ID: 21028**

Cattle are a non-native, invasive species which decimate native ecosystems, contaminate the water supply with fecal bacteria, spread invasive species and disease, waste massive amounts of water and crowd out native species like Tule elk. There are approximately 94 million cows in the US. Tule elk are a unique species, native to California; there are only about 6,000 on Earth, most of them in the Pt. Reyes area. I urge you to remove the fence at Tomales Point as soon as possible. This should be a 'no-brainer'.

**Correspondence ID: 21030**

Please remove the fence limiting the Elk to an area with inadequate water and grazing for their survival. Priority on land should be given to those who naturally live there, and not to cattle grazing which is disproportionately usurping land all over the planet.

It is cruel to knowingly allow these magnificent creatures to die of thirst and starvation in order to provide yet another area for cows to overgraze. You are in a position to protect Federal Lands. Please use your authority to do the right thing for wild life and the land.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Tisha Douthwaite

**Correspondence ID: 21031**

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Please remove the fence.

Thank you, **Correspondence ID: 21032**

Big agriculture depletes the water supply, not tule elk.

Cattle grazing wastes water, contaminates the ecosystem with feces and spreads bacteria.

National Park service do your job and protect our public lands and its animals instead of profits for the cattle industry.

Stop starving tule elk and remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd.

Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 21033**

Remove the fence and let the Elk live.

If there is an invasive species in this area, they are the cows.

Stop catering to the ranchers and protect our wild natural heritage.

**Correspondence ID: 21034**

**STRONGLY SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE B**

I have hiked to Tomales Point several times over the last dozen years. I have seen the elk within their sorry enclosure.

Alternative B is the best approach to right a long-term dilemma. How to reconcile dairy operations, with all their attendant pollution and environmental degradation, with the mandate to protect the native Tule Elk.

When the Park was established in the 1960s, the dairy operators were paid for their ranch holdings etc. In other words they were bought out, and given a 20-year lease into the bargain. This lease was not intended to be renewed. But as the leases were set to terminate, the agricultural interests and their political allies quietly extended the leases. This renewal process has continued to this date; often accompanied with the absurd rubric about preserving "historical dairy operations." No one comes to Point Reyes National Seashore to look at dairy operations. They come, as they do to other National Parks, for the beauty of nature and for spiritual renewal.

When the enclosing fence is gone, care needs to be taken that the elk are not then fenced out of the ranching operations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Jones

**Correspondence ID: 21035**

Please remove the fence, let the elk run free, live the life they deserve & not Starve to death

Also, please remember that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21036**

Let the elks run free and live their natural lives. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21037**

Humanity's appetite for its own interests on this earth is going to continue to grow exponentially and swallow up more of what is left of the pie. It is important to limit this from happening whenever possible to maintain even a shred of balance in the ecosystems that we are stewards of.

At Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore, an area created as a buffer, this balance is failing. Cattle grazing is destroying the ecosystem and contaminating the water supply. Why is this even being evaluated? There should be a bold line in the sand protecting this modest area from commercial interests, destructive interests unless the results are that no wilderness or wildlife are harmed. This is clearly not the case with so many elk dying from encroachment. Please protect God's perfect creation from destruction! Thank you



**Correspondence ID: 21038**

I support local farms and ranches. Please reconsider.

**Correspondence ID: 21040**

We support Alternate C which allows the Park to maintain the Elk Fence and actively manage its population. Secondly, we want to ensure that NPS considers the effects of alternatives on areas outside of the Tomales Point planning area, specifically the areas covered in the General Management Plan and 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan. Lastly, we support the creation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this rulemaking after the EA is completed.

Over the last few decades, the farms and ranches in the Park's pastoral zone have built a vibrant, healthy local farming and food system. These practices are established on organic and sustainable farming which have worked in harmony with nature, proving to be a solution to climate change.

If the Elk Fence is removed, sustainable farming operations will be unable to survive due to competition for available feed; and the organic farms will be unable to meet USDA organic pasture standards. Eliminating the Park's farming community would damage Marin County's agricultural economy and regional food supply, 20% of which is within the Park. This would also be a devastating loss to the entire community, including schools and local businesses.

**Correspondence ID: 21041**

I am writing to urge you to take down the fence at Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore that confines native Tule Elk. They do not have access to enough food and have been starving. 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. Elk are a vital part of this ecosystem. Cattle are not. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21042**

Give the Tule Elk access to adequate food and water! There is plenty of private land for cattle to graze on! Why are you starving the native inhabitants of their rights to food and water? \$\$\$\$ "What profiteth a man to gain the world if he loseth his soul?"

**Correspondence ID: 21043**

I urge you to remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.. The Elk deserve to have access to water and grassland, PLEASE help them! Thank you!

~Deborah

**Correspondence ID: 21044**

As a resident and lover of the area I strongly support Alternative B and the removal of the elk fence.

**Correspondence ID: 21045**

The fence should be brought down because it is causing the elk to die from starvation. They are the native specie and are entitled to the land for grazing! Stop killing these innocent and sentient animals. The greed of the farming industry should not be more important than the Tule Elk!!! I am for completely and immediately removing the fence!!

**Correspondence ID: 21046**

I'm hereby urging the NPS to remove the fence. Need I remind the agency that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21047**

Please free the elk and remove the fence! 152 died in 2020 because of it! I'm scared to see the number of deaths for 2021-2023. Further, cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21048**

just act in a humane way, help them live!

**Correspondence ID: 21049**

I resent that Point Reyes National Seashore is one of only a few national park units that has allowed historic ranches and dairies to continue to work within its bounds and, along with them, more than 5,000 cows trample the soil and smother the pastures with their manure. It's well known that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. This grazing has eliminated diverse native coastal prairies from 90 percent of the park.

It's terribly cruel and inhumane to corral off the Tule Elk, inflicting starvation on much of the population. I'm in favor of eliminating ranching and/or dairy operations over time and allowing elk populations to flourish throughout the park. I agree with Julie Phillips, tule elk biologist and co-founder of Nature Based Teaching who states that that alone "would be instrumental in re-establishing the native ecology, the native grasses, and the native shrubs."

152 Tule Elk died on the peninsula in 2020 alone. Besides starvation, the fence also cuts the elk off from having a steady water supply.

The public is overwhelmingly in favor of the plans that protect the elk. A study conducted in spring of 2020 by the Resource Renewal Institute showed that more than 90 percent of the 7,627 comments collected during the planning process oppose continued ranching on the seashore.

Actions benefiting the Tule Elk population also benefit the seashore. Allowing them to roam free will not only stop the cruel starvation, but also have a significant impact on restoring the ecosystem caused by grazing on OUR PUBLIC LANDS. Such grazing benefits a few ranchers while robbing the public of a treasure.

Please remove the fence and allow the Tule Elk to roam free. Besides allowing them to live and flourish, instead of starving, this would benefit EVERYONE but the ranchers, who have gained way more than enough by feeding at the trough of government welfare, financed by taxpayers, the majority of whom oppose such subsidization of the cattle industry.

**Correspondence ID: 21050**

Dear NPS - I request that you select Plan B to remove fencing and allow native tule elk access to water and forage for the Tomales Point Area Plan at Point Reyes National Seashore. I believe that wildlife should be the priority for our national park.

**Correspondence ID: 21051**

Please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Do the right thing!

**Correspondence ID: 21052**

Save the elk

**Correspondence ID: 21053**

We must stop destroying our world and fellow creatures.

**Correspondence ID: 21054**

I urging the NPS to remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21055**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Please remove the fencing and do not kill or cull any elk. This is the most humane option.

Sincerely, Trish King

**Correspondence ID: 21056**

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please consider removing the 3-mile-long fence at the Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore. This fence is to blame for the deaths of 152 elk who have died of apparent starvation and lack of water.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely, Matthew Cloner

**Correspondence ID: 21057**

Harming wildlife populations to control land for agriculture is so wrong. We need to leave them some land to live on wild and free! America is going to have no wild lands left and no wildlife left if you keep "managing" them like this!

**Correspondence ID: 21058**

Cattle grazing decimates the ecosystem, contaminates water supply, spreads disease and invasive species.

Please remove the fence. Why are cattle always given priority?

**Correspondence ID: 21059**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you for your compassion for these majestic creatures.

**Correspondence ID: 21060**

Restore the elks' natural habitat. It belongs to them--not cattle. This total disregard for the Tule Elk is a cruel and disgusting policy. When you deny food and water to domestic animals you could be prosecuted. Please remove fence ASAP.

**Correspondence ID: 21061**

PLEASE REMOVE THE FENCE AND ALLOW THE ELK TO ROAM FREE AS GOD INTENDED.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL,

CARLA

**Correspondence ID: 21062**

These elk are God's creatures and do NOT deserve to be starved to death. This is cruel and must be stopped. What a HORRIBLE way to die for these animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21063**

The following are my comments for the Tomales Point Area Plan. I believe that the best option is Alternative B. The integrity of Wilderness must be maintained. Alternatives A and C would degrade Wilderness and endanger threatened Tule elk. Furthermore, the following changes to Alternative B should be considered:

1. Water structures that have been unlawfully built should be removed by non-motorized means.
2. Cattle grazing should be eliminated. Per the original agreement, cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the surrounding Wilderness.
3. Ban the use of herbicides in the Wilderness. By removing cattle and fencing, the Tule elk will be better distributed and this will help to down regulate the growth of invasive plants.
4. Consider the use of natural fires to help structure the Wilderness landscape. Manager-ignited fire can be prone to cause non-native and invasive species to spread.

**Correspondence ID: 21064**

What I would like to see done is removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

**Correspondence ID: 21065**

I believe that park services needs to remember what the Public Lands are for. SHAME ON YOU FOR NOT ALLOWING PROTECTED ANIMALS TO USE HABITAT THAT IS FOR THEM. HOW CAN YOU STARVE PROTECTED ANIMALS OVER PRIVATE INTERESTS???

**Correspondence ID: 21066**

cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Please let the Elks roam free !

**Correspondence ID: 21068**

Stop the hideous cruelty to these elk, who are majestic benign creatures that belong to live in Point Reyes. Put integrity, intelligence & compassion over greed & idiocy. Take down the fences, stop encroaching, put a check on the cancer of greed which grows & grows & is never satisfied.

**Correspondence ID: 21069**

Please remove the fences so the elk at least have a fighting chance at living. This is cruel, which I am sure could not possibly be what the fence was meant to do. The elk are dying at an alarming rate, due mostly to not being able to forage and get the food and water that they need. Please do what is right.

**Correspondence ID: 21070**

Please devise a plan that would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21073**

I understand that for years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. This is reportedly caused by the animals being confined to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. This problem has become so severe that an alarming 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020.

I further understand that the NPS is finally considering removing the fence. I wish to make it known that I wholeheartedly support the removal of the fence from the advantages of opening ranges to wild animals has shown.

I further would like to remind the NPS that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Sincerely, John Lamont

**Correspondence ID: 21074**

Due to the increasing elk dying of starvation, I'm writing to urge you to remove the fence. They deserve the opportunity to live and roam free from human interaction preventing them from the resources they need to survive.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will protect them from further decline.

**Correspondence ID: 21075**

Native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore are dying as a result of starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3 mile long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS). The intent is to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. Please consider removing this fence asap. The elk need to roam free and live the lives they deserve. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems,

contaminates the water supply, and wastes massive amounts of water. Protect tule elk not BIG AG.

Thank you,

Mary M. Fekete

**Correspondence ID: 21076**

Remove the fence! Allow the elk to roam as they should! Do we really need more cows! Don't we have enough problems with pollution from fecal runoff, destroyed ecosystems, and spread of invasive species. This is really a no brainer. Do the right thing and let nature be NATURE! A fence is not NATURE. And starving these elk is just plain WRONG!

**Correspondence ID: 21077**

I support Alternative B which removes the elk fence.

I urge the park to ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the fence is removed.

The park should restore native coastal habitat in the planning area.

Please, no more excuses for giving away public lands to private interest!!

**Correspondence ID: 21078**

Humans, meat pushers and bloodsport, do not have any right to usurp and or abuse animals. These Elk are part of our Natural Heritage, they have the right to be here and live unharmed - not up for grabs.

**Correspondence ID: 21079**

How we care for the those without voices says so much about us.

If animals are suffering, do something different to help them.

Sincerely, Crystal Schall

**Correspondence ID: 21080**

Ethics are important, let the elk roam free!

**Correspondence ID: 21071**

Dear Craig Kenkel,

Please take the fence down at the Tule Elk Preserve and select alternative B.

Sincerely, Jesse Gibbs

**Correspondence ID: 21082**

I urge you to honor the original intentions for the Point Reyes National Seashore, supporting alternative B, which would remove the fencing that restricts elk from accessing habitat that they so desperately need for their health and well-being. Once this fence has been removed, cattle grazing should be restricted from this fragile ecosystem, so that it can heal and once again function as a haven for wildlife. I would also encourage the National Park Service to commit to restoring the seashore to a healthier state to the best of its ability.

Thank you, Clay Bolt

**Correspondence ID: 21084**

Remove the fence please, help he situation not exacerbate it ...

**Correspondence ID: 21085**

I strongly advise the NPS to remove the Tule Elk herd fence ASAP. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Support the starving NATIVE Tule Elk, not big Ag's polluting non-native introductions. By removing the fencing, you will have better land/soil/water which can benefit not just the Elk but also other native species. Removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point Tule elk herd is a crucial opportunity to help the starving elk roam free and once again live the lives they deserve.

**Correspondence ID: 21086**

It is disgraceful to murder these creatures as they are sentient beings just like ourselves. They deserve the respect they need badly for being a part of our natural world. We and they are sons and daughters of nature and thus must be protected. This world does not belong to man alone but is shared by millions of other creatures who have the right to live freely on this planet and are respected for their contribution to this world we all live in. Therefore, please have respect for them!

**Correspondence ID: 21088**

Alternative B in the Tomales Point Area Plan document is wise and by far by the best alternative for managing elk at the Point Reyes National Seashore. The current fence renders the elk confined by it into domestic animals, and the elk residing there now exhibit domesticated behavior -- they are far less wary than their unfenced relatives at Limantour and Drake's Beach. They are domesticated but not actually cared for as domestic animals, evidenced by the starvation-caused mortality in recent years occasioned by drought. Elk that were free to roam over the same time period did not experience this suffering and were able to find adequate forage.

The NPS is in a hard spot between managing for cultural and ecological resources, especially according to outdated protocols that do not incorporate Anthropocene conditions. Prolonged deep droughts, more fire, more invasive species -- all these will continue to accelerate as our climate changes. Elk have shown themselves to be highly resilient when left to their own devices (and not hunted to near extinction). Their ancestors roamed California for 12,000 years, integrating natural processes between soil, vegetation, and water, and supporting healthier biodiversity. Elk have the potential to help human systems do better under rapidly changing environmental conditions.

Ranchers and farmers who want to restrict elk are living in a dreamworld of yesterday, in which we operated without our current peer-reviewed science showing clearly that nature does not operate within boundaries, and artificially setting them reduces biodiversity and overall resilience of the landscape. It isn't rocket science to learn to live with elk. Many other communities do it. We can do it at Tomales Point. THANK YOU!

**Correspondence ID: 21089**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land.

We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve. Do the right thing and show these animals mercy.

Remove the fence. Now.

**Correspondence ID: 21091**

Hello,

I want to add my voice for the Elk at Tomales point. Please take down the fence. How many died last year?

Allow them to live as nature intended.

Lets try to get a healthy eco system, don't put in cattle or other 'feed' animals.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Eve Danner Lentz

**Correspondence ID: 21092**

Please do what you can to save these animals. They enjoy living outdoors the same as humans. We are all animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21093**

I strongly feel that the elk should have preference over the state of the seashore. You just cannot let these beautiful, innocent animals continue to die like this. It's just not right, and you know it. PLEASE take down that fence asap before we lose a lot more of them. I can't believe that you let this go on this long. It's a disgrace. As soon as you saw the elk dying of hunger, the fence should have come down. It's ridiculous. That is no place for a fence. Wild animals have right, too. Thank you for reading this, and I hope you will take down the fence right away.

**Correspondence ID: 21094**

I support Alternative B which removes the elk fence. I urge the park to ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the fence is removed, and ask the park to inventory and restore native coastal habitat in planning area. Finally, this plan requires that ranches on the national seashore comply with updated environmental impact regulations so oversight and enforcement are critical.

**Correspondence ID: 21095**

Please remove the fence containing the Tomales Point elk herd and let them roam free.

Grazing restricted cattle decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21096**

As a frequent visitor to Pt. Reyes National Seashore, I am disgusted by the ecological damage and waste flows caused by the dairies but even more appalled by the number of elk that die each year from lack of access to water and grazing areas. Dairy operations should never have been allowed in this uniquely sensitive coastal habitat, and it is now imperative to prioritize the survival of elk, which aid rather than undermine ecosystem functions.



I ask that you remove all the elk exclusionary fencing and allow coyotes to help keep the elk population within sustainable limits. The era of dairy and other cattle operations dominating federal lands must end, especially in an area as unique as Tomales Point. NPS must serve the public trust rather than remaining beholden to powerful economic interests.

**Correspondence ID: 21097**

PLEASE REMOVE THE FENCE GOD PUT THEM ON THIS EARTH TO ROAM FREE

**Correspondence ID: 21098**

To Whom It May Concern:

For once and for all, to the right thing and finish this up. Remove the fence! Help the Tule Elk.

I am disgusted that our taxpayer dollars go to so called conservation measures that kill our native wildlife and allow the cattle industry to make profits while destroying the environment that is designated for wildlife. Cattleman's association and other cattle industry or other special interests should not be allowed to decide the fate and use of these areas.

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

And finally, please allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape, rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope you respond accordingly.

Holly Nottingham

**Correspondence ID: 21099**

please help all animals, dont destroy.

**Correspondence ID: 21100**

Please let the Elk out of this fenced area!! It is cruel and unnecessary!!!

**Correspondence ID: 21101**

;I know that the folks that are interested in protecting their grazing or farmland are to be included in these decisions, but the fencing of that habitat apparently was not properly investigated as to the effect on the vulnerable Tule Elk group. Please take steps to mediate and solve this situation in a practical and harmonious effort. Patricia

**Correspondence ID: 21103**

These elk deserve to live free where water and food are abundant. It is especially cruel to starve an animal to death!! Please take down the fence and allow the elk to flourish. They are an important part of our ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 21105**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. This is happening because big ag is cattle grazing the area. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

National Seashore belongs to us, the native animals and not to big ag and cattle. Please remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 21106**

I support the NPS taking down the tule elk fence at Tomales Point so they can have better access to forage and natural water sources. Even better would be to also remove the cows that are destructive to waterways and overgraze ecologically significant species, but making things easier for the elk is a start. It would be wonderful for Point Reyes National Seashore to be a model of what a wild place could look like close to a major urban area. Who wants to go to a "wild" place and see a bunch of cows and fences?

**Correspondence ID: 21107**

Disgusting and cruel that it has taken this long to decide the fence must come down. Rip that thing down today!

Knowing all these elk were starving to death and doing nothing is grossly negligent. Any park service that ignores the needs of the park's wildlife requires new people in charge.

Tear down this fence immediately.

**Correspondence ID: 21110**

I love elk.

**Correspondence ID: 21113**

Fences are meant for residential properties, not for parks.

**Correspondence ID: 21122**

Hi, I am sadden to learn over 152 Elks have died of starvation simply because of a fence.

Please remove the fence and allow the Elks to roam freely in their own land and stop limiting their territory which only leads to limited food supply and poor life conditions for these Elks.

Thank you for this consideration! Tracy Neidens

**Correspondence ID: 21125**

Point Reyes Tomales Bay Area should prioritize wildlife and become an national park.

**Correspondence ID: 21128**

For too long native Tulk Elk have been pushed aside and too many left to die, fenced in to prioritize ranchers and Big Ag.

I am leaving a comment here to ask you to remove a fence that should never have been put up in the first place.

Prioritize and protect Life, not profits...not greed...not unnecessary diets.

Humans must learn to coexist on this planet...we are not the only ones here and our lives are not more important than anyone else's.

So please remove this deadly, cruel fence and prioritize All Life.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21129**

Remove the fence! Tule elk are starving! Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21135**

I have been deeply saddened by the pain and suffering caused to the Tule Elk herd at Point Reyes I am now so hopeful that the National Park service will do the right thing- protect the land and animals in a National Park. I support Alternative plan B- to remove the elk fence. Cattle are contaminating the water supply and land- and should not be allowed in the area when the fence is removed. The area needs to be restored to its native habitat. This is what citizens of the United States expect from our National Park Service. That the land set aside - especially as a National Park- be treated with respect and preserve it for future generations. The tule elk and Point Reyes National Seashore deserve this.

**Correspondence ID: 21137**

Meat production is disease causing, polluting and a shameful waste of natural resources!!!

DO NOT SUBSIDIZE THIS DESPICABLE INDUSTRY!!!

SAVE WILDLIFE INSTEAD!!

DO WHAT IS RIGHT.

**Correspondence ID: 21138**

I support the Tule elk! Please remove the fencing and permit them to graze more widely and access water, so this rare and precious and threatened species can survive! Cattle are not endangered. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21139**

Please, please for the love of God. Surely there is a way to do this that will allow food and water for both livestock and the Tule Elk. These problems can be solved in so great a country as ours. Please be part of the solution not the problem.

**Correspondence ID: 21140**

I support the Park's preferred alternative

**Correspondence ID: 21141**

I am in favour of removing the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. It is unacceptable to confine wildlife in this manner.

**Correspondence ID: 21142**

Get rid of the fence. No cattle grazing. Let the Elk live and thrive

**Correspondence ID: 21143**

Dear Tomales Point Area Plan,

RE: I SUPPORT removal of the fence

I wholeheartedly SUPPORT the removal of the controversial fence at the Tomales Point Elk Preserve at the Point Reyes National Seashore! We have lived in Mill Valley for over 25 years and love to visit our nearby National Park.

Removing the fence is the only alternative (of the three suggested) that I support.

I do not support continued ranching in the Park, and some of the ranches are responsible for grossly polluting the area.

Please remove the fence and allow the largest tule elk herd to become free-roaming.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bonnie L. Flemming, MD

**Correspondence ID: 21144**

Please take down the fence and let these beautiful elk roam free and have the food and water they need to survive. They are at your mercy, please help them, they deserve a happy healthy life. They are beautiful.

**Correspondence ID: 21145**

Please remove fence and help starving elks. Thank t

You

**Correspondence ID: 21146**

You need to get the Tule elk some grazing land and water.

Remove the fence immediately. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. REMOVE THE FENCE!!!

**Correspondence ID: 21147**

leave them alone--nature put them there for a reason--man should leave them alone

**Correspondence ID: 21148**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I support the alternative that removes the elk fence. Point Reyes National Seashore should be a haven for native California wildlife and its restoration, including all natural predators, should be a priority. I have been visiting Point Reyes National Seashore for many decades and plan to see it again within a month. I've never enjoyed the presence of livestock there.

A wildlife-friendly fence should be constructed to keep the cattle out of Tomales Point once the tall elk fence is removed. Better yet, give the tule elk unrestricted access from Tomales Point to Drake's Bay by removing the livestock entirely. Until then, providing a wildlife connectivity corridor through the ranches is a must.

**Correspondence ID: 21159**

I vote for Alternative B, which would remove the fence and free the elk. Point Reyes National Park is the only park in the U.S. that allows private ranching. Fencing native wildlife in support of dairy cattle makes no sense in a national park and that was never the intended plan. It is way past time for the ranchers to leave, but more importantly, even if they refuse to leave, it is way past time for the elk to be free. The park is not a zoo. Zoo animals are provided for, but the elk have not been - not before a lot of public pressure demanded it. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife does not support captive herds. Please refer to their Management Plan of 2018. I very much support removing the fence, freeing the elk, and giving them any extra support they need while they transition from captive to free.

Thank you very much.

**Correspondence ID: 21150**

Dear Tomales Point Area Plan Committee,

RE: Please REMOVE the fence

I don't want the fence to continue to contain the largest tule elk herd in our Park. They deserve to be free. This is their home! The fence is responsible for killing many of them because they can't reach water sources.

I also hope the ranches can be removed from our National Park as soon as possible! Money-making enterprises don't belong in our Park, and evidence shows that the ranches are polluting and damaging the ecology of our area, all for private profit.

Thank you, Thomas C. Silver, EMT, MFA,

**Correspondence ID: 21151**

Please ensure a food and a water supply that is easily accessible to the Tule elk.

**Correspondence ID: 21152**

I believe the Park's preferred alternative of taking down the elk fence and fencing in the cattle is the best solution. I would hope that if we have another severe drought that this solution would either allow elk access to natural water sources or the Park would provide water for them.

Thank you for your work on this. Having worked and lived in West Marin, I know this has been a long and contentious issue.

Shannon Griffin

**Correspondence ID: 21155**

PLEASE REMOVE THIS FENCE ASAP! cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21156**

Please remove the fence so the elk have water and don't starve.

**Correspondence ID: 21157**

Stop Hurting these magnificent creatures!!!

**Correspondence ID: 21158**

I am respectfully requesting that you remove the fencing preventing the elk from grazing and expanding their resources for food and water. They have been trapped for years, and it's time to consider their needs. Cattle grazing depletes resources and contaminates the environment with fecal matter. Please do the humane thing and help restore these elk to the ecosystem. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21159**

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in regards to the Tomales Point Area Plan.

I believe it is vitally important the the elk be given safe access to clean drinking water. To allow only cows access to clean drinking water and putting the elk at risk for possible extinction is reckless and irresponsible.

Please right this wrong and allow the elk access to clean drinking water.

Thank you!

Sincerely, Judy Marsh

**Correspondence ID: 21160**

Please remove fences to protect tule elk and other wildlife animals mobility and natural habitat. Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 21161**

preseve the habitat of elk

**Correspondence ID: 21163**

Consistent with the National Park Service's mission "to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations," I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

**Correspondence ID: 21164**

Protect Point Reyes for native wildlife, not commercial cattle operations

**Correspondence ID: 21165**

REMOVE THE ELK FENCE - YOU ARE MURDERING THE ANIMALS!

**Correspondence ID: 21166**

PLEASE STOP ALL TRAPPING AND KILLING OF TULE ELK AT ONCE! THEY DESERVE TO LIVE ON THIS PLANET AS MUCH AS YOUR SOON-TO-BE-SLAUGHTERED CATTLE (THAT'S NOT RIGHT EITHER) STOP KILLING THE BEAUTIFUL ELK!

Thanks, ( I think?)

Linda B. animal activist/vegan/PETA mbr

**Correspondence ID: 21167**

Please remove the long fence that is trapping the tule elk in the Tomales Point area. I grew up in Marin County and am appalled at the callous disregard for these majestic animals. Please understand that the ecosystem is harmed by fencing in (and out) certain indigenous species to protect grazing and other interests. This is not a good use of the land, and it is costing the tule elk their very lives.

Please remove the fence and allow the land to be used as nature intends.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21170**

Californians like myself are appalled and disgusted that the elk are intentionally being starved to death. This must stop immediately. I could not believe this was actually happening. No one has the right to do this and if the fence is not torn down immediately, anger and outrage will follow. I will be happy to send my hard earned dollars to any group that is willing to file animal cruelty charges on anyone involved with this outrageous , uncivilized and barbaric action. I say to you the world is watching. Take down the fence now.

**Correspondence ID: 21171**

Alternative B! Remove the Elk Fence! Protect the Elk in the Wilderness and on Our National Seashore!

**Correspondence ID: 21172**

Hello and thank you for taking the time to read my email.

I am a 31 year high school biology teacher in Forest Lake, MN. I am a professional nature photographer and a committed environmental advocate. While my request does not pertain specifically to the state of Minnesota, it does pertain to the ethos of my fellow Minnesotans.

Point Reyes National Sea Shore is a treasure for coastal California and a tiny jewel in our National Park system. It is a tiny stretch of relatively unspoiled Pacific Coastline with a rich diversity of plants and animals that deserve to be protected. It is one of the few remaining places in our country where Tule Elk can be observed, and quite possibly the only place where it can be seen juxtaposed with the Pacific Ocean.

At this time, cattle ranchers have had a disproportionate say on how this Pacific Coastal Area is partitioned, as they are grazing their cattle in what is public national park land. The ranching lobby has forced the elk into an increasingly smaller region of the park and is threatening the viability of the Pt. Reyes Sea Shore herd. As such, I am requesting that you support Alternative B in the Tomales Point Area Plan which requires that the "Elk Fence" be removed. Furthermore, I suggest that you support the rule that requires ranchers to control the movement of cattle and keep them out of the wilderness area... the area where the public and wildlife should have

access to roam and enjoy without the ever present cows and bulls. Finally, I am requesting that the park and park services do an inventory of the natural habitat and develop a plan to restore the native coastal area.

Point Reyes National Sea Shore became a part of the US National Park System in 1963. While the NPS is charged with maintaining the integrity of these tiny treasures throughout our country, it seems as if agricultural interests have had a disproportionately large impact on Pt. Reyes. This is an opportunity to restore and protect a place that JFK added to our country's treasured public land.

Thank you for considering my request.

Bruce Leventhal

**Correspondence ID: 21173**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21176**

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Please remove the fence for the Tule Elk

**Correspondence ID: 21177**

The Elk deserve preferential treatment as to forage and fresh water. The land is owned by the people and should be utilized for the good of the people. I prefer to gaze upon Elk. Not cattle.

Any cattle ranching should be given less resources.

**Correspondence ID: 21178**

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Please remove the fence for the Tule Elk

**Correspondence ID: 21179**

Remove the fence. Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore

We should not override Nature. Humans make a mess and then we punish wildlife, etc., for our over building and greed. Let the elks roam and graze.

**Correspondence ID: 21180**

I am writing to ask that you protect the ecology and wildlife of the National Seashore of the United States of America by letting the Tule Elk roam free.

Please execute Alternative B - Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

At present, the Tule Elk are being held behind a fence at Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore. Confined behind the fence, there have been massive die-offs, especially during drought years, because they are cut off from adequate water sources. The ecological health of the Seashore is tied to the re-wilding of this majestic species.



It is necessary to remove the 8-foot fence that dooms native tule elk to slow and painful deaths during recurring drought periods. It unacceptable to confine native elk dying of thirst and malnutrition in a National Park.

Fences are inappropriate in wilderness, and cattle should not be prioritized over native wild animals.

Once the elk fence is removed, the elk should be given the freedom to roam freely. No culling, hazing, or harassment of the elk should be allowed to take place for any reason.

Tule Elk are endemic to California, and they once had a broad range across the state and a population around a half-million animals. Hunting, habitat destruction and other gold-rush-fueled pressures brought the species to the brink of extinction near the end of the 19th century.

Cattle operations are no longer appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ended. The true charter of the Seashore is “the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment within the area” (as stated in the stated in the Point Reyes Enabling Legislation) and to “provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations” (as stated in the in the Organic Act of 1916).

Natural areas and native animals, fungi and plants have an intrinsic value and should be protected and allowed to live as they have for millions of years. Humans are just one of millions of species but human activities, especially animal farming, take up more than 70% of the land in the United States of America and around the world whereas all the other species are left with the remainder, which is getting smaller over the years because humans keep taking more and more land. It is necessary to allow those areas that are still in their natural state to remain that way. Natural areas and native species are an important part of Native American heritage. Humans have killed more than 50% of all wild animals in the past 50 years.

I lived in Australia from 1970 to 1992. Since I did not wish to be part of a country in which the large-scale destruction of natural habitats, logging of forests and extermination of native animals continue to take place and which is the result of genocide against indigenous peoples, I returned to my country of origin, Croatia, and encourage others to do the same. Croatia is a relatively good European example of humans coexisting with native animals such as deer, bears and wolves and over 47% of the country is covered with natural and nature-identical forests. To further reduce my impact on animals and the environment, I am vegan and live in high-density housing that is planned around public transport.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration and protecting the Tule Elk by allowing them to roam free.

**Correspondence ID: 21181**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Please remove the fence. Remind the agency that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21182**

Finally the park Service is on the brink of doing the right thing by native animals under your care. Keeping animals, any animals, confined for the benefit of humans is inhumane, cruel and shortsighted. I'm sure as individuals you would all love to see these majestic animals roam the landscape free with access to all the resources the habitat has to offer. You will feel so good once this is done and you'll all sleep better at night.

**Correspondence ID: 21183**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21184**

Please, protect all animals that live on this national park and all animals that in other national parks. Animals are the only ones protecting the planet. Without wildlife, the planet most definitely suffer more. Please protect all animals, they are part of the answer to protecting our only home.

**Correspondence ID: 21186**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of starvation and lack of water. These beautiful animals are confined to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS), with the intent to prevent elk from grazing on nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

PLEASE TAKE DOWN THAT FENCE IMMEDIATELY There is no good reason to leave the fence up and MANY good reasons to take it down right away.

**Correspondence ID: 21187**

Please, please restore Point Reyes to what John F. Kennedy intended it to be. It is shameful that anyone would allow this beautiful wilderness with its precise wildlife to be ruined just to allow more cattle etc. This was never supposed to happen.

I support alternative B to remove elf fences. The cattle must stay out of the wilderness area. And you need to restore the native coastal habitat.

**Correspondence ID: 21188**

Hello and to whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today in order to plead with you to have the fence removed from the Tomales Point peninsula. So far 152 elk have died on Tomales Point in 2020. Please don't let Big Agriculture kill off our wildlife! Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Thank you!

David McPhaill

**Correspondence ID: 21189**

cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. PLEASE TAKE DOWN THIS FENCE SO NO MORE INNOCENT ANIMALS HAVE TO DIE FOR NOTHING!

**Correspondence ID: 21192**

Native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. Please remove the fence and help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21193**

Protect and provide food and water to Tule elk.

**Correspondence ID: 21194**

I would rather there not be elk in the park at all, but given that:

- Please execute ALTERNATIVE C, MAINTAIN ELK FENCE AND MONITOR Elk Herd.
- Thank you, National Park Service, for listening to the overwhelming voice of the public to Maintain the elk fence along the current borders. Fences are appropriate in leased areas to keep elk separate from the cattle on your leased properties.
- Cattle & Dairy Ranch operations are historic to PRNS and require the NPS to provide collaborative management and guidance through trained staff and consultants to be prime examples of this sustainable, organic food-shed for Marin County.

**Correspondence ID: 21195**

Please free the elk so they can graze, it is inhumane to denying them that freedom.

Thank you in advance

**Correspondence ID: 21196**

It seems to me that the people running the PRNSS don't want the historic dairy farms in the park to be able to go on farming. I sincerely hope that I am wrong. They certainly can't survive if the Elk fence is removed. Plan C which keeps the fence and manages the elk herds numbers with birth control or culling by hunting and creates a plan to take proper care of the elk is best for the elk and the dairy farmers. Crucial are the 20 year leases so that farmers can have security and make improvements.

I have been farming organically in Lagunitas for more than 30 years and I know how little profit margin there is and all the things working against farmers. Marin county imports around 80% of its food which has to be trucked here from thousands of miles away. Why in the world would anyone want to run Marin county farms out of business? Rotational grazing improves the grasslands and sequesters carbon. Local farms can help with food security and climate change. I have a hard time understanding why conservationists and environmentalists have a negative attitude against farming. This is not big ag!

In 1944, the year that I was born, there were 2,200 small farms in Marin county producing food for the whole bay area and beyond. Eight-hundred acres of artichokes were being grown in

Olema, yet the park won't let the dairies diversify to grow them in the perfect climate to do that? This is one example of the shortsightedness that hamstringing farmers.

I just learned that three organic dairies supply Straus Dairy with milk. Are we going to be deprived of all the delicious and nutritious Straus products because the dairies can't afford to go on farming?

Please do what's right for the farmers, the soil, plants and animals of the Park and the people of Marin county and beyond in the spirit of the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act.

Diane Matthew

**Correspondence ID: 21199**

Please remove the fence that is preventing tule elk from obtaining food and water.

**Correspondence ID: 21200**

Save the Elk. Allow them to thrive. Remove the fencing and do not allow cattle grazing.

**Correspondence ID: 21201**

Please allow the Elk to live- remove the fence

**Correspondence ID: 21202**

I support the removal of the fence that currently holds elk that blocks movement of the elk on the national seashore. In addition, no cattle grazing should be allowed in that area. Moreover the NPS should remove cattle from the entire national seashore.

**Correspondence ID: 21203**

I support Alternative B which removes the elk fence

I urge the park to ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the fence is removed

Inventory and restore native coastal habitat in planning area

**Correspondence ID: 21204**

Please remove the fence that is confining the elk and other animals.

Thank You

Barb Melzer

**Correspondence ID: 21205**

I support removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. We support the wild elk, not the cattle ranchers.

**Correspondence ID: 21206**

Stop being a tool for big AG, which includes big Ranching.

Why is it that a federal agency can become a whipping boy for corporations which scoop up subsidies like they were potato chips, only to abuse those gifts?

Clean up your act.

**Correspondence ID: 21207**

This is a perfect example of 'unintended consequences'....good intentions gone awry. Please remove the fence at Tomales Point so that the elk who lie in that area can survive.

**Correspondence ID: 21208**

It's hard to understand why you are killing the iconic Tule elk that have been at Point Reyes for decades in favor of polluting and environment-destroying cattle! Sounds like some shady deals going on behind the scenes to most of us. Do the right thing and remove that stupid fence or we will have to remove you from your jobs, which you are not doing!

Sincerely, Carol Hiestand and Family

**Correspondence ID: 21210**

Please remove the fence confining the native tule elk. The elk deserve the same right to freedom and happiness that anyone should have. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21212**

PLEASE remove the fence that is confining the Tomales Point elk herd.

The elk need to be able to roam free to graze and live the lives they deserve.

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

PLEASE remove the fence that is confining the Tomales Point elk herd.

The elk need to be able to roam free to graze and live the lives they deserve.

**Correspondence ID: 21213**

Please remove the fence preventing the Tomales Point elk from adequate grazing. Many have died due to starvation. Grazing cattle are a much bigger hazard to the ecosystem and water quality.

**Correspondence ID: 21214**

Please remove the fence and allow Tule elk to naturally roam in the Wilderness and across Tomales Point as they previously did for centuries. We must protect habitat for threatened indigenous species. Here are actions necessary to protect Tule elk:

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B need to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants which do not support the needs of native species, including Tule elk.

Thank you for doing the right thing to help our sorely declining native biodiversity and threatened species.

**Correspondence ID: 21215**

let's be kind humans let's do the right thing for these majestic animals who deserve to have a meaningful fruitful life on earth . We can make it happen like super hero's that's that we are suppose to do all carry each other all life matters . Please take down the fence give them life .

**Correspondence ID: 21216**

Let the elk eat. Starve urself instead.

**Correspondence ID: 21218**

Remove the fence so the tule elk can move and graze naturally.

**Correspondence ID: 21221**

Thank you for listening to public comment on the elk fence. I urge the National Park Service to select Alternative B and remove the fence presently confining native tule elk on Point Reyes National Seashore. In addition, they should not be killed or harassed.

I am concerned that the NPS is prioritizing the interests of cattle ranchers over those of tule elk and other native wild species. Please recall that national parks and other protected areas were created to preserve wildlife and wild places. For that reason, the National Park Service should allow tule elk to roam free and unmolested in the Point Reyes National Seashore.

Furthermore, the very existence of cattle ranch operations in a national seashore is contrary to federal law and the charter that created the Point Reyes National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation prioritizes "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within the National Seashore. In addition, grazing cattle, unlike native elk, compromise the integrity of the Point Reyes ecosystem, a clear violation of the Organic Act, which state that national park lands should "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Please prioritize native wildlife and ecosystems and abide by federal law: allow tule elk to roam free in their habitat. Thank you for your time.

**Correspondence ID: 21222**

For years, these animals have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These

beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

This fence needs to be removed immediately. This cruelty needs to be stopped today.

Please remember that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21226**

Please remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. The cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Approximately 152 elk died in 2020 alone. Removing the fence would allow the elk to roam free and live the lives they deserve.

**Correspondence ID: 21227**

Hello,

I am a musician, step-mom, and conservationist who is very concerned about the future of our climate, our wildlife, and our humanity. I urge you to choose Alternative B and restore free-range for elk habitat.

True wilderness is essential to protect myriad species from extinction and to conserve the few healthy ecosystems we have left. Native elk need to be protected from thirst and malnutrition. They need protection from killing, harassment and torture. Cattle need to be left out of the wilderness areas. Point Reyes National Seashore's ecosystem should be protected and fully restored to optimal health.

Please choose Alternative B and protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife!

Thank you for reading my letter.

Emma Shook

**Correspondence ID: 21229**

Is it dangerous for them to be allowed to roam to graze?? Is there enough water? This year has been so very bad for a lot of animals everywhere. No grass, no shelter, even the water was warm to drink. Now imagine being without. How would you feel if it was you without or your family without. Please do the humane thing and help them. In God's name please.

**Correspondence ID: 21231**

I visited Point Reyes a couple of times in the past years and was shocked to see that the Tule Elk is restricted to a certain fenced in area.

Please remove the 8-foot Tule Elk Fence at Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore.

The Tule elk have suffered greatly for decades trapped behind this fence. Hundreds have died due to lack of water and proper forage as reported by the National Park Service.

Further protections for the elk should be administered including the removal of all cattle in Point Reyes National Seashore. The cattle doesn't belong to this national treasure! Tule elk can contract diseases from manure from these domestic animals. It is the National Park Service's obligation to protect the natural resources of the park above all else.

**Correspondence ID: 21232**

Point Reyes National Seashore is an asset originally meant to be preserved in its natural state for all the generations after it became a National Park. There should be no cattle or farming on it, and limitations to its wildlife should be removed e.g. the fence separating the Tule Elk from food and water.

I strongly protest the park being used for private businesses, and even more protest and expansion of them. Please restore the park to the state it was intended.

**Correspondence ID: 21233**

Please make remove the fence that prevents the native tulle Elk from getting enough water and food.

Ranching causes huge environmental damage such as the following: decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21234**

The habitat for animals should not be contained in a box. They should be free.

**Correspondence ID: 21236**

please, take away the fence that is causing all these problems. The poor animals do not understand, but we humans do and must 'do ' the right thing. TAKE DOWN THE FENCE AND THEN SEE THE DIFFERENCE.

**Correspondence ID: 21238**

Please permit the Tomales Point elk herd to roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Please remove the fence.

Thank you, Steven Konopacki

**Correspondence ID: 21243**

I urge the NPS to remove the fence at Tomales Point. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Return this grazing land to the Tule elk who are part of this natural ecosystem!

Thank you for your consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 21244**

Please remove the barrier fence so elk can gain access to more feeding ground. They are dying off from lack of food and water. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21246**

Please take down the elk fences and free the elk! The diary farms and any other for profit



groups should be eliminated. This is supposed to be a protected National Parkland and it pains me to see the pollution from the cows literally muddying the once pristine waterways.

**Correspondence ID: 21247**

The elk should have priority over Big Ag, which is not environmental-friendly.

**Correspondence ID: 21248**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park. The Tule elk population has been significantly impacted by the fence, and it is our responsibility to protect them.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21249**

RE: NPS' Development of Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP)

Tomales Point Area Plan  
c/o Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Superintendent Kenkel,

Thank you for the opportunity to make public comments for the Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP). This TPAP and its future final decision will have significant material impacts for all areas of Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) and the West Marin community, not just the defined Tomales Point planning area. Therefore, it is critical that this Plan recognizes the environmental and cultural impacts for areas within and adjacent to Tomales Point and PRNS.

I strongly support proposed Alternative C, as outlined in the TPAP Public Scoping Newsletter. Alternative C best supports a thriving PRNS that meets the intended outcomes for all NPS-defined goals for the established zoning areas of PRNS. In summary, Alternative C will best protect the environmental and cultural and historic resources in land areas adjacent to Tomales Point and it will ensure a well-managed and thriving Tule Elk herd. Furthermore, Alternative C will help preserve critical Park resources, improve visitor experiences to Tomales Point and continue critically important partnership with Native Tribe ecological and traditional management and preservation activities within this area. Alternative C could be further improved to advance the maintenance of environmental and cultural elements of Tomales Point and the rest of PRNS. Active management of the Tule Elk herd supports the environmental maintenance of the TPAP planning area. Due to the historical changes in vegetation type and availability over the past 50 years (see page 17 of PRNS 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan) in the TPAP since the introduction of elk, it would seem necessary to study and continually assess every few years the carrying capacity of the Tule Elk herd in the TPAP planning area. This will support an elk stocking rate that is more in balance with the land carrying capacity given the more frequent drought cycles influenced by a rapidly changing climate. The final TPAP environmental assessment (Environmental Analysis or Environmental Impact Study) should assess the following questions:

- What is the current elk stocking rate for the Tomales Point planning area?

- What Tule Elk stocking rate is justified by the current average feed resources (vegetation and grasses) at the Tomales Point planning area?
- What Tule Elk stocking rate is justified in a drought year and a non-drought year given available Tule Elk feed resources (vegetation and grasses) in the Tomales Point area?
- What are the available water resources in the Tomales Point area and do those water resources limit the carrying capacity of the land as justified by available feed resources?
- Precisely how will the Tule Elk be managed by NPS in accordance with the carrying capacity of the Tomales Point area in order to avoid further die-off due lack of natural resources?
- What land and vegetation environmental indicators will be used to sustain a thriving and healthy Elk herd within the Tomales Point planning area?
- In drought years, how will PRNS establish additional water resources if natural water resources are in limited supply to sustain a healthy minimum herd population?

Alternative A and Alternative B, if chosen, will present deleterious effects to PRNS. The ineffective management and maintenance plan for the existing Tomales Point Tule Elk herd by NPS has caused horrific consequences to these animals. Furthermore, the management of Tule Elk at PRNS has fueled a false dichotomy between NPS-zoned and managed Wilderness and Ranchland areas, resulting in enmity and harassment of farmers and ranchers for simply for operating in a federally designated ranching zone adjacent to a federally designated Wilderness Zone where Tule Elk were established to thrive as a carefully managed species. Environmental analysis of Alternatives A & B can not be justified by a Finding of No Significant Environmental Impact under this environmental analysis. The grave consequences of status quo management of the elk in Tomales Point justifies a full Environmental Impact Study as the status quo alternative would lead to further unprecedented die-off of elk in future years as well as further degradation of Tomales Point landscape due to Tule Elk herd sizes potentially exceeding the carrying capacity of this Wilderness Zone.

An Alternative B recommendation should also require a full Environmental Impact Study since releasing a second Tule Elk herd on the NPS-codified Pastoral Zone and potentially the unincorporated areas of Marin County would have significant environmental and cultural consequences to these areas, especially the historic Ranchland (Pastoral) Zone that was re-codified through the General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) Record of Decision (ROD) in 2021. As PRNS considers its preferred alternative (Alternative B) and specifically, the removal of the Tomales Point Tule Elk fence, it should, at minimum, assess these areas of environmental impact on the adjacent PRNS Ranchland Zone and determine how it impacts and fundamentally changes the EIS established for the GMPA.

- What environmental and cultural impact will removing the Tomales Point tule elk fence have on the Ranchland (Pastoral) Zone defined in the 2021 GMPA EIS?
- What effect will the unlimited and unmanaged Tule Elk herd have on the Ranchland (Pastoral) Zone have on the natural resources of the Ranchland Zone as identified in the 2021 GMPA EIS?

- What effect will the Tomales Point Tule Elk herd have on the financial viability of the ranches and dairy farms in the Ranchland (Pastoral) Zone due to the inherent natural resource conflict between a free-ranging elk herd and farming operations?

- If the Tomales Point Elk Fence is removed, how will the Tomales Point Tule Elk herd and its future derivatives impact the lease terms and associated land value with dairy farms and beef ranchers, given the natural resource competition that will undoubtedly occur as Tule Elk migrate into leased pasture areas?

In Summary:

- Alternative C best supports the Tomales Point Area Plan and the entirety of PRNS goals and mission.

- If Alternative B is selected as a preferred alternative following this current public scoping period of the TPAP Environmental Analysis then a full Environmental Impact Study should be required with an intentional focus on environmental impacts inside the Tomales Point area and in adjacent PRNS land areas given the significant and material impacts this will have on other management areas in PRNS.

- A thriving Tule Elk herd and Wilderness Character in Tomales Point must include world-class Tule Elk management plan. PRNS should create an action plan based on best management techniques to ensure a healthy and thriving Tule Elk herd and Tomales Point wilderness ecology under Alternative C.

**Correspondence ID: 21250**

These ELk need to be set free to graze

naturally. Please remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 21251**

I am requesting that you remove the fence that is currently confining the Tule Elk causing them to die of starvation and lack of water. All allegedly because cattle farmers requested this fence be erected! It is my understanding that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Please don't give the Elk a death sentence because of cattle grazing.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21253**

Dear NPS,

I am writing to kindly ask you to please urgently remove the fence that is harming animals. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Sincerely, Cindy A.

**Correspondence ID: 21254**

Take away the fence and let the Elk roam!.

**Correspondence ID: 21256**

Please remove the fence and save these beautiful animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21257**

I strongly encourage the National Park Service to restore Point Reyes National Seashore to its native state. I also support Alternative B that will remove the elk fence. The elk are suffering and need access to water and proper forage.

Thank you, J.M.

**Correspondence ID: 21259**

REMOVE FENCE SO ELK AND ALL

WILDLIFE HAVE F R E S H C L E A N

D R I N K I N G W A T E R !!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Correspondence ID: 21261**

Dear NPS - I request that you select Plan B to remove fencing and allow native tule elk access to water and forage for the Tomales Point Area Plan at Point Reyes National Seashore. I believe that wildlife should be the priority for our national park.

Thank you, Jan Pfenninger

**Correspondence ID: 21262**

Please remove the fence . Via Peta

**Correspondence ID: 21263**

To the National Park Service,

I am writing to urge you to please find a way to keep the elk fence up and support family farming in our County. I am not an expert on elk or their management. However, common sense seems to support this thinking.

1. If we open more land for them, there will be more elk reproduction and since we do not (at this time) have natural predators to keep their populations in check, they will again expand their population beyond what the land can sustain. That will lead yet again to the highly contentious proposal of culling them. What will those opposing the culling do then? And how will you need to respond? Will this become a slippery slope of ever-expanding expansion demands?

2. Natural elk predators, I understand, include wolves and coyotes which are present in Marin. However, it appears that they are not enough to keep the population in check. Additional predators include brown and black bears, cougars and tigers. Surely, we would not cultivate these wild animals on our County lands. I would certainly oppose this frightening proposition and I think others would as well.

3. Regarding the lack of water in times of drought. Wild animals I've been often told need to be able to fend for themselves. The natural cycle of life and death may mean that animals such as elk will experience die-offs when there is drought. If we double (or more) our elk population, how much infrastructure will we need to add to keep all of them hydrated. When will those additions be enough?

4. I very much appreciate knowing that my cream, other dairy products as well as grass-fed meats are locally grown and produced. This is a cornerstone of how I eat and whom I wish to support in terms of farmers. My grandparents were farmers. It is NOT an easy life as some of their opponents would have people think. And they are not getting rich from farming this land. In my opinion, given the emphasis on organic and regenerative farming, we, here in Marin, are setting a sustainable example for others in the U.S. and around the world. If we exclude our farmers at the expense of saving a reintroduced species (elk), it would be shameful. Surely there is a way they can all coexist!

5. There is a complaint about the cow manure polluting water. Is this true? Are there data supporting this accusation? And has anyone done an analysis of elk waste? Surely their scat can pollute waterways as well?

6. As much as I hate to write this, many of the most vocal supporters of the elk land expansion who I know eat a vegan diet. It seems that a large part of their agenda is to coerce me and others who appreciate the West Marin farmers to follow their lead in terms of diet. I don't intend to do that, especially in light of recent evidence that eating well-raised meat is especially healthy for all of us.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Kraemer Winslow

Past Affiliations but not representing:

- Twice Past Chair of the Marin County Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Commission (appointed by District 1 Supervisors for over 15 years)
- 20 years with Environmental Forum of Marin, offering Advocacy Training for Attendees

**Correspondence ID: 21265**

Please remove the fence. These beautiful living beings deserve better than what they're being forced to endure.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21266**

We write in support of Alternative B, Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area, that removes the elk fence on Tomales Point and may also exclude cattle from the Point, which as you know is a scenic coastal peninsula where hikers enjoy seeing the herds of tule elk, the beaches, views of the Pacific, and a visit to historic Pierce Ranch.

We know that the recent periods of extreme drought have drastically affected the tule elk herds of Tomales Point. They've suffered high mortality because of a lack of fresh water and adequate forage, exacerbated by the 8-foot-tall fence that protects dairies on leased Park Service lands. To its credit, the Park Service did find a way to install water troughs to supply the tule elk herd with water during the dry summers.

We are greatly pleased to read the Park Service's proposal to remove the elk fences, thereby allowing the Tomales herd to mingle with other free-roaming elk herds across the National Seashore. This removal would also obviate the need for the water troughs and any other non-historic supplemental water systems. Furthermore, this alternative would terminate vegetation

monitoring projects that rely on the use of twelve elk exclosures, and would remove those elk exclosures.

Restoring and rewilding Point Reyes National Park should be a priority, and providing a wildlife connectivity corridor through the ranches is a must. A wildlife-friendly fence could be constructed to keep the cattle out of Tomales Point once the tall elk-proof fence is removed. Moreover, we dare to suggest that the tule elk should be given unrestricted access from Tomales Point to Drake's Bay by removing the livestock entirely. Follow the historic Pierce Ranch removals from 1973. Fifty years on, it's time to get cattle off of public lands and let the tule elk herds become free-roaming.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments. We trust you will give them your most serious and thoughtful consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 21267**

The National Park Service should choose Alternative B, called "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," which will remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free.

**Correspondence ID: 21269**

National Park Service:

I am asking you to please remove the fence that is preventing the Tule elk from having food to eat and water to drink. Elk are just as important as cows. There has to be a good balance in nature. Cows take up too much water to produce, they contaminate the water, they take up a lot of land, etc. It is cruel to let the Tule elk suffer.

Please do the right thing and help the elk before it is too late.

**Correspondence ID: 21270**

Dear National Park Service,

I support your proposal to adopt Alternative B that would include the removal of the elk fence. This should be part of an effort to restore Point Reyes National Seashore to its original natural state as was the intent of the legislation establishing the Park in the 1960's. The continued use of over one third of the Park for ranching operations has severely degraded the natural flora and fauna of this unique and precious habitat. The removal of the elk fence will allow the Park to be rewilded with elk. With careful management, other wild animals can be introduced to establish a better ecological balance. Wild animals belong in a National Park, not domestic animals. The grazing habits of elk are also gentler on the landscape. Elk roam from place to place and do not overgraze an area the way cattle do nor do they degrade the soil as cattle do through heavier compaction of the soil.

Importantly, a plan must be established to permanently retire all the ranching leases within the next five years. Commercial operations like ranching have no place in a National Park. Furthermore, the ranchers have not been good stewards of the land and have lost their right to continue their privileged status. It has been totally undemocratic that the leases were never put out for public bid and that the ranchers were allowed to pass their rights on to other family members or other members of the original ranching families. The ranches have been subsidized by us, the public, by being charged under the market rate to lease the land. The ranchers have not maintained their buildings that are owned by us, the public, even though that was a stated obligation under the terms of their leases. The ranchers have failed to keep their cattle out of the

waterways until pressured to do so in the last couple of years. Only now are the cattle being fenced out of creeks and springs. Per their leases, the ranchers were supposed to be self-monitoring the water quality flowing on their leased land but failed to do. The NPS conducted a water survey in 2014 that revealed pollution but neither the ranchers nor the NPS did any more monitoring until a privately-conducted water report was released in 2021 and made the headlines in all the local newspapers. It took this action by private citizens using their own money and time, with the help of donations from some non-profit organizations, to expose the egregious levels of pollution in almost every riparian corridor passing through leased ranch land.

The ranchers have proven over the 60 years since the Park was established that they have not been good stewards of the land. It has been revealed recently that they have not maintained their septic systems, that they have created dumps on their leased land, and have allowed manure to overflow their holding ponds into the waterways. They could have been fencing in the creeks 60 years ago. They could have ensured that weed-infested hay was not brought out to Point Reyes National Seashore to feed their livestock. Instead invasive plants in that feed has overtaken the natural flora and decimated much of the native coastal prairie and shrub land. It is time for the ranching operations to be phased out. This would also fully open to the public another third of the land area of Point Reyes National Seashore that has been fenced in as ranch land.

There are arguments that the removal of the elk fence will bankrupt the ranches in the Park and that the agricultural economy of Marin County will be diminished by as much as 20%. However, this argument fails to take into account the increase in visitors to the Park that will occur when the elk fence is removed and the elk are allowed to roam freely throughout the Park. Visitors drawn to the Park to view elk in the wild will frequent local businesses and the money they spend will easily makeup for any such loss. Moreover, the Park is supposed to be a place of natural and wild habitat, not a venue for observing commercial ranching.

Furthermore, the removal of the fence would greatly promote the well being of the elk, an animal that historically was part of the natural fauna of Point Reyes National Seashore. It would ensure that the elk have adequate water and food and not be artificially confined to an area that has lacked the nutrients and the water to sustain a healthy herd. It would increase the opportunity for more genetic diversity as these elk mix with the other herds on Point Reyes National Seashore

Lastly, there is an opportunity to honor the heritage and knowledge of the indigenous people who were the original inhabitants of Point Reyes National Seashore. Given their ancestral history living with the elk, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria can demonstrate how to live in harmony with these wild animals. It is also an opportunity to give recognition to their history at Point Reyes National Seashore.

Sincerely, Davis Everett

**Correspondence ID: 21272**

Please remove the fence as it would be the correct thing to do. Allow the native animals to roam free. Cattle grazing hurts ecosystems by contaminating water ways, etc. Please remove the fencing. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21273**

The elk must roam free and live the lives they deserve. Please, remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. Protect the elk not BIG AG.

**Correspondence ID: 21275**

The 3 mile long fence is having lethal effects on wild animals, particularly elk, that are suffering and dying in large numbers. Surely there is some solution to the decision to put up such a fence that will not be so destructive to wildlife. Please solve this problem more humanely. Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 21277**

National Parks were designed to protect the environment, habitat and native animals to the park. They find it horrifying that the park service would fence beautiful native animals off from food and water to leave them to die a horrible death!! Such cruelty was not the focus when these parks were created. If the parks can not keep to the original design then maybe the citizens of the USA need to think about restructuring the management of the parks and the budget.

Which would include the politicians that have condoned this action.

**Correspondence ID: 21279**

Elk deserve to roam free once more.

I'm writing to ask that you permanently remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd.

The elk belong there, and they deserve to roam free and live the lives they deserve. It's time to let the Elk live in peace and freedom and graze as they want.

Ranchers and cattle don't belong there, and their grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. They are the ranchers' responsibility, and not the natural wildlife of the area.

Please remove the fencing confining the elk and restore nature to the way it belongs. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21281**

Seems that doing the bare minimum to keep wild animals from suffering the pain of death by dehydration is not a big lift.

While you debate about moving the fences, perhaps it makes a lot more sense to start developing man-made watering holes or pools.

They need not be pretty...just functional and sufficient in numbers to mitigate this disaster,

At the same time, they should be able to hold rain water.

There's too much discussion about politics and rights...and not enough focus on simply ameliorating suffering. The two are far from being mutually exclusive.

Thank you, Eric Uhlfelder



**Correspondence ID: 21282**

I urge the NPS to please remove the fence so Elk can survive. The fence is starving them and is a cruel barrier. Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 21284**

Please tule elk are confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. Please release the elk so they may roam free.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Jennifer Young

**Correspondence ID: 21287**

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk.

**Correspondence ID: 21289**

Dear Sir or Madam:

I strongly encourage NPS to finally remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. The elk deserve to roam free.

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 21290**

remove the fence

**Correspondence ID: 21291**

Please remove the 3-mile-long fence that contains tule elk to the Tomales Point peninsula.

Hurry.

**Correspondence ID: 21292**

This is just a matter of greed ! The cows are dead meat anyway. The elk LIVE THERE ! Let the damn cattle people feed their cows on their own land or get out of the business ! What gives them the right to use public land and kill other animals to increase their PROFITS ??? How can this even need a petition ? You should not have your job if you keep siding with the cattle ranchers. JUST LIKE THE BLM.....let the cows graze ship the mustangs to slaughter.....YOU BOTH SHOULD HAVE EVERYONE FIRED AND NEW PEOPLE HIRED !!!!

**Correspondence ID: 21294**

IS IT DOWN YET?

**Correspondence ID: 21298**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

April West

**Correspondence ID: 21300**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence you've erected with the intent to prevent them from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

It is MEAT that depletes the state's water supply. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Please remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 21301**

Please allow the Tule Elk the ability to roam their historic range. They are dying in their current location for a lack of water and food.

Thank you

Please be reminded that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21302**

REMOVE THE FENCE ---LET THE TULE ELK ROAM FREE AND LIVE THE LIVES THEY WERE BORN TO LIVE. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems AND contributes to global warming.

**Correspondence ID: 21304**

In my opinion, the best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. I oppose Alternatives A and C as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 21307**

The answer here seem tso be pretty simple. Just remove the fence which seems to serve no

useful purpose but to starve God's creatures which are all part of the circle of life. We need to stop fixing what isn't broken.. Killing defenseless animals is mean, cruel and inhumane. So stop it now!

**Correspondence ID: 21308**

Please remove the fence. The cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Elk must use their natural territory.

**Correspondence ID: 21309**

The Elk are native to this location.....God already in HIS INFINITE WISDOM KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING before man decided to step in and screw it up as usual!

**Correspondence ID: 21310**

Please take the fence down so the elk can get to water, and n

More food. Letting them starve to death is cruel and should be against the law, and the people who cause this to happen should be in trouble for letting it go on. Sincerely Denise Bessermin

**Correspondence ID: 21311**

Hello- I am writing this to implore you to please remove the fence that is not allowing elk to get to water thus allowing them to die from starvation and dehydration. Please consider our delicate ecosystem and all of those special creatures that live and thrive in this world and do not continue this inhumane treatment of such beautiful majestic creatures- the elk. I would like to remind you that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you for considering this.

**Correspondence ID: 21312**

I support the proposed alternative (B) that removes the elk fence and works with the Tribe to protect cultural resources and promote ethnobotanical resources.

**Correspondence ID: 21313**

As I understand the situation, your only civilized, sane and humane solutions are either: 1. to remove the 2-mile fence enclosing tule elk at Tomales Point to allow the elk sufficient nutrition and water and a natural way of life to thrive; or 2. you painlessly and humanely euthanize them ALL, to stop their suffering, with the emphasis on painless and humane.

**Correspondence ID: 21314**

Please protect these beautiful creatures. Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 21315**

I truly believe that the time has come to remove the elk fence and let the tule elk roam in Point Reyes once again. To restrict them is so limiting and unnecessary.

**Correspondence ID: 21316**

I was thrilled to hear that you were considering the removal of a fence that has caused the death of a number of elk. I encourage you to remove this obstacle that prevents them from accessing water.

**Correspondence ID: 21318**

Thank you for considering all the public support for removing the Point Reyes National Seashore fencing.

I am advocating for Alternative B, "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," so that the ecosystem be restored and the native wildlife be protected. Fencing in wilderness areas is wrong. The National Park Service's mission is to "preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations." If we want our future generations to be able to experience and be inspired by the wonders of our natural world, operations such as those involving private cattle should never be prioritized over wildlife. Private cattle operations are not suitable in Point Reyes and should be stopped to honor the charter of the National Seashore and save the native tule elk.

It is cruel to let confined native elk die of hunger and thirst, especially in a national park. Wildlife populations will continue to suffer as a result of our actions, and climate catastrophes will only increase over time, taking a devastating toll on wildlife. If we have the power to prevent populations from suffering now, why wouldn't we? And if you listen to our pleas and the fencing is removed, please do not allow free-roaming elk to be subjected to harassment, hazing, or culling for any reason. They deserve to live a life free from suffering and pain.

Thank you once again for considering my comments.

**Correspondence ID: 21319**

The first Elk I ever saw were those at Tomales Point during Spring, 1965, just out of the service, and long before I became a field biologist. At that time I saw no welfare rancher's cattle. The very same species laying waste to much of the Federal Lands (OUR lands) near where I've lived and worked for several decades. Oh, I eat beef, but that doesn't matter: I just have to wonder who you think you work for, the United States of America, its people and wildlife, and the protected lands (habitats) under the aegis of the NPS--not, I'm quite sure, those that would profit from the use of those lands for their own benefit. Pretty simple concept, for me, but seemingly an insurmountable problem for you folks that are apparently beholden to various industries. Please do the job for which you were employed so that the taxpaying (or not) citizens of this country, rather than a special few might enjoy OUR PUBLIC LANDS.

Easy peasy.....

**Correspondence ID: 21320**

I am writing to express my support for Alternative B of the Tomales Point Area Plan put forward by the National Park Service (NPS). Accordingly, I would like it known that I do not support Alternatives A and C of the proposed plan.

Native Tule elk, which are the smallest and rarest elk subspecies in North America, are endemic to and yet nearly extinct across California.

The NPS General Management Plan for the Point Reyes National Seashore has kept the elk trapped behind an 8-foot-tall fence and in a limited enclosure at Tomales Point within the Phillip Burton Wilderness. Because of this, there is often not enough forage for the confined elk to graze on. Recent drought years have caused scant freshwater to dry up, leaving the elk dying of hunger and thirst, as documented by visitor photographs of dead and emaciated elk.

The reason for confining the elk to these deplorable conditions has to do with prioritizing the nearly 6,000 cattle that continue to graze within the national seashore. And this in spite of the government paying fair market value to acquire the private ranches and end livestock grazing there. Instead, some 28,000 acres of public land at Point Reyes continue to be grazed while the elk are confined to small area of the national seashore.

I therefore applaud the National Park Service proposal to remove the fence and allow the Tule elk to naturally roam in the Wilderness and across Tomales Point as they previously did for centuries. I would, however, like you to consider the following additions and changes to Alternative B:

- Eliminate all grazing by cattle within the Point Reyes National Seashore and the Phillip Burton Wilderness as per the original agreement.
- The water structures that were unlawfully built within the Phillip Burton Wilderness must be removed by non-motorized means. Since the structures are small, they can easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.
- Natural fires should be allowed to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using management-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. It is the controlled management of fire within the landscape that has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.
- Refrain from using herbicides to remove the non-native invasive species within the Phillip Burton Wilderness. After removing the cattle and the fence, better distribution of the Tule elk would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants and therefore the application of herbicides.

Again, I greatly appreciate your consideration for removal of the enclosure fence and allowing the Tule elk to naturally roam in the Wilderness and across Tomales Point.

Thank you for considering my comments and suggestions to Alternative B.

**Correspondence ID: 21321**

please remove the fence and allow the elk to roam free

**Correspondence ID: 21322**

Please remove the fence containing elk herd at Tomales Point peninsula. All living creatures deserve food and water, which they do not have access to.

Protecting cattle grazing decimates ecosystems and spreads invasive species. Humans need to help nature find a balance.

As one great man said:

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

— Mahatma Gandhi

With your help, we all can help this country become a great nation.

**Correspondence ID: 21323**

Please remove the fence at Point Reyes - for the elk!

Thank you, Nancy Heck

**Correspondence ID: 21324**

I am submitting comments in support of taking down the 3 mile fence that is keeping the Tule Elk herd from accessing water and food. I understand 152 elk died of starvation and lack of water on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. The cattle grazing on our National Seashore decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria and wastes massive amounts of water. Please take the fence down so the Tule Elk herd will be allowed to roam free on our National Seashore.

**Correspondence ID: 21325**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21327**

Dear NPS, I support and thank you for your preferred Alternative B to remove the Tule Elk Reserve Fence. When the fence is removed, please address the problem of the elk being exposed to manure-borne cattle diseases which are present in the commercial dairy and beef operations. I am also concerned about the potential hazing and harassing that the elk may encounter from the ranchers and feel this should not be allowed. Thank you for considering my comments.

**Correspondence ID: 21328**

Urgent: Trapped Tule Elk Are Dying of Apparent Starvation and a Lack of Water.

**Correspondence ID: 21331**

PLEASE!

Explain why this is still happening.

I know the "reasons" - but they're not good enough.

These innocent creatures are starving and dying.

Can't ANYONE come up with a creative solution???

**Correspondence ID: 21332**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I FULLY CONCUR with the following:

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing (“culling”) of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal “management” of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Gail Clark

**Correspondence ID: 21333**

I support Alternative B. Wild lives on national lands have the first rights to life freedom and protection.

I support complete removal of the Tule Elk containment fence.

I am opposed to Alternative A.

I am opposed to alternative C..

I support removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle.

The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Cattle in over abundance on Pt Reyes are destroying habitat grounds and are a persist source of toxic waste run off that also degrades and poisons the local ocean waters.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 21334**

It's simple remove the fence for ever.

Why would you install an 8-foot-tall, 3-mile-long artificial elk fence in question confines about 270 Tule elk (the count as of December 2022) inside the 2,600-acre “Reserve,” which is inside the 71,000-acre National Seashore. The fence prevents elk inside from roaming freely for food and water and mingling with the park's other two herds.

This is outrageous and simply animal cruelty. Perhaps the thoughtful people who paid for this fence should live with elk and experience no water, no food and mingling with your own kind.

Disrespecting and killing the plants natural species the NPS should remove the fence immediately and allow these beautiful animals to survive and live naturally. If this was a pet dog or cat you would be arrested taken to court fined and banned from having pets - what is the difference apart from you who agreed for this to be done should resign in disgrace.

**Correspondence ID: 21335**

I am writing to say that I support the initiative to unfence Tomales Point and Point Reyes to let the Tule Elk roam freely. They should not have to compete with cattle, and the welfare of the herd should be a priority. The Elk are a precious and wonderful resource that could bring joy to generations to come if we can stop constricting and culling. I hope that this will be possible, it is a really important issue. Thanks.

**Correspondence ID: 21337**

Please stop the killing of the elk! You need to remove the fence

**Correspondence ID: 21339**

Elk should be protected in a wilderness area, not cattle, whose grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**Correspondence ID: 21340**

I Support alternative B.

"Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area,"

Thank you for listening to the overwhelming public support for removing the old fence. Fences are inappropriate areas in the park shouldn't prioritize cattle over native wildlife.

It is totally unacceptable to let confined native elk die of thirst and malnutrition, especially in a national park.

Once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

Private cattle operations aren't appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

**Correspondence ID: 21341**

It's imperative that we work to restore Point Reyes National Seashore to its original, natural state.

I strongly support Alternative B, which removes the elk fence.

I urge the National Park Service to ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once that fence is removed.

And, lastly, I ask the park service to inventory and restore native coastal habitat in the planning area.



Thank you for all the work you do to protect our important natural spaces.

Best regards and Sincerely, Pete Albers

**Correspondence ID: 21342**

NPS, please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21344**

Please remove the fence and let these wonderful animals enjoy their lives.

**Correspondence ID: 21345**

Please remove the fence so that no more of these beautiful animals die from starvation and dehydration.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21346**

I support The NPS Alternative B proposed action, which removes the elk fence and frees the confined elk.

**Correspondence ID: 21347**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. I am asking that you have the fence removed and allow these beautiful elk the freedom to graze and have a fresh source of water so that there will be no more deaths due to starvation and a lack of fresh water. Thank you, Michele Morris

**Correspondence ID: 21348**

Grazing cattle is destructive to the ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 21350**

Please allow the fence confining the Tomales Elk to be removed so that these animals can have a chance at a normal, healthy life. Thank you for your attention.

**Correspondence ID: 21352**

Please do what needs to be done to save our environment.

**Correspondence ID: 21353**

Stop killing animals. All born sentient beings have a right to live

**Correspondence ID: 21354**

All wildlife, including the Tule Elk, deserve to roam free, protected from all harm. I am asking you to make this possible. It is only decent that you do so. All the wildlife was here way before people were.

**Correspondence ID: 21355**

Enough endangered species already.

**Correspondence ID: 21358**

Native Tule Elk need to continue their native traditions and grazing routes to continue to survive. Please take down the fences preventing them from reaching their native shoreline.

As a person that does not consume cow's meat or avoids purchasing anything that includes cow products, especially to prevent the quick deterioration of delicate ecosystems, I feel very strongly that the Tule Elk should have priority over the land.

**Correspondence ID: 21361**

It needs to be so that the elk can freely roam the park and protect them from future starvation and dehydration.

**Correspondence ID: 21363**

To whom it may concern,

I employ you to remove the fence that is trapping the elk and causing them to die of starvation. It is a cruel way to die and can so easily be prevented.

**Correspondence ID: 21364**

Help these animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21366**

Please remove the fence so that the Tule Elk can survive.

They do not contaminate the soil and water the way that cattle do.

The Elk are a part of the natural ecosystem for that area and should be allowed to roam freely.

**Correspondence ID: 21367**

Please allow 600 Tule Elk roam at Point Reyes National Seashore, the only national park where they live. But instead of letting elk numbers expand, the National Park Service has proposed killing members of two free-roaming herds and confines part of the largest herd on a peninsula with an 8-foot-high fence.

**Correspondence ID: 21369**

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles. Also, please don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 21370**

Please let the Tule Elk in pt reyes roam free!

**Correspondence ID: 21371**

Starving and not allowing water to these beautiful creatures is cruel and inhumane...please reconsider what you are doing

**Correspondence ID: 21372**

Es horrible el maltrato y asesinato de animales indefensos!

Qué clase de gente disfruta el sufrimiento y la muerte de seres inocentes?

Sólo criminales sicópatas

Hay que detenerlos ya!

**Correspondence ID: 21374**

Please remove the fence for the sake of saving the natural ecology and the lives of these special elk.

**Correspondence ID: 21375**

Please just remove the fence! Restore the natural ecosystem. Nature has an intelligence that far surpasses our own.

Best,

Jenny Kerr

**Correspondence ID: 21376**

To whom it may concern,

I am asking to please remove the fence so the native tule elk can survive and not suffer. . We all know that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Pls be part of the solution and let other animals live as well. Thank you. Erika

**Correspondence ID: 21377**

support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21379**

Greetings! I am a farmer who cares a lot about protecting our environment. Thanks for all that you do, to help our ecosystems. I respectfully ask you to please use your influence to support the health of elf populations in this magnificent region. Please also ensure that we steward wild biodiversity so that elk and other unique species of this area can for generations to come! Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 21380**

To Whom It May Concern:

We wholeheartedly support Alternative B and urge you to "TAKE DOWN THIS FENCE" which is sentencing the Tule Elk herd to a certain lingering death. We also urge the removal of all commercial cow crazing in the Point Reyes National Seashore. God knows the BLM has pirated more than enough Western land to this end.

In light of these horrible times, please grant this one true act of mercy. This is your chance to return one semblance of honor to our once Golden state.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely, Bev and Jay Dalton

**Correspondence ID: 21382**

Hello, as a young person who supports wildlife well being, I thank you for your time and opportunity to comment on this important matter. I respectfully ask you to please help our

ecosystems thrive, and specifically I ask you to support the well being of elk populations in our community. Many citizens like myself love wildlife, and want to work together to ensure that it is protected. So I thank you in advance for both ensuring that Elk have sufficient room to roam, and also thank you for protecting other unique and precious species of our region I hope you have a wonderful day.

**Correspondence ID: 21383**

PLEASE remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. they are starving and dying of thirst. the darkest possible way to perish. PLEASE put their safety at the forefront and help them by REMOVING THIS FENCE.

**Correspondence ID: 21285**

remove fence

**Correspondence ID: 21386**

Thank you, truly, for the opportunity to comment and for your response to public support for removing the elk fence.

I'm writing to express my firm belief that free-roaming elk should be protected from culling, hazing, and harassment after the removal of the fence.

As the only national park in which Tule Elk make their home, Point Reyes National Seashore has a special responsibility to protect them. The interests of private landowners should have NO bearing on conservation efforts in publicly-funded open spaces.

The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes; the Organic Act designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

In accordance with these, and in the interest of protecting native wildlife and restoring the ecosystem, the fence must come down for good, and Tule Elk must be allowed to thrive unfettered by the operations of local ranchers.

**Correspondence ID: 21388**

Please choose alternative B for an unconfined elk herd in the Pierce Ranch Core Area. Please remove the fence that is inappropriate for this wilderness area and is leading to deaths in the herd.

In order to adhere to the charter of the National Seashore, private cattle operations should not be allowed in Point Reyes or should be severely restricted and placed well below natural resources management.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**Correspondence ID: 21390**

After years of campaigns by PETA and other advocacy groups, I understand that the NPS is finally considering removing the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd--a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

I am urging the NPS to remove the fence. You must realize that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21391**

Please open this fence so they are free to roam. They need to eat and drink. Please release these innocent precious animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21393**

I am opposed to alternatives A and C as causing wilderness degradation and danger to Tule elk.

Option B is best choice to be in compliance with the definition of wilderness, with removal of structures and fence.

I support non-motorized removal of water structures .

As per original agreement all cattle must be removed.

All natural fires but no man-initiated fires.

No use of herbicides. Elk will control plant growth after removal of fence and cattle.

**Correspondence ID: 21395**

This is absolutely unacceptable in a national park that belongs to each of every one of us, and most especially to the wildlife that inhabit it. These elk call this home and have more right to it than any other living being. I am outraged to think that they have to fight for what belongs to them..

**Correspondence ID: 21399**

Meat depletes the state's water supply. Help the elk survive in their natural environment.

**Correspondence ID: 21400**

If you all are not respecting the lives of these wild animals, then you all should not be in the park service! Farm animals need respect as well, but not at the expense of wildlife.

Thank you for your attention, M. Salone

**Correspondence ID: 21402**

PLEASE, either feed and water them or take the fence down, what in the world are you doing? Wake up and get a conscience and do the right thing for god's sake!

**Correspondence ID: 21404**

Please protect this area and all the shrinking and dying world of ours. Up to you!

**Correspondence ID: 21405**

Save the Tule Elk please.

**Correspondence ID: 21406**

Please do all you can to protect/preserve these beautiful creatures.

**Correspondence ID: 21407**

Please do not put the vested interests of the cattle industry, which is one small segment of the American population, over the preservation of native species, in this case the tule elk. Please do not cause wildlife to suffer, the ecological balance of this coastal region to suffer , for the profits

of this ecologically destructive industry. The scientific data is in, cattle are destructive and at this time when we are trying to reduce emissions, and to preserve grasslands and water, to prioritize cattle over this species is contradictory to what most Americans understand to be the role and responsibility of the National Park Service. Please do not be part of this cruelty to a Native species of our land.

**Correspondence ID: 21409**

People who treat animals like this will do the same to humans.

**Correspondence ID: 21410**

Please create a safe and expanded environment for Tule Elk herd expansion by removing ALL cattle and grazing domestic sheep and goats from Point Reyes National Seashore immediately! They do not belong there and destroy habitat for Elk. Follow the NPS plan completely to restore the herd that is native to California!! As a native Californian I have fond memories of seeing these beautiful creatures in the foggy mist in my youth with family and friends. They deserve protection for our children and grandchildren to enjoy!

Thank you!!

**Correspondence ID: 21411**

Tear down the fence and let the elk live freely as they should always have been allowed to - Please!

**Correspondence ID: 21415**

It is my understanding that a national park is a tract of land set aside to protect an ecosystem and all the natural components of the area. It is a disgrace that cattle have been allowed to invade Point Reyes National Seashore and cause destruction. It is more of a disgrace that a fence has been erected to confine the resident native elk and cause them to die of thirst and malnutrition. This is a poor example of the way a national park should be maintained and a travesty for the Thule elk.

The public outcry to remove the fatal fence should be heeded so the elk can once again roam freely and reach necessary water and food. Doing so will also protect the Point Reyes National Seashore's natural life and ecosystem. Returning the national park to its natural environment is the right thing to do for the future of the elk herd and for future generations of visitors to enjoy.

Thank you for allowing me to put forth my comments and I hope you consider my concern for preventing the Thule elk herd from disappearing from Point Reyes National Seashore.

**Correspondence ID: 21416**

Please free the elk.

They should not have renewed the leases for cattle or dairy ranching. They broke their word and the agreement.

This beauty all we have in life. Wilderness and wildlife are precious, invaluable, and sacred beings that are being destroyed and caused to suffer. They are a part of us. So when we kill them and treat them with subjugation, we are only doing it to ourselves as well.

I hope and pray that we ALL wake up and get with the program. Reparations need to be made. This is essential on many levels. Our cultural, spiritual, and physical survival is dependent on this.

I live for nature, wildlife, beauty, Truth, and allowing beings to be free. Without these things, life is meaningless.

Thank you for your consideration.

Matteo

**Correspondence ID: 21417**

Please remove the elk fence. Last year I witnessed a bull elk become trapped outside the fence, with no feasible way to re-enter. It was terrible to watch him navigate a solitude he did not choose, especially during such a time as the rut when, biologically, he needed to be with others of his kind. The Tule Elk are not able to sustain their population on the limited food and water resources the "preserve" provides. Point Reyes should not be complicit in the slow demise of this elk population.

**Correspondence ID: 21418**

Remove all the livestock (cattle) and protect the tule elk. Remove the fence. I bike and hike there and am so sick of the welfare ranchers.

**Correspondence ID: 21419**

We are trapping native animals in one of our national parks? This is NOT what we pay our Park Service to do. Your job is to PRESERVE native animals, ecosystems.

The public is increasingly aware that the OUR Park Service is doing this because of corporate bullies who demand no native animals eat OUR grass, drink OUR water in OUR national parks.

These corporate bullies got their testosterone up during the previous abomination attempting to ruin our country in the name of any and all profit and have since tried to say they are just innocents. They lie to our faces claiming they did not know the rules when they were paid very well for the use of that land decades ago. Now the greedy bastards are threatening as bullies usually do. We must unleash OUR native Tule elk into their natural habitat to eat the grass that God provided for them, not the corporate greed, to drink the water God provided for them, not the corporate greed.

It is way, way past time to stop killing OUR native Tule elk and send the corporate bullies back to whatever dirty hole they came out of.

**Correspondence ID: 21421**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

I am writing to you today to ask you to PLEASE REMOVE this 3-mile-long fence that is stopping these animals' access to food and water!!!! They have a right to graze and live naturally, as God intended. Please stop the cruelty and remove the fence.

Thank you for your time,

Kathleen P. Lavelle

**Correspondence ID: 21423**

Please allow the Elk to service. They need grass and water! Let them have it!

**Correspondence ID: 21426**

Leasing Public lands at the detriment to these wild animals is wrong. All privately owned animals should be contained on their own lands if they are going to become a negative factor to the environment they're in.

This is a waste of my tax dollars and makes me mad. Keep the cows on private land or don't keep them at all. If beef prices go up then they go up - that way it will be MY decision to make how to spend my MONEY.

**Correspondence ID: 21428**

- I support Alternative B which removes the elk fence.

- I urge the park to ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the fence is removed.

- I ask the park to inventory and restore native coastal habitat in planning area.

**Correspondence ID: 21429**

Hello,

I am writing today to kindly ask you to remove the fence that is confining the elk herd. Please allow the Tomales Point elk herd to roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Also, cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Please free the elk.

Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 21430**

Hi,

Instead of protecting the native tule elk of California's Point Reyes National Seashore, for years the National Park Service has confined members of the largest herd, all to appease livestock owners.

Here are my main concerns:

- The National Park Service should choose Alternative B, called "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," which will remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free.

- It's unacceptable to let confined native elk die of thirst and malnutrition, especially in a national park.

- Private cattle operations aren't appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."



- Once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

Remove the elk fence to protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore the ecosystem.

Thanks for listening to my concerns,

Eric

**Correspondence ID: 21432**

Alternative B, I hope would remove the human destruction of cattle, fences, herbicides, structures that hurt the elk population, as well as many other animals and plants necessary to ecosystem health.

**Correspondence ID: 21433**

As a frequent visitor to Point Reyes and to Pierce Point Ranch and the trail to Tomales Point in particular, I have felt that the issue is not about the Tule elk, it's about the Tule elk versus the dairy cows. You have to be blind to not notice that the wildflowers on one side of dairy fences are abundant and lush while the grass and flowers have been eaten to an inch of their life on the other side.

The elk are wild animals and should be allowed to roam across Point Reyes without restriction. Cows, on the other hand are a commercial enterprise that people visit Point Reyes to get away from.

Like fossil fuels, cows are destroying the planet. AND YOU KNOW IT.

**Correspondence ID: 21434**

please remove the fence so that the dule elk can eat & drink & not starve to death.

thank you !

**Correspondence ID: 21435**

REMOVE that shameful fence! The NPS should be ashamed of their treatment of the Elk.

**Correspondence ID: 21437**

Please broaden the Tule Elk territory and allow these beautiful animals access to varied water sources and allow them to live.

**Correspondence ID: 21438**

Please remove the fence so the elk have the ability to graze rather than slowly dying of starvation and lack of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21440**

Remove the fence!

**Correspondence ID: 21442**

Please, please take down the fence that is trapping Tule Elk. Please stop killing them.

**Correspondence ID: 21422**

Please give them access to food and water.

**Correspondence ID: 21443**

Protect Tule elk and other wildlife, plants and streams in Pt Reyes NS/Tomales.

CANCEL ALL CURRENT ANND FUTURE GRAZING LEASESS/CONTRACTS.

Cattle and other commercial ag livestock destroy native plants, deplete forage for elk and deer, destroy and degrade stream banks and do other damage.

Rescind/abrogate any/all provisions/rules that allow shooting elk. deer and other animals within the park boundaries.

IMMEDIATELY remove the fence that impounds and kills Tule elk.

**Correspondence ID: 21445**

Tule elk must be saved and the area made ecologically diverse for their long term survival. Alternative B is the best option to accomplish this. Fencing must be removed. Cattle grazing must be stopped. Water resources must be restored by removing the dams by non-motorized means. and toxic chemicals should not be used on the Perk property. Natural fires will maintain this grassland. This area is beautiful and has an amazing species of elk trying to prosper and continue its historic existence on this land. Please do the right thing and adopt Alternative B which is the best choice to maintain Tule elk on this parkland.

**Correspondence ID: 21446**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I strongly support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule Elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the regulation in the General Management Plan that allows killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed.

It is increasingly evident that the public vehemently opposes all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule Elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease.

In fact, the NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found 50% of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease! And exploitative cattle operations are the park's greatest polluter of land, streams, the Pacific Ocean, and (with methane gas) the atmosphere.

Bottom line: Cattle ranches despoil the land, put public health at risk and DO NOT belong in this or any national park!

I am very grateful to the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this crucial issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Jacqueline Texier

**Correspondence ID: 21448**

Dear NPS Officials:

I am writing to express my support for Alternative B. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk.

While I am supportive, there are however other changes to Alternative B which should be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement. Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

**Correspondence ID: 21451**

stop

**Correspondence ID: 21453**

I am writing to you requesting protection of the Tule Elk that are trapped due to fencing and requesting that you please remove it. I feel that native species should have top priority over introduced animals that are detrimental to the environment. These elk are dying at alarming rates that you can reverse. Please count my vote for removing the fence!

**Correspondence ID: 21454**

Animals deserve our help and protection, not our contempt and abuse and neglect.

Remember that the decisions made now affect the future generations.

**Correspondence ID: 21455**

The NPS needs to remove the fence. that is serving big AG but NOT the Tomales Point elk herd. Please recall that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you, in advance.

**Correspondence ID: 21456**

Please remove the fence so the elk can roam free. They are starving to death.

**Correspondence ID: 21457**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21463**

I need to stand up for the Tule Elk, who have been suffering and dying for too long because of a fence that needs to be removed. The National Park Service should choose Alternative B, called "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," which will remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free.

Thank you for listening to the overwhelming public support for removing the elk fence. Fences are inappropriate in wilderness areas, and the Park Service shouldn't prioritize cattle over native wildlife.

It's unacceptable to let confined native wildlife die malnutrition and dehydration, especially in a national park.

Once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

Private cattle operations do not belong in Point Reyes or any wildlife refuge and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

This is why I urge the agency to remove the elk fence to protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore the ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 21554**

Please remove the fence for the sake of the ecosystem, the elk, the water, to avoid spreading bacteria, and diseases, to restore land. Do the right thing and help people, the animals, and the rest will take care of itself.

Thank you, Mrs. Carolena Larsen

**Correspondence ID: 21604**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that

found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

JESUS!!!!!!!

HOW CAN YOU DENY ANY ANIMALS WATER?!?!?!?HUMANS ARE HORRIBLE

Sincerely, Ms. Laura Cosentino

**Correspondence ID: 21609**

Dear National Park Service,

Please remove the fence that constricts the Tule Elk's movement within the Tomales Point Area.

Please eliminate the leasing of our Park Land to commercial agricultural businesses.

The reason I strongly support the National Park Service is because it, along with other supportive organizations, plans and executes policies to RETAIN our wildlife, such as the Tule Elk, not abandon them to die of thirst.

These are our local Wildlife. You may believe there are not enough of them left to insure satisfactory biodiversity of this herd., Instead of abandoning them to a slow death, come up with a plan for their propagation and their future in the Tomales Point Area.

We brought back the Buffalo and the Beaver, and land connectors are being built over freeways to give biodiversity to our local Mountain Lions (in addition to saving them from their greatest cause of death: being hit by a car).

As this situation has been going on for YEARS with the Tule Elk, their fate is now being considered by you because so many people care to retain our Tule Elk. Please come up with a plan to promote the continued existence of this herd.

Please begin by GETTING RID OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE ON THE TOMALES POINT AREA NOW.

Please then, within 6 months, come up with ideas as to how to promote the continued existence of the Tule Elk. Please present those ideas to the public, including all who have commented as I have, and all who have commented previously in open forums on this subject. Please IMMEDIATELY provide a source of drinking water for these Elk, who are IN YOUR CARE, and YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. Please don't allow hundreds more of your charges die under your guardianship.

LYNNE PAXTON

**Correspondence ID: 21610**

It is time to remove the fence confining the Tomales Point Tule Elk herd at Point Reyes. They are starving while the cattle are decimating the eco system of the park!

**Correspondence ID: 21612**

If you're not intent on removing the fence then food should be brought it. Making animal starve when It can't get to food is the upmost cruelty.

**Correspondence ID: 21613**

STOP THE EVIL

**Correspondence ID: 21614**

Please remove the Tomales Point elk herd fence and help your elf roam free and live the life they deserve. Do you part and help make a difference.

**Correspondence ID: 21615**

Please tear down the fence that confines the time elk at Tomales Point. This is wildlife that needs your help. All wildlife are in trouble because of human encroachment, and we , the public, know elk are dying. All are expecting you to do the right thing by getting rid of the fence. Cattle grazing is contaminating the water and spreading diseases. It wastes massive amounts of water. Please! TEAR DOWN THE FENCE

**Correspondence ID: 21616**

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against the expansion of invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 21618**

Do you consider yourself "pro-life"? Wildlife need their space too.

**Correspondence ID: 21619**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park. Let us preserve our wildlife as much as possible. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Best,

Siobhan

**Correspondence ID: 21620**

I urge The National Park Service to choose Alternative B, "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," which will remove the fence and allow elk to roam free. In a wilderness area, especially in a national park, such a fence is inappropriate. Allowing native elk to die of thirst and malnutrition for private cattle operations is not appropriate or good for our planet. Free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling or harassment for any reason.

The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates

national park lands to “provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

Thank the agency for listening to our voices and valuing them.

**Correspondence ID: 21621**

I support Alternative B as the best option to protect wilderness values as it calls for removal of structures in the wilderness and the fence just outside.

It appears that there was a previous agreement to discontinue cattle grazing in the wilderness area. This should be enforced and the cattle grazing ended. This will not only fulfill the original agreement but will also benefit the elk, which should be protected, and the area's native vegetation.

Watering structures in the wilderness should be removed to return more natural conditions. Since it is a wilderness this should be done without the use of motorized equipment.

The wilderness area should be managed as a wilderness as required under the Wilderness Act. The use of herbicide should be ended and prescribed fires discontinued. This will allow the wilderness to function under natural conditions with less human influence.

**Correspondence ID: 21623**

Good morning,

I'm writing you today to ask that you remove the fence that's being used to contain elk at Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore. Can you imagine starving? Is there ever a justifiable reason to starve any animal? Please remove the fence and let the elk roam free. Please practice kindness and treat animals the way you would like to be treated. Thank you.

Sincerely, Julie Adair

**Correspondence ID: 21624**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Please do the right thing for the elk, it's been way too long. I support the National Park Service's preferred “Alternative B” for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing (“culling”) of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal “management” of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs. Beverly Thomas

**Correspondence ID: 21625**

I am very disappointed that the fence holding back elk has not been removed permanently. Please, I am urging you to do the right thing for these beautiful animals and take down that fence. Thank you for your time

**Correspondence ID: 21626**

- I believe the best option would be Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. The removal of the structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the correct choice. The reason alternatives A and C should be opposed is because they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. Though, some other changes to Alternative B should to be considered.
- The removal of water structures that were unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of the motor vehicles
- It is very important to eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Pint Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.
- The use of herbicides in the Wilderness should be banned. By removing cattle and the fence would allow for a better distribution of the Tule elk and would also diminish the expansion of invasive plants.
- The natural fires should be allowed to burn and shape the wilderness landscape instead of using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too many times the use of manager-started fires has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 21627**

This is not right, we can do better than this, those creatures have as much as us to do this beautiful blue planet that sadly we are destroying for profits and pathologic consumption.

**Correspondence ID: 21629**

Please remove the fence so the Tule Elk can live! They deserve a life and shouldn't be prevented from access to food and water.

A national park ought to be for the benefit of all, and not subject to prioritizing private interests for profit, Thanks for doing the right and

kind thing.

**Correspondence ID: 21633**

Please remove the fence to allow the wild elk to travel and migrate naturally. This land is their homeland and they have a right to be there as a native species. Elk are much more of a tourist draw whereas no one visits public land to view cattle. Please remove all the non-native cattle and suspend all livestock grazing permits.

**Correspondence ID: 21634**

I urge you to remove the fences at Tomales Point as soon as possible. Cattle are not endangered, the native Tule Elk are.



Cattle are a non-native, invasive species which decimate native ecosystems, contaminate the water supply with fecal bacteria, spread disease, waste massive amounts of water and crowd out native species like Tule elk. There are approximately 94 million cows in the US. Tule elk are a unique species, native to California; there are only about 6,000 on Earth, most of them in the Pt. Reyes area. This action should have been taken years ago as we are in a biodiversity crisis.

**Correspondence ID: 21635**

As a United States citizen and a TAXPAYER, I demand that the fence be removed that is keeping captive the Tule Elk.

They are dying by the dozens of starvation and illness because they are confined to a such a small area. Why? For ranchers?! ENOUGH!

Remove the damn fence and save these majestic animals. Not next year. Not a month from now.

TODAY!

**Correspondence ID: 21636**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

Sincerely, Jennifer Books

**Correspondence ID: 21637**

Remind the agency that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water

**Correspondence ID: 21638**

Good day. I wish to express that I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd. Also to urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Port Reyes National Seashore to benefit the park and help these elk. Thank you very much for taking the time to read this and please seriously consider the plight of these animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21639**

Please remove the fence so the elk can be free to roam the land as they were meant to do and deserve to do. Humans are tasked with protecting their wellbeing so please do the right thing here and get rid of the fence. Please also remember that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21640**

Why do people go to a National Park or preserve? To see the beauty of the landscape and to witness (hopefully, from a safe, unintrusive distance) our iconic American wildlife.

It is not to see cattle grazing and over grazing the lands that are so bizarrely cheaply available to cattle owners who have apparently never heard the words "fair market value," The cost of just keeping huge swaths of land from being over-grazed must be considered and the cost to

water sources and keeping them clean should be considered. Time to revisit and raise the cost of grazing rights and fees and all that.

Let nature work for the unconfined elk. Man and ranchers aren't the only thing on this planet.

**Correspondence ID: 21645**

Please remove the fence in Tomalas Reyes. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 21646**

Please consider removing this fence to help preserve the elk herd. They are dying in droves, and unnecessarily. The problem can only be remedied with the help of the NPS and their decision to take down this barrier that is preventing these animals to live freely and have access to the resources they gravely need, in order to survive.

I urge you to please do the right thing, and help these animals from starvation, dehydration and death.

Thank you for your serious consideration in this matter,

Katie Kleinschmidt

**Correspondence ID: 21647**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

After years of campaigns by advocacy groups, the NPS is finally considering removing the fence.

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21648**

Please do not remove the fencing on the Elk reserve at Point Reyes. It is such a joy to drive out there and see the local farmers. I love knowing that there are still small local farms in our area. I also love knowing that dairy products I buy come from these small local farms. Farmers have it hard enough. Don't make it any more difficult for them. If the fences are removed the Elk will take over and destroy these farms. Leave things as they are. Manage the Elk herd on the land as it is and let the farmers continue to be there.

Let the farmers continue to keep their farms with the fences in place. Let me and others actually know where at least some of our food comes from. Leave the fences!!

**Correspondence ID: 21649**

Please use Alternative B with the following additions:

-Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

-Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

-Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants

**Correspondence ID: 21650**

Please save the remaining Tule Elk from starvation due from lack of water and food access. Please take down the fence that prevents the Tule Elk from dying. They are just as important as cattle and are less destructive. No living creature should die from lack of water and food. It is cruel and unjust.

**Correspondence ID: 21651**

Please remove the fence in Pt. Reyes, allowing the Tule Elk to expand their range and protect the land and reduce the access cattle have grazing on our national seashore.

**Correspondence ID: 21652**

I am writing regarding your planning process related to “wildlife, resource, and wilderness management issues” at Tomales Point in the Phillip Burton Wilderness within Point Reyes National Seashore in Northern California.

I believe that the best option is Alternative B. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered:

- Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness should be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.
- Please eliminate grazing by cattle.
- Do not allow the use of herbicides in the Wilderness.
- Please allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important matter.

**Correspondence ID: 21653**

Cattle should not be allowed to graze on public conservation land if it means that doing so will harm other critically endangered wild life. Wildlife is hanging on by a thread and it is only getting worse as more and more humans and domestic grazing animal encroach onto the habitat. This must stop NO EXCEPTIONS!

**Correspondence ID: 21654**

Cruelty at is best.

**Correspondence ID: 21656**

Protect Tule elk. They are enjoyed by everyone...unlike the private ownership of livestock. Remove the fences.

**Correspondence ID: 21657**

The fence must be removed from Tomales point so the Deer can feed! They are starving to death because they have no food and very limited water! We all know that cattle grazing is one of the main contributing factors of climate change and pollution! Besides, it is just inhumane to keep a species unable to obtain food or water!

Man has done do much damage to species and our earth! We owe it to our planet and all species to make lives better!

**Correspondence ID: 21658**

I am writing asking you to please take action to protect. the elk who are currently confined unnaturally, causing them to suffer and die without adequate food and water.

I am urging the NPS to remove the fence in Tomales Point. The elk deserve to roam freely, and live their lives unharmed. Farmers wanting to prevent interference with their exploitation of cows is no excuse to force the elk to live a life of suffering and confinement. Choose compassion over profit .

In addition, please understand that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 21650**

Please help these animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21660**

I am glad you are helping to save these rare and beautiful animals. I think Alternative B would be the best. Cattle should not be grazing in Point Reyes or the Wilderness which was a part of the original agreement. Please do not use herbicides in the Wilderness.

I am shocked by the way these animals have been treated over the years. It is time for this to change. Cattle ranchers should be expected to honor the agreements they have made in the past. It is the responsibility of the National Park Service to save wild lands and their wild life for my grandchildren and great grandchildren. I have seen those Elk and cars stopped to look at them. They are majestic. I want generations of Californians to have that same opportunity.

**Correspondence ID: 21368**

We have been waiting patiently since 1962 for this national treasure to be preserved as natural parkland. Please remove the fencing and free the elk. Moving forward, there should not be private, leased ranching and other commercial activities in the public park. Thank You.

**Correspondence ID: 21369**

I can't believe the National Park Service would be so inept as to not realize that putting up a fence so animals can't access water would be deadly to the animals.

Please remove the fence now.

Flo Bird

**Correspondence ID: 21370**

I strongly support plan "B" -- the REMOVAL of the large fence.

The NPS must end its practice of restricting herds to a large "pen". Such a practice severely limits the access to water and other resources that the elk need for basic survival. The presence of the fence has been the cause of death for so many.

I would also insist that the NPS make a commitment not to cull/kill for the benefit of cattle ranchers, who have economically benefitted from low-cost, NPS land leases for many years.

Finally: Tule elk are considered an umbrella species. When the NPS protects tule elk, in doing so it will also protect countless other species that share the same ecological communities that the tule elk exists in.

The NPS should protect all the unique and important habitat types under its care.

Protect the elk. Approve Plan B and remove the fence.

Most Sincerely, Nancy Rieser

**Correspondence ID: 21371**

To Whom it May Concern,

Point Reyes National Seashore is a wondrous unique place best suited as a natural area and not as a grazing allotment for private ranchers. Please remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and get rid of destructive, private cattle.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Juliette Dauterive

**Correspondence ID: 21372**

I support the NPS Alternative B proposed action, which removes the elk fence and frees the confined elk. This is a National Park and should be treated as such. It is important that we let the tule elk live as wild animals and let them roam as they should.

**Correspondence ID: 21373**

As an attorney, philanthropist, and long time animal advocate, I was very disheartened to learn that you have allowed beautiful elk to suffer and die due to meaningless concerns over their travel and grazing habits. PLEASE remove the barriers to their livelihood (which I'm sure are also unsightly). Let nature be.

**Correspondence ID: 21374**

Please remove the fence so the elk can roam free and live the life they deserve.

Cattle grazing contaminates eco systems and is a massive waste of water.

You have the power to grant the Tule Elk the freedom they need to survive, I urge you to remove the fence.

Jillian Gale

**Correspondence ID: 21375**

Remove the fencing and allow these Elk to graze and water at will. Why must everyone kill these animals, not only the Elk but other wildlife species? Everyone in every state is in a killing spree on animals. If the National Park Service would pull their heads out of their ASSES, and take notice how many species are no longer around. In PA where I live and grew up there was a bounty of Pheasants, not anymore and it's such a shame. I know that in other areas of PA other animal species are no longer around. You idiots need to stop killing all of these animals for such selfish reasons. Soon there will be NOTHING LEFT if this continues.

**Correspondence ID: 21376**

Prioritize protecting elk now!

Though the elk are protected by law, the National Park Service (NPS) is prioritizing the interests of commercial ranching operations — who lease a portion of this public land for grazing cows — over the well-being of the elk by keeping them confined behind a fence. Prevented by the fence from traveling further in search of food and water, more than 150 elk died in 2020 alone during drought conditions.

The NPS has a responsibility to conserve and care for protected wild species but is instead prioritizing commercial animal agriculture interests over the needs of wildlife and public lands. We expect you to do your jobs.

**Correspondence ID: 21377**

I write in support of Alternative B of the National Park Services proposal to remove the elk fence. Please let the tule elk roam free of obstructions.

In addition, it's imperative that the cultural and natural resources in the Tomales Point area are improved. Ensuring that cattle do not enter the wilderness area, and making trail improvements will enhance the ecosystem and enhance visitors' access and experience of our park.

Our park has so much potential to help assist with regional environmental health. The work to restore the park will have an important climate-related impact in regard to our water resources and the vegetative and soil health.

Ranches are not our history. The Miwok are the history of this region and we have many lessons to learn from them about land and resource protection. Their story enhances our experience in the park and will provide each of us with an ethos in which to carry into the world moving forward. Please help educate visitors about the Native people. Their story is in complete harmony with NPS's mission and should be highlighted throughout the entire park.

This summer, I walked from San Francisco to Point Reyes, entirely on public land. A lesson realized was that while we have purchased the land for conservation, we have failed to make it readily available for the public to experience. Trails, campgrounds, and Youth Hostels are needed. Please use this opportunity to expand these important resources in the park.

Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 21378**

Please remove the fence confining the Tomales Park elk herd. Let the elk roam free. Not only that, but cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you for your kind attention to this important matter.

**Correspondence ID: 21379**

I support Alternative B which removes the elk fence.

I urge the park to ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the fence is removed.

I ask the park to inventory and restore native coastal habitat in planning area.

**Correspondence ID: 21380**

I write in support of Alternative B of the National Park Services proposal to remove the elk fence. It's time to let the tule elk roam.

The fences are an insult to everyone who moves through the park and life-threatening to the Elk. Please remove them!

When one purchases land, those from whom where paid move out and move on. It's been over 50 years and it's time that the NPS restore the park in a manner that is consistent with National Park Service land and their mission:

“to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the NPS system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.”

Alternative B helps Point Reyes meet NPS's mission by protecting cultural and natural resources in the Tomales Point area, and ideally into the rest of the park.

Point Reyes was not purchased to protect cattle. It was purchased for the preservation of the natural resources. Please work to ensure that cattle do not enter the wilderness area. And where possible, remove the cattle and the fences throughout the all of the PRNS.

Also in direct alignment with NPS's mission is the telling of the story of the Native Nations, their people, and their ways of life. Ranches are not our history. The Miwok are the history of this region and we have many lessons to learn from them about land and resource protection.

As a visitor of the PRNS, I want to learn from the Native people while experience park. Their story builds connect to place and brings harmony to an individuals experience. Their story needs to be highlighted on interpretive boards and in educational centers throughout the entire park.

Visitorship to the park is growing. 2.3 million people in 2022! Trails, campgrounds, and Youth Hostels are needed. Please use this opportunity to expand these important resources in the Tomales Point area and throughout the entire park.

Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 21381**

Please help the Elk at Tomales point and remove the fence, as proposed. These Elk have been dying, starved and not able to get access to water. It is contaminating our ecosystem and is inhumane. Please allow them to roam free.

**Correspondence ID: 21382**

I support taking down fence. The elk should be able to have access to larger areas of the park.

**Correspondence ID: 21383**

It is time for private commercial interests to be removed from PORE and the GGNRA!

I am in full support of ALTERNATIVE B!

Thank you!!!

**Correspondence ID: 21384**

TAKE DOWN THE FENCES. We must learn to live in harmony with nature.

**Correspondence ID: 21385**

I 100% support NPS' preferred alternative, "alternative B" to remove the elk fences.

It's about time! I've been supporting this for years; I have been there rallying against these fences; I have carried water to keep these majestic elks from dying of thirst.

My opinion is that the cattle ranches have no right to operate in any state or national park. These parks are for the people to come, visit, enjoy the beauty and the wildlife in these parks. People certainly do not want to see cattle and their dung, plus the fact that the run-off from the water from the ranches leaches into the ocean and other water sources. These polluting cattle ranches should definitely be removed too!

So for all of those reasons, I totally support removing these fences allowing the to elk roam free.

Thank you NPS for supporting this historic recommendation to release the largest of 3 elk herds at Point Reyes from their 3-mile-long, 8-foot-tall, deadly, fenced enclosure.

Sincerely, Patricia Holderby

**Correspondence ID: 21386**

Take down the fence that is killing the elk.

**Correspondence ID: 21387**

I support Alternative B which will remove the fencing that is confining the Tule elk herd.

I am also strongly urging the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

These Tule elk are sentient beings and must be treated as such. Please! Take away the fence around the Tule elk!

**Correspondence ID: 21388**

I want the elk fence to be removed

I want to be sure that the cattle will not invade the elk if the fence is removed.

I want the park to inventory and restore native coastal habitat in planning area.

I love Point Reyes!

Thank you, -Caroline.

**Correspondence ID: 21389**

Please take the fence down



**Correspondence ID: 21390**

September 21, 2023

Craig Kenkel, Superintendent Point Reyes National Seashore 1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Subject: Comments on Scoping for Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP)

Dear Superintendent Kenkel:

The Marin Conservation League (MCL) was established in 1934 to preserve, protect and enhance the natural assets of Marin County in a changing environment. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the scoping for the Tomales Point Area Plan. Please consider the following in the Environmental Analysis for the plan:

ALTERNATIVE A - No Action Alternative:

1. Analyze how this alternative would alleviate subsequent population crashes of the tule elk population in the Reserve. See the letter to Dept. of Interior signed by ungulate biologists dated June 24, 2021. Nutrition, not water, is primarily limiting the density of tule elk in the Reserve, i.e., supplemental water during drought will not prevent die offs of tule elk although it could prevent the death of a few malnourished elk that are in exceptionally poor condition.

ALTERNATIVE B - Preservation of Resources:

1. TULE ELK: Address the long-term management of tule elk in the planning area considering:

a. The likelihood that the elk density in the Reserve will be maintained at its' carrying capacity

by migration of primarily males and young females into the Pastoral Zone after removal of the elk fence. The carrying capacity of elk in the Reserve can be approximated by the average density across the four previous cycles of eruptions and crashes which appears to be between 300 and 400 elk.

b. The effects of increasing densities of elk migrating from the Reserve and reproducing in the Pastoral Zone on livestock operations, native plants and plant communities, and associated animal communities.

c. Fence design to exclude cattle from the Reserve which should include features to allow large and small wildlife passage, including tule elk and deer.

d. The herd to be adaptively managed at its carrying capacity approximated as a range instead of one number. Climate and weather could change food availability.

e. Continuing long-term monitoring of the elk population in the Reserve and the condition of elk in the other herds that may be influenced elk migrating from the Reserve.

f. Long-term monitoring of other sensitive plants and animals in the Reserve.

g. The genetic diversity of the tule elk throughout the Seashore should be assessed to assure their long-term viability. This should inform a comprehensive update of the Seashore's Tule Elk Management Plan considering introduction of tule elk with genetics that could increase the

genetic diversity of the Seashore's elk, thus increasing their resiliency to disease and avoiding inbreeding depression which is not currently evident. Monitoring for inbreeding of elk in the Reserve and herds throughout the Seashore should occur to trigger efforts to increase their genetic diversity.

## 2. WILDERNESS: Conduct a wilderness character assessment:

### a. Establish a baseline assessment of the five qualities of wilderness character: (1)

untrammelled, (2) undeveloped, (3) natural, (4) offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, (5) other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

b. Ongoing monitoring of these values should be conducted to assess their trends. Adaptive management actions should be taken to ensure the Reserve's wilderness character is preserved in all future actions.

## 3. NATURAL RESOURCES:

a. Identify outstanding natural resource values, including for the marine systems adjacent to the planning area but within the Seashore. Address the need for long-term monitoring of these resources.

b. Point Reyes *Blennosperma*, (*Blennosperma nanum* var. *robustum*), is a plant classified by the California Native Plant Society as rank 1B.2 as rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere and currently facing moderate threats. It grows in one of the overflow parking lots at Pierce Ranch and in other places in the Reserve. Also, California *Meconella* (*Meconella californica*), not classified by the California Native Plant Society, is known from very few populations in Marin County and occurs on Tomales Point. Potential impacts on these two species should be considered in the Plan's Environmental Analysis.

c. An analysis of the benefits and aesthetics of the twelve elk exclosures used for vegetation monitoring as they relate to Wilderness law and to important research. In the Environmental Assessment, include the reports and papers that have been produced from use of these exclosures for monitoring and resulting management of the natural resources in the Reserve.

## 4. CULTURAL RESOURCES. (Pastoral Zone):

a. Describe the specific landscape features to be retained in the 22,237- acre Point Reyes Peninsula Dairy Ranches Historic District (Historic District), listed on National Register in October 2018 that could be affected by the removal of the fence. Dairy ranches in the Pastoral Zone of the park, including those that lie adjacent to the elk fence, are included within the Historic District. Therefore, these and other dairy ranches would fall within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the proposed action. It is essential that the EA analyze scenarios in which the elk that do migrate into the "Dairy Ranches Historic District" in the APE and increase in numbers over time, might affect that designation.

b. Identify specific cultural landscape reports for Point Reyes National Seashore and how the continuing existence of cultural features described therein are compatible or incompatible with optimization of natural resources.

c. The geographic scope of the Tomales Point Area Plan and EA begins with the current alignment of the fence and extends north to Tomales Point. The NPS is obligated to consider the effect of the proposed action on areas outside this geographic scope. Such areas would include, at a minimum, portions of the pastoral zone that lie south of and adjacent to the fence. Since some individuals in the Reserve herd have already moved in and out of breaches in the fence, it must be assumed that, absent the fence, others in the herd will, over time, migrate further into the pastoral zone. At the scoping meeting on September 7 stated that, under the proposed action of removing the existing elk fence, any elk migrating out of the reserve into adjacent pastoral areas would be managed as are those free-roaming herds in areas of PRNS covered by the recent General Plan Amendment (GPA). To understand the potential effects of the Tomales Point elk herd gradually shifting from a confined to a free-roaming herd, the EA should employ the best available quantitative methodologies to project where and how natural, cultural landscape, and historical resources, including the leased ranching operations adjacent to the reserve, might be impacted over time. The EA should, likewise, address how management of elk as currently described in the GMPA would or would not be adequate to mitigate potential impacts that may be identified in the EA.

#### 5. CULTURAL RESOURCES (Tribal Considerations):

a. Identify specific cultural resources that are included in partnering with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria for preservation and protection, plus the types of management that are acceptable in the wilderness for this partnership.

#### 6. TYPE AND INTENSITY OF DEVELOPMENT:

a. Establish Carrying Capacity of visitors considering wilderness values and protection of natural and cultural values to determine if additional parking should be developed. Additional parking may only encourage more visitation and discourage a visitor's experience of solitude.

#### 7. VISITOR CAPACITY AND USE MANAGEMENT:

a. Identify specific current and anticipated impacts to beaches and coves from the visitors.

Include physical and biological impacts of day use and overnight camping and how they will be mitigated.

b. Set a carrying capacity for day use and overnight camping visitation and ensure staffing costs for management is included.

c. Identify and address impacts of ecosystem restoration and trail maintenance projects, including minor reroutes of the trails.

d. Include an assessment of the impacts of continuing the education and interpretive efforts at the historic Pierce Point Ranch.

e. Analyze the impacts of trails to be improved according to their width, length and location on the adjacent sensitive plants, plant communities and associated wildlife.

#### ALTERNATIVE C:

1. Identify the reasons for retaining the elk fence.
2. Enhancing the availability of naturally occurring water at springs, if done in a minimal manner, would better conform to guidelines for compliance with the Reserve's Wilderness designation. (2006 NPS Management Policies [https://www.nps.gov/policy/mp/policies.html#\\_Toc157232813](https://www.nps.gov/policy/mp/policies.html#_Toc157232813)).
3. Identify impacts and conduct analysis as identified in Alternative B comments on Type and Intensity of Development and Visitor Capacity and Use Management.

#### LEGISLATION AND POLICIES:

Ensure all guidance from these documents is followed:

1. Point Reyes National Seashore enabling legislation.
2. The Organic Act of 1916, which states the purpose (of national parks) is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.
3. The Wilderness Act, since 85% of the planning area is within the John P. Burton Wilderness Area (Public Law 94-544).
4. NPS Management Policies 2006, Section 1.4.3, reaffirmed by the General Authorities Act, as amended, begins with a mandate to conserve park resources and values.

#### INTERPRETATION:

1. Interpretive signage should generally be kept outside the wilderness area. Interpretive signage should be confined to the non-wilderness Pierce Point Ranch area, which is an excellent location for sharing the rich ranching history with the public.
2. Signs that are to protect sensitive resources or remind people why they need to stay on trails or explain why certain management actions are taken (so the public does not freak out over a controlled burn etc.).

MCL strongly encourages Point Reyes National Seashore to ensure that cultural resources, natural resources, and wilderness are protected and enhanced through adoption of the Tomales Point Area Plan. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments during this early stage of the planning process.

Sincerely, Terri Thomas President,

Marin Conservation League

**Correspondence ID: 21391**

Dear Craig Kenkel

Please take the fence down at the tule elk preserve and select alternative B

**Correspondence ID: 21392**

I support the NPS-preferred option--Alternative B, to remove structures within the Wilderness and just outside.

**Correspondence ID: 21393**

I'm a customer of Straus Family Creamery. Some of their organic dairy farmers will be affected by your decision. Local organic dairy farms are important to people who want to be more involved in where their food comes from. Option C, keep the fence and manage the elk heard seems like the best choice.

**Correspondence ID: 21394**

I support removing the tule elk fence (Alternative B) to allow the tule elk to access forage and water.

I do not want the tule elk to be subject to culling.

I want wilderness and wildlife to be prioritized when planning for the future of the park.

When I visit Point Reyes it's not because I want to see barbed wire fences, cows or ranching history.

**Correspondence ID: 21395**

I support sustainable farming practices on our park lands. Food and farming is becoming more and more industrialized. We need to promote and protect traditional and LOCAL farming and ranching practices that integrate with the landscape.

I support Straus Family Creamery's advocacy of: Alternate C which allows the Park to maintain the Elk Fence and actively manage its population. Secondly, we want to ensure that NPS considers the effects of alternatives on areas outside of the Tomales Point planning area, specifically the areas covered in the General Management Plan and 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan. Lastly, we support the creation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this rulemaking after the EA is completed.

Over the last few decades, the farms and ranches in the Park's pastoral zone have built a vibrant, healthy local farming and food system. These practices are established on organic and sustainable farming which have worked in harmony with nature, proving to be a solution to climate change.

**Correspondence ID: 21396**

Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness would be the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Please refrain from using Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 21397**

Dear Point Reyes National Seashore:

I am aware that the issue of the Elk at Tomales Point is a very challenging situation for all. I understand the economic importance of this situation on the ranchers and their employees. And I see the damage humans are doing to wildlife throughout the world. I live in Point Reyes and hike 5 days a week in our amazing park. From a purely humane perspective, I am fine with the fence remaining but only if we provide food and water for the Elk. If the Park is unable to do this, then, I would support taking down the fence and letting the Elk roam throughout the park. I also believe that the ranchers must follow the example of the Strauss ranching approach of capturing the carbon the cows create. In addition, we must keep the cows far from the waterways as the ocean is being affected by ranching as well. I am not anti-ranching, but, I do believe we must change soon if we are to protect the earth. I would hope we in West Marin can create best model practices.

Alas - this issue is a microcosm of what is going on throughout the world. Humans have caused our current climate emergency and the Elk - as is true for so much wildlife throughout the world - are suffering from our actions. If you are not familiar with "One Health," which is an organization recognized by the World Health Organization, the CDC, etc., I would encourage the National Parks to become so. We are all interconnected and if we do not recognize this soon, the damage we are doing will be irreversible.

Thus, since we - humans - have caused the current climate emergency, we are responsible for taking care of the Elk that are at Tomales Point. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely yours, Elizabeth A Goldblatt, PhD, MPA/HA

**Correspondence ID: 21398**

I support altB to remove the fence. I traveled across the country to see Point Reyes. The Elk Bobcats birds etc. I was dumbfounded why cattle would be present in this area. I hunt in various states across our country and don't mind sharing the land. But in places like Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Yellowstone National Park I would never expect cattle to roam. Why is Point Reyes any different. Someone has spent a lot of time pull and money to allow this to happen. Our great country has a lot of crazy issues going on right now. This is not one of them. Point Reyes is for everyone to enjoy. No one should make or save money from its use. Respectfully your Dr Richard Stigliano

**Correspondence ID: 21399**

I am writing to voice my strong support of Alternative B, removing the fence that currently confines the successfully recovered and lawfully protected Tule elk herd.

At present the, National Park Service (NPS) appears to be elevating livestock interests and ranching operations over the preservation of this unique species by leasing a portion of this public land area for the grazing of invasive, destructive cows whose presence of OUR public

lands is a privilege, NOT a right. The rights of a protected species far outweigh kowtowing to livestock ranchers.

Confining the Tule elk herd in such a way has led to tragedy, as witnessed during the 2020 drought, when over 150 of these animals died from starvation and dehydration as they were unable to search for food and water due to the constrictive fencing and extreme weather conditions. Such a horrific scenario must never happen again.

NPS is responsible for conserving and caring for protected wild species. Prioritizing agricultural interests over the welfare of a protected wildlife species is unacceptable.

I fully support Alternative B, the proposed action to finally remove the fence once and for all to free this majestic herd from their confinement and allow them to roam freely as all wildlife should, and I equally support the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore for the

protection of the park as well.

Thank you for your consideration of the plight of these Tule elk herd and the preservation of our public lands.

**Correspondence ID: 21400**

Please remove the fence. Remind the agency that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21401**

Please help the Tule Elk, let them go free or they will starve and die.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 21402**

Please protect this beautiful animals from harm and death!!

**Correspondence ID: 21403**

AS animal lovers and two caring and concerned people, my husband and I support Alternative B, which is the best option and the NPS preferred option.

Wilderness must be kept wild and removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. There are other changes to Alternative B that ought to be considered to keep the Wilderness wild. These changes include:

- Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The

  - structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

- Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as

  - per the original agreement.

- Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness.

- Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against

expansion of invasive plants.

-Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to

create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native

invasive plants.

OUR WILDERNESS AREAS ARE IRREPLACEABLE TREASURES AND MUST BE KEPT WILD USING NON-MOTORIZED MEANS.

**Correspondence ID: 21404**

The Palmerita Ranch Allotment has not yet reached the three key rangeland health standards and under no condition should grazing be allowed until those standards are met. The reality is, because of the damage from past grazing, the rangeland standards may never be met.

**Correspondence ID: 21405**

Please remove the elk fence to protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore the ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 21406**

As a native northern-Californian, some of the most magical memories I have from growing up were visits to Point Reyes. It is truly one of the most exquisite places on earth, a jewel of the West Coast's natural heritage.

Sadly, this jewel has been badly abused by dairy farmers with the permission and encouragement of the National Park Service. Not only have the dairy operations polluted the land and poisoned the waters, their fences have resulted in the cruel and needless death of the Tule Elk, who actually belong on the land -- in contrast to the dairy farms.

I would like to see all the dairy farming ended and this park returned to its owners: the taxpayers and the animals. I support your Alternative B proposed action, which removes the elk fence and frees the confined elk.

**Correspondence ID: 21407**

I support the proposed policy to open the range for "TPAP" elk now sequestered in the Pt Reyes Natl Seashore. The purpose of our National Park Service is to protect natural resources and wildlife. That the National Park system has found it impossible to manage a herd of animals without excluding them from life sustainable range is outrageous.

**Correspondence ID: 21408**

Please stop using public land to support farmers. Tax payers pay for this land and should be allowed to see it used as they wish. The way these elk are being treated for being in their natural habitat is sickening.

**Correspondence ID: 21409**

Our family has been visiting Point Reyes for decades. We love the Tule Elk so much and deeply



wish to support their well being. They are a critical part of our love of the area. Please do all you can to support the thriving of the Tule Elk. Tourism is supported by compassion and beauty. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21410**

this is bullshit-start doing the right thing for our wildlife

**Correspondence ID: 21411**

Please help preserve our precious animals left on earth.

**Correspondence ID: 21412**

your killing animals remove the fence !!!!!!!!!

**Correspondence ID: 21413**

Please free the Tule Elk, they deserve their land. Control the cattle grazing , preserve the natural habitat. I support Alternative B.

**Correspondence ID: 21414**

I support and urge you to adopt Alternative B. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered:

Remove water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness by non-motorized means (no motor vehicles).

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Ban the use of herbicides in the Wilderness. Allowing for better distribution of Tule elk would slow the expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 21415**

Please take the fence down at the Tule Elk Preserve and select alternative B

**Correspondence ID: 21416**

We need to be responsible stewards of our planet and ALL creatures. Please protect the Tule herd.

**Correspondence ID: 21417**

Do please remove the fence.

The elk are one of the rightful owners of those lands.

It would not be a simple relocation for them,

But an unfair and cruel killing spree.

And starvation would add another layer of torture.

Please.

**Correspondence ID: 21418**

Please consider this

**Correspondence ID: 21419**

The best option is Alternative B. Please also remove the structures within the Wilderness and the fence that is immediately outside of the wilderness. Grazing by cattle should absolutely be eliminated! Please do not use fertilizer in the Wilderness area. Removal of the unlawfully built water structures in the Wilderness should be removed by nonmotorized means to reduce any more damage to the area.

**Correspondence ID: 21420**

Please free these magnificent elk! They were here first. We certainly don't need any more cattle but we do need these wonderful parts of California. Thank you very much

**Correspondence ID: 21421**

Please take down the fence and allow the elk to run free and get food and water. They are an important part of California and our fauna! Thank you very much .

**Correspondence ID: 21422**

The TULE ELK has the RIGHT to survive and thrive for many generations to come. Don't deny them the RIGHT to exist!

**Correspondence ID: 21423**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

STOP THE CARNAGE

However, after years of campaigns by PETA and other advocacy groups, the NPS is finally considering removing the fence. The NPS is now taking public comments on a proposed plan that would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING REMOVE THE FENCE

**Correspondence ID: 21424**

To Whom It May Concern:

Alternative B should be put into effect to remove the elk fence. Consider removing private for-profit cattle operations from our Park. The 350 miles of barbed wire fencing should be removed too, so wildlife can thrive.

Thank you, Marion Reynolds

**Correspondence ID: 21425**

Elk need to be able to roam freely. This shouldn't even be a debate.

**Correspondence ID: 21426**

I would like to provide the following comments:

The best option in my opinion is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice.

However, please consider other changes to Alternative B including removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

I oppose alternatives A and C oppose as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk.

Please eliminate grazing by cattle, which should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness in keeping with the original agreement.

Please do not use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

Thank you.

William Johnston

**Correspondence ID: 21427**

FREE THE POINT REYES TULE ELK NOW! THESE ANIMALS DESERVE TO ROAM FREELY AND NOT BE PENNED UP JUST TO CATER TO THE NEEDS OF THE CATTLE INDUSTRY!

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING AND TAKING ACTION ON MY REQUEST TO FREE THE TULE ELK!

**Correspondence ID: 21428**

To Whom It May Concern:

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for accepting public comments regarding the plight of these innocent animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21429**

I am writing to urge the NPS to remove the fatal elk fence, protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife, and restore the ecosystem.

Fences and private cattle operations are inappropriate in wilderness areas, especially in a national park.

Once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates

national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and show public support for removal of the elk fence.

**Correspondence ID: 21430**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park. We must do more to protect our wildlife.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21431**

It might seem unusual that someone from the opposite coast would be interested in how California manages its public lands, but regardless of where in this country wild animals are intentionally or unintentionally killed or made to suffer I feel compelled to speak out. From what I've been reading the National Park Service is proposing to do the right thing by removing the fences at Point Reyes National Seashore that have restricted the native Tule Elk from having access to food and water. I am in favor of Alternative B, otherwise known as Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area. I want to thank the National Park Service for realizing that native wildlife should be prioritized on public lands and Wilderness.

**Correspondence ID: 21432**

Dear Craig Kenkel, please do the right thing, TAKE DOWN the fence at the Tule Elk Preserve and select alternative B

**Correspondence ID: 21433**

Please remove the Elk Fence!!

**Correspondence ID: 21434**

I was born and raised the coastal north bay region. While I no longer live there because of an academic career path, I return to visit my family and this particular area of Northern California that I love so much. One of my great pleasures has been to introduce Point Reyes and the wildlife protected there to my wife and daughter. The park and its offerings are now mandatory visits for us when we return to see family each year.

I am well aware of the growing antagonism between naturalists and ranchers in the area. Not only do I have family connections with ranchers, but my father was a local attorney who has worked with projects to turn former ranching lands into public-use natural preserves in both Marin and Sonoma Counties. While I can hear the frustrations of some ranchers who do not see the need to protect the animals and their habitats at Point Reyes, I do not sympathize with their desired outcome, which is to restrict even further the range of the Tule elk. The size of the cattle herds present at Point Reyes are so small compared to the land usage and it seems oddly undemocratic that such a small population's interests would have a larger say in how the land is used than the many, many voices who wish to see the land returned to natural habitats.

The long and the short of it is that I support any efforts to expand the territory of the Tule Elk. I support any efforts to increase habitat preservation for the rich array of wildlife at the park.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21435**

I support Alternative B to remove Elk fence and all commercial animals from the area

**Correspondence ID: 21436**

These animals need to be protected. Start caring and doing the right thing by them

**Correspondence ID: 21437**

I urge you to remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. Obvious humane considerations aside, (elk are starving within the confines of the fence), cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21438**

Dear National Park Service, I agree with your preferred "Alternative B" to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point inside Point Reyes National Seashore. — which has confined the elk. This fence needs to be removed and the cattle ranching needs to end in this glorious national seashore. Stop the cattle ranching and free to elk to roam in their natural habitat.

**Correspondence ID: 21439**

The fence must come down. It has been responsible for many deaths. This is why I am pushing for

B Alternative. A fair and humane solution has to be made so cattle do not access the area once the

fence is down.

While public access must be increased, it is necessary to restore the habitat for endangered and threatened

wildlife. In order to achieve survival of species and the native coastal grasslands, a good fire management

plan has to be developed.

Most of all, we must help the elk survive.

**Correspondence ID: 21440**

Please consider removing the 3-mile-long fence at Tomales Point which is causing the starvation and deaths of dozens of native tule elk. There must be better ways to manage this beautiful site and its one-of-a-kind elk population. Thank you so much for studying the problem and inviting comments!

**Correspondence ID: 21441**

Please, be kind to the Tule Elk. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21442**

I fully support the removal of the fence confining the Tule elk and the removal of all commercial cow grazing from the Point Reyes National Seashore Park.

The Tule elk, who are protected by law, deserve and have the right to freely roam the Park so they can have freedom, peace and quiet and full access to the water and food.

The public lands should be a haven for wild animals where they can thrive and be safe from fishing, trapping and hunting.

All cattle should be permanently removed from the Park. The use by animal agriculture ranchers of public lands for animal grazing or any other use should absolutely not be allowed as it is of no benefit whatsoever to the public, damages the Park ecosystem and negatively affects the natural resources and access to them which rightfully belong to the wild animals.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21443**

Native Tule elk are dying of starvation and lack of water because of the fence at Tomales Point peninsula. Remove the fence! Stop dooming these wild elk to starve and die because of this fence.

**Correspondence ID: 21444**

Help free the trapped Tule Elk and save them from thirst and starvation.

**Correspondence ID: 21445**

Please help the elk!

**Correspondence ID: 21446**

I favor Alternative C: maintain the elk fence and actively manage the herd.

I feel it is fair to balance ranching, elk habitat, and the beauty of Point Reyes.

To do that the elk must be kept separated from the ranching areas and vice versa.

It is also necessary to manage the elk herd just as the ranchers manage their herds.

Point Reyes elk have no predators, so without management they will overrun any area assigned to them.

**Correspondence ID: 21447**

I am writing to encourage you to free the Tule Elk herd currently imprisoned at Point Reyes National Seashore in California.

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants. And deliberately set fires tend to get out of control.

**Correspondence ID: 21448**

This is a national disgrace, and how we treat our wild life, especially majestic animals like the thule elk. Remove the fence let them get to life-saving food and water.

**Correspondence ID: 21449**

Please, please remove the fence that is trapping the Tule elk. No animal should suffer needlessly and this native species is starving and being killed in the name of profit for the cattle ranchers. As more and more scientific research is proving, cattle are contributing to the climate change through the release of methane during the digestive processes. Additionally, the cattle grazing is decimating the natural ecosystems of the park. This is causing problems that we can now determine but there could be other damage that has yet to show itself. The cattle are also contaminating the water supply with their fecal bacteria. Invasive species are now spreading due to the contamination. Additionally diseases are now spreading due to the cattle ranching. We have enough beef in the stores and more and more people are turning to the white meat, fish and plant bases meats. Cattle ranching also wastes massive amounts of water. This, too, needs to be thought about when we are having major droughts.

A Native American Proverb states, "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."

Thank you for your kind consideration in the matter.

**Correspondence ID: 21450**

please adopt the proposed plan that would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. Let the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve. I urge the NPS to remove the fence. Remember too that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21451**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

However, after years of campaigns by animal advocacy groups, the NPS is finally considering removing the fence. The proposed plan would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Remove the fence!

**Correspondence ID: 21452**

Leave the Wildness alone, we've already destroyed so much with our human intervention, there are already fires and floods enough, just leave the wild alone to let it heal.

**Correspondence ID: 21453**

Tule elk are a native California subspecies, who were brought back from the brink of extinction after their population plummeted to near-zero during the 1800s. They now number in the

hundreds- a conservation success- but their current situation threatens their population once again.

Though the elk are protected by law, I am aware that the National Park Service (NPS) is prioritizing the interests of commercial ranching operations- who lease a portion of this public land for grazing cows- over the well-being of the wild elk by keeping them confined behind a fence. Prevented by the fence from traveling further in search of food and water, more than 150 elk died in 2020 alone during drought conditions. The NPS has a responsibility to conserve and care for protected wild species but is instead prioritizing commercial animal agriculture interests over the needs of wildlife and public lands.

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park- this would be a profoundly important, meaningful and effective conservation step- one that would showcase the true purpose of the National Park Service!

Thank you for accepting public comments on this issue.

**Correspondence ID: 21454**

Remove the fence! Cattle grazing decimates our ecosystems and contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease and wastes massive amounts of water. The Tomales Point elk herd need to roam free and live the lives they deserve - instead of dying :(

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21455**

Please remove the fence preventing Tomales Point elk from grazing and finding water freely. They should not be prevented from living their lives in favor of cattle, which harm the environment (air & water) in a major way.

**Correspondence ID: 21456**

As a U.S. citizen who cares about our wild animals, I want you to know that I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park. These majestic creatures were here long before we were and they deserve to be allowed free movement in their natural environment.

**Correspondence ID: 21457**

Please remove the fence and allow the elks to live well

**Correspondence ID: 21458**

Please remove the fence at the Tomales Point Peninsula that serves to restrict movement of the Tule elk herd.

Thank you,

Larry Mahlis

**Correspondence ID: 21459**

Dear National Park Service,



Please execute Alternative B, Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

Please remove the 8-foot fence that dooms native tule elk to slow and painful deaths during recurring drought periods. Confined behind a fence, there have been massive die-offs, especially during the drought years, where they are cut off from adequate water sources. Confined native elk dying of thirst and malnutrition in a National Park is just not acceptable!

It is time to let these magnificent wild animals roam free in our National Seashore.

And once the elk fence is removed, and the elk are to roam freely - steps should be taken to avoid any culling, hazing, or harassment of the elk for any reason.

Thank you for listening to the overwhelming voice of the public and proposing to remove the elk fence from Point Reyes. Fences are inappropriate in a wilderness, and cattle should not be prioritized over wild animals. Cattle operations are no longer appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ceased, in order to honor the true charter of our Seashore, stated in the Point Reyes Enabling Legislation as "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment within the area," and in the Organic Act of 1916 as to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 21460**

Alternative B, take down the elk death fence! Free the elk and re-wild PRNS! It's a National Park, not a ranch!

**Correspondence ID: 21461**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

STOP MESSING WITH THESE BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS! And stop using my tax money to do it! I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms Catherine Tomasko

**Correspondence ID: 21462**

Please remove the fence that prevents the elk from access to resources at the shoreline. It is

shameful that so many elk died in 2020 and I would like the park service to put measures in place to support their survival.

**Correspondence ID: 21463**

Hello,

As president of a California nonprofit organization that works to protect all animals, I support "Alternative B", your proposal to remove the elk fence at Point Reyes National Seashore, and let the tule elk herds that live there, roam free and have access to adequate forage and water that are acute for their survival. These elk face the danger of extinction, if they keep being fenced in in that 2,900-acre Tule Elk Reserve. Hundreds of them have suffered and died during recent droughts, and this needs to change now, before they all go extinct! So please remove that fence. It's as simple as that.

In addition, please take the following steps to ensure that the elk can survive in that area, after the fence is removed:

1. Ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the fence is removed.
2. Enhance and restore habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife within the planning area.
3. Develop fire management practices within the planning area to maintain healthy ecosystems and natural processes.
4. Restore native coastal prairies within the planning area.
5. Assess climate-related impacts on water resources and native vegetation within the planning area.
6. Improve public education about the Tomales Point elk and their role in the ecology of the Point Reyes peninsula.

Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 21464**

The elf fence should come down and the ranching of cattle should go.

The ranchers should have left years ago.

Who drives out to PRN park to see cows?

**Correspondence ID: 21465**

Please preserve and defend our wildlife and protect our environment. Our lives depend on this action you can affect.

**Correspondence ID: 21466**

The NPS has a responsibility to conserve and care for protected wild species but is instead prioritizing commercial animal agriculture interests over the needs of wildlife and public lands.

**Correspondence ID: 21467**

Please urgently free the Tule elk!! Cattle proponents have held this up. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you for your prompt attention! They are dying!!

**Correspondence ID: 21468**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units. The fence is there for the cows, not the tule elk, as about half of the fenced in herd died due to lack of access to fresh water during the drought. Of course you know this, as that is why removing the fence is so important. Some elk have also died slow deaths getting caught on the barbed wire. Enough is enough. All barbed wire needs to be removed.

I also urge the Park Service to leave in place the water tanks, gratefully installed by the Park Service after hundreds of activists exposed the dire situation to the media), UNTIL the Tomales Point herd knows that it can move beyond the territory it is so familiar with.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. The tule elk are a major attraction in the Park, and delight all who come to seek out these endemic and majestic animals. They do not come to see cows. And cattle are not native to North America. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks. There are other alternatives. The Park Service needs to be better stewards of our native species, as we are losing them at an alarming rate due to man-induced climate change, and the mass accumulation of the cattle industry.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Maximilienne Ewalt

**Correspondence ID: 21469**

Please remove the fence on public land so Tule elk in California can roam freely.

**Correspondence ID: 21470**

I am writing in support of the removal of the fences at Tomales Bay which are preventing the Tule Elk from seeking water. These majestic animals are dying because they cannot gain access to fresh water. The cattle grazing that is allowed decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. These issues need to be addressed.

**Correspondence ID: 21471**

I am generally in favor of Alternative C.

I am disappointed in the obvious bias in the alternatives you have presented.

The ranchers and dairy operations in this area ARE historic at this time and there should be an emphasis on how to integrate their interests as well as those of our native Americans in resource management.

I believe you can do better, and I hope you will do so in fairly considering the Elk and the human (both current and historical). What I don't want to see is the integration of wolfs or Grizzly Bears as a way to manage the Elk populations, as some have suggested. Its more humane to cull the herds. I also want to see the family farms that are their supported!

**Correspondence ID: 21472**

I am hoping that the Toule Elk Population Herds will be able to flourish and live without being harmed due to the fact that one organization should be a supervisor that will maintain their habitat and care for them even if it means that extra food for them is given. It would be greatly appreciated to see that The USA us takes care and lives their Animals .

**Correspondence ID: 21473**

Please stop murdering innocent elk and GIVE THEM BACK THEIR LAND AND

**Correspondence ID: 21474**

I urge you to remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. Its existence has led to the needless deaths of these beautiful animals which is disturbing news.

Thank you for taking these humane measures.

**Correspondence ID: 21475**

Craig Kenkel-

Please take the fence down at the Tule Elk Preserve and select alternative B.

We are very concerned.

**Correspondence ID: 21476**

I support Alternative B as well as the elimination of grazing cattle and herbicides.

**Correspondence ID: 21477**

Help the elk in Tomales Point live by giving them access to food and water sources. Thank you so much. Bonnie Reid

**Correspondence ID: 21478**

Please protect the Tule Elk. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21479**

I support alternative B to take down the fence to save the elks. I have been reading about this and mentally suffering over it. We need to slow down the mass extinctions due to climate change. Making things easier for the thirsty elk is a victory we can celebrate by taking down the fence thru alternative B.

**Correspondence ID: 21480**

Please remove the fence to allow the tule elk to have access to consistent water and forage. Priority should not be given to the dairy farmers. These animals have rights too.

**Correspondence ID: 21481**

It's imperative that the fence be removed (and the materials recycled). IMMEDIATELY. Also

water must be provided for at least 2 years for the Elk as they will need to reclaim their ENVIRONMENT/learn that they have the freedom to roam and forage and because we're still in a drought. I'm all for reverting to natural wilderness as it was prior to the polluting ranches and destructive unnatural fences. But water must be provided for at minimum 2 yrs to the Elk to insure their survival (which has been jeopardized/interfered with by the ranches and fences that NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE)! The ranches must have their contracts IMMEDIATELY NULLIFIED and they must vacate the Park IMMEDIATELY so the fences can be completely removed and the polluted ENVIRONMENT (water and soil) RESTORED/REMEDIATED! They never should have been there in the first place. The Park director who should have NOT renewed their contracts (which had been 5 yr contracts), renewed them for 20 yrs when the Park could NOT be used for recreation because of the POLLUTION FROM THE ranches! He needs to be FIRED for job MALFEASANCE with no severance pay and investigated by the Inspector General for possible bribery from the ranches. There is NO viable other explanation for his doing the ANTITHESIS of his job! And waiting til spring/summer for you to make a decision and therefore possibly a year before the damn fences and ranches are finally gone is WOEFULLY INSUFFICIENT! REMOVE THE FENCES, RANCHES AND MALFEASANT DIRECTOR NOW!!!

**Correspondence ID: 21482**

Please remove the fences so that the elk have adequate land to graze on

**Correspondence ID: 21483**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Let the elk roam free! Build your ranches somewhere else, California is big enough.

Sincerely, Jenna Rothfuss

**Correspondence ID: 21484**

Please find a solution that preserves the elk, to not do so is a gross injustice no matter what other factors are at play. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21485**

Please protect this gentle native species not invasive BIG AG

**Correspondence ID: 21486**

Please: take down the fence!

**Correspondence ID: 21487**

I'm in favor of option B. The elk should never have been put behind fences with little access to water and food. Come on, this is a national park, and should be protecting native elk, not cows! Honestly, it's pretty disgusting how the NPS is protecting the ranchers over wildlife. Get rid of the fences, and while you're at it, get rid of the ranchers.

**Correspondence ID: 21488**

To whom it may concern,

Visiting Pt Reyes National Seashore has been one of the highlights of my life, and as a California citizen I feel proud that our state is home to such an extraordinary place to visit and which is home to so many extraordinary animal species.

One of those special species is the Tule Elk. Each time I visit, I have felt a special thrill seeing these magnificent creatures.

It is with tremendous sadness and grief to hear how their livelihoods have been so tragically impacted by the presence of cattle, whose only purpose in being in this special wild place is to bring in \$\$ to line the pockets of cattlemen who evidently have no interest in the wild creatures that reside there or do not understand their impact.

My husband and I implore you to do all you can to promote the well being of this special elk species. This is their home!

My husband and I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park. FOREVER!

Thank you for all you do to protect our wild species and our wild places.

Carol Taggart,

California resident and USA citizen and taxpayer.

**Correspondence ID: 21489**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water.

The tule elk are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence put up by the National Park Service (NPS) to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so horrific that a 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

PLEASE REMOVE THE FENCE.

Fences are inappropriate in wilderness, and cattle should not be prioritized over wild animals.

Confined native elk dying of thirst and malnutrition in a National Park is not acceptable.

Once the elk fence is removed, the elk should be able to roam freely and steps should be taken to allow avoid any culling, hazing, or harassment of the elk for any reason.

Cattle operations are no longer appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ceased to honor the true charter of this Seashore, stated in the Point Reyes Enabling Legislation as “the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment within the area,” and in the Organic Act of 1916 as to “provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

PLEASE listen to the community, we are asking for the the removal of the Elk fence from Point Reyes.

**Correspondence ID: 21490**

This has been going on for years. If the ranchers are within their rights, then keep the fences up and either feed the Elk or euthanize them. Letting the Elk starve or die of thirst is just wrong. What is the plan, Let the animals become so weak that nature kills them? MALT and the NPS have got to stop this pissing match and make a decision already to stop the suffering of these poor animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21491**

Do away with the fence. Save the elks.

**Correspondence ID: 21492**

Please save the elk!!

**Correspondence ID: 21493**

The dairy farms and cows are an essential part of the social fabric and eco systems of the Tomales

Bay peninsula. Removing the elk fence would make the dairy farms unviable, and force the import

of non-local dairy produce, with it's attendant transport pollution and fossil fuel dependence. The

peninsula can accommodate both cows and elk. Please look at the big picture, and do NOT remove

the elk fence. The dairy farms are an opportunity to educate the public where their food comes from,

and what it takes to balance human needs and viable eco-systems.

**Correspondence ID: 21494**

Dear Craig Kenkel,

Please take the fence down at the Tule Elk Preserve and select alternative B.”

**Correspondence ID: 21495**

I SUPPORT Alternative B which removes the elk fence. THIS MUST BEEN DONE NOW.

I HUGELY urge the park to ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the fence is removed. THIS IS OUR PARK NOT THE RANCHERS!

PLEASE, inventory and restore native coastal habitat in planning area.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21496**

I am in favor of removal of the tule elk fence.

The tule elk have experience population decline in this area and need more space in order to survive.

The commercial use of this area for dairy production is not a high priority and should not be considered in regard to this issue.

In summary, I am in favor of the The National Park Service (NPS) continuing to plan for the Tomales Point area of Point Reyes National Seashore (Seashore) and the Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP).

**Correspondence ID: 21497**

Dear National Park Service,

Please remove the three mile long fence on Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore, so that native tule elk no longer die of thirst and starvation. People who love and enjoy these elk, and especially the elk themselves, will thank you for your responsible stewardship.

Thank you, Sara Harstad

**Correspondence ID: 21498**

Save the elk, take down the fence

**Correspondence ID: 21499**

I am writing in support of Alternative B. The fence confining the Tule elk herd should be removed so they don't suffer from starvation and dehydration which is a grueling way to die! Commercial cow grazing should be removed from the Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

**Correspondence ID: 21500**

I would like to express my opinion that the Alternate B plan for managing the Tule elk herd is the best choice. The structures in the Wilderness area, the fence erected to confine the elk just outside the Wilderness area, and the water structures should be removed. A fence restricting native animals from food and water resulting in deaths from malnutrition and dehydration has no place anywhere, especially in a national park. The cattle that prompted the fence should never have been allowed to graze in the Point Reyes National Park, and they should be removed immediately.

In keeping with the spirit of the Wilderness, all structures should be removed by hand labor, no herbicides should be used, and any natural fires should be allowed to burn. Allowing the elk to graze will maintain the ecosystem better than herbicides, and natural fires rather than prescribed fires will better protect the landscape from invasive plants.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this important ecological and conservation issue, and I hope you will consider my thoughts on protecting the Tule elk herd and the Wilderness of the area.

**Correspondence ID: 21501**

Please protect the Tule Elk in CA. They should not be confined. They need to get access to food



and water on larger tracts of land than are available in the present confined area. Cattle grazing should not be allowed either. Ranchers can feed their cattle. Humans are not feeding the Elk.

Thank you, Helen Goldenberg.

**Correspondence ID: 21502**

Please take down the fence that is preventing the elk from getting water and grazing. National parks primary concern should be protecting and helping native wildlife to flourish not focusing on cattle ranchers needs. Elk should not be shot either for just existing. National parks are our nation's best assets. Please respect and prioritize the needs of the wildlife who reside in the parks.

Thank you, Shelley Winters

**Correspondence ID: 21503**

50 years ago I took my brand new baby to Pt. Reyes, camping for a weekend, and I've never forgotten it. It is so dear to my heart. Structures inside the Wilderness there and just outside it must be removed. How can they be left in place, degrading the Wilderness and endangering the rare Tule elk?

Over and above anything else, cattle grazing should be stopped as soon as possible. Grazing a Wilderness is such a joke. As I understand it, the cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anyway, according to an original agreement.

Suzanne Mittenthal, Ph.D. Johns Hopkins U.

**Correspondence ID: 21504**

Dear Craig Kenkel

Please take the fence down at the Tule Elk Preserve and select alternative B.

**Correspondence ID: 21505**

Dear Superintendent Kenkel,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Tomales Point Area Plan Alternatives.

With all due respect, and in the interest of trying for the last several weeks to discern how to develop support for one of your three proposed options, I simply cannot in any good faith or integrity do so.

All three TARP alternatives proposed include actions that have no chance of generating durable long term options that will move this community, region, state, and country towards a greater sense of cohesion through reconciliation.

Alternative A: There is nothing in this alternative that addresses the rapidly changing climate on native forage production and the impact that this will have (and already has had) on an unmanaged population of Tule Elk. Visitors without knowledge of stocking rates, ecological carrying capacity, ecosystem function, grassland health, etc, will continue to drive through what is now a landscape heavily overgrazed by herbivores anthropogenically placed in a confined landscape without keystone species to predate on them. During drought cycles, park visitors will balk and some portion will be driven to protest the inhumane conditions. This of course is just a refrain of the recent past which has led to the point of these TARP alternatives being generated.

A continuation of what has been, is of no interest to anyone, so I'm not sure who the audience is for this alternative.

Alternative B: This alternative supports PRNS's ongoing and progressively intensifying focus on constructive eviction of the dairies. And appears to provide partnership with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR), although the details are being hashed out behind closed doors with no publicly available meeting minutes, so the depth and commitment level of your partnership remains opaque. This alternative could satiate Resource Renewal Institute, animal rights activists, and at least for a time-- could possibly lesson the arguments from the predominantly hands-off-nature environmental groups. All of whom have convened as temporary bedfellows in the fight to remove agriculture from PRNS.

The issue here is that FIGR and the Park will fundamentally need an elk management plan (see Dr. McCullough excerpt below and Dr. Huntsinger's 9/9/16 declaration to PRNS), and this will, in due time create its own torrent of cultural unrest with the very odd bedfellows who have driven us all to this precipice. Will you return non-human keystone species into a park that is surrounded by high population centers? How will wolf packs fair in Mill Valley, and if elk nor wolves are free to roam, what or who will manage them? How will the public respond to management techniques and who will pay for them? If you allow FIGR to hunt, which is the most justice oriented solution given the land is unceded, how will FIGR engage in the landscape.... will the elk become a meat protein source for the tribe? Many of us support tribal food sovereignty and versed in its necessity, and yet, how will animal rights activists view the park if managed with a meat based human consumption component? How do unenrolled members of the tribe (of which there are hundreds), engage with a hunting policy, and if they are not included in the access planning, what will their response be?

Alternative B does the most harm to our current rural economy and established local food system, and only opens the door further for more complex lawsuits, with new actors. If Alternative B is implemented, the region will lose five certified organic dairies in the Point Reyes National Seashore [PRNS]. They represent 30% of the remaining 18 dairies in Marin County, of which 17 are certified organic.

Drakes View Dairy and Mendoza Dairy provide milk for Straus Family Creamery, which accounts for 15% of Straus Family Creamery's certified organic milk supply. Strauss Creamery provides protein sources to 150 regional schools. 50 of the 400 students in the Shoreline school district are the sons and daughters of those who work in dairies within the park, and who will have to move if the dairies are shuttered.

Alternative C: This is the Alternative dairy operators will chose for their own survival, and yet, as written in the public scoping newsletter-- this alternative purposefully leaves out any mention of PRNS's own 1998 Elk Management Plan that effectively laid the foundation for expanding elk habitat into 18,000 acres of the Philip Burton Wilderness. Elk expansion into the wilderness area is supported by dairies and cattle ranchers within PRNS. They have and continue to request that you follow your own 1998 Elk Management plan.

Your plan states: "The desired condition of the herd would be free-ranging over some 18,000 acres as a long-term goal . . . . [See Figure 7, "Map of Tomales Point Elk Range and Proposed Elk Range for relocated population," 1998 Plan, page 48.] "

Environmental review of the chosen alternative in the 1998 Plan led to a “Finding of No Significant Impact” [FONSI]:

“The preferred alternative was selected for implementation because it best meets the Service's goals to maintain viable populations of tule elk, use minimal intrusion to regulate population size where necessary, provide for a free-ranging herd, research and monitor the elk and their habitat, and provide the public within information on tule elk.”

The 1998 Plan contemplated using fire as a land management tool in the Wilderness area, one which would also contribute to restoring an historic working landscape: “The prescribed fire program at Point Reyes National Seashore seeks to return the pre-settlement fire regime to the Seashore's habitats while protecting against property or resource damage.”

The use of cultural burning to develop elk habitat in the Phillip Burton Wilderness, could have also been included in this alternative scenario, which would have provided common ground for an alliance between the working lands practitioners that PRNS is in partnership with, both FiGR and the dairy and ranching community.

The alternatives as put forward by PRNS, including A, B, C are by design, divisive.

The injuries of the past are being exacerbated by the architecture of PRNS's alternatives. Your structure is pitting people who could become mutually supportive to one another, against each other. At the end of the day, you may kick out the dairies, as you've so long intended to do, and yet, there is no word for “Wilderness” in local indigenous languages. All of these lands require stewardship, we all need to protect our local (especially the organic) foodsheds in the face of climate change. This is the time to work together on every land cover type and in every watershed to build resilience and adaptive strategies.

There are many well trained indigenous ethnobotanists, multi-generational rangeland ecologists, grassland health practitioners, holistic land stewards, academics, researchers, foresters, cultural burn practitioners right here in our community working at Resource Conservation Districts, state agencies, within tribes, Universities and NGOs, who know this land well. Many of whom are ready to collaborate to develop and implement the most sophisticated multi-cultural, multi-benefit stewardship plan that our region, or perhaps our country has ever seen. I propose Alternative A be reintroduced to include a vision that encapsulates the nuance, complexity, and depth of a planning process truly reflective of who we are and what we can become if we work together.

Thank you,

Rebecca Burgess

Excerpt:

Dale McCullough, Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology at U.C. Berkeley Museum of Vertebrate Biology, and Joe Hobbs, Senior

Environmental Scientist and Coordinator of Elk and Pronghorn Antelope Programs for California Department of Fish and Wildlife

(CDFW), presented on the subject of Elk in PRNS 2014:

“This means allowing passive, natural regulation to control population size with annual cycles of resource abundance and scarcity driving birth and death rates. For many reasons this is not always possible, primarily due to the absence of natural predators...which encourage expansion, and secondarily to the public's romanticized image of the animals. To manage expanding

or problematic populations, options include contraception or sterilization, relocating individuals to other areas, or culling the herd

where permitted through hunting or other means.”

**Correspondence ID: 21506**

Pt.Reyes is special - it is on a separate tectonic plate from the rest of the continent. The Tule Elk evolved there and were indigenous

before humans caused their local extinction.

I have been a USDAAPHIS inspector for 30 years, am a licensed veterinarian for 35 years, have a bachelors degree in Zoology from UC Berkeley, and have worked in the dairy industry. On dairies it is normal for cattle to stand up to their ankles in their own feces and the calves are sequestered in individual hutches. These are terrible practices which are readily visible to visitors at Pt. Reyes.

Not the depressing experience of a national seashore that I or the public wants to have. On the other hand, sighting of Tule Elk and other wildlife is a purely joyful experience, one that is what the National Park Service should protect.

Cattle have infected some of the Tule Elk with Johne's disease, caused by a mycobacteria that has been implicated in Crohn's disease

in humans. The ranchers and dairymen have not been good stewards of our public lands, and don't deserve to be on our seashore anymore after their leases expired. We taxpayers are subsidizing what was to be terminated by contract years ago. The Tule Elk need to be protected from the cattle and should be allowed to range freely. The cows need to go, their waste needs to go and the ranches need to be removed from Pt. Reyes.

Dear National Park Service, I agree with your preferred “Alternative B” to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point inside Point Reyes National Seashore. — which has confined the elk (for 45 years, since 1978) only to benefit private cattle ranches.

In addition, I want all these private cattle ranches removed from our public park. Their thousands of cows produce millions of gallons of manure and urine every year, contaminating the park's streams and poisoning elk, fish and all wild animals — and humans too! Commercial cattle operations pollute and have no business being in this or any national park.

Once the elk fence is removed, elk must be protected from greater exposure to manure-borne cattle diseases common in these commercial dairy and beef operations.

Finally, ranchers must be monitored and heavily fined if they haze, harass, or harm any elk or wild animals in the park, ever.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21507**

Please remove the fence that separates the elk from desperately needed water.

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 21508**

Please REMOVE THE FENCE!!!

**Correspondence ID: 21509**

I support the alternative B of an unconfined elk heard at Tomales Point. The Tule elk at Point Reyes are an incredible draw and resource for the park. They should not be artificially contained and supported and culling the herd is an unacceptable and wasteful outcome. Alternative B is a better management strategy than the current situation.

**Correspondence ID: 21510**

Please

**Correspondence ID: 21511**

I have visited this national seashore and I want to see it protected now and in the future.

I think that Alternative B should be adopted and carried out. The fence has proven very harmful and should be promptly removed. The tule elk should be allowed to roam the seashore without artificial constraints or human interference. They are wild animals and a key part of the natural ecosystem.

The wilderness area should likewise be kept free of human structures or artificial manipulation of habitats.

Nature should be allowed to adapt and cope with environmental changes. The only exception would be to eradicate highly dangerous invasive species that could colonize the wilderness and disrupt the ecology.

I do not think that dairy farming or cattle grazing are appropriate in or near the wilderness or elsewhere within the national seashore. I understand that NPS has violated the statute that established the seashore by allowing such agricultural uses to continue well past when they were legally required to be phased out. This type of political expediency is corrupt and should not be tolerated in NPS.

In any case, I am happy that NPS prefers Alternative B. This is a positive sign. I urge NPS to follow through and implement Alternative B.

I greatly appreciate this planning work and chance to provide my input.

**Correspondence ID: 21512**

Nature comes first, give the elk need to be the priority.

**Correspondence ID: 21513**

We think Alternative C is the best option.

The NPS introduced the Elk into a very limited environment Tomales Point, which was/is limited in size, plants, and water. The Park Service therefore needs to manage the size of the herd in that limited space if they want the Elk population to remain healthy. The farmers and cattle that are south of the Elk Reserve were already there prior to the Elk introduction in 1978 and their livelihood should not be affected by the Parks decision.

Is it possible to set up a fenced corridor for the Elk to access the mainland while still allowing the farmers and ranchers to maintain their herds and property? If that is not possible then the best thing to do for the environment is to manage the herd so that its numbers are compatible with the space provided for them.

**Correspondence ID: 21514**

I am writing to express my belief that the National Park Service should choose Alternative B, the "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," which will remove the destructive fence and allow elk to roam free as they are meant to do. Fences don't belong in the wilderness, and the Park Service shouldn't prioritize cattle over native wildlife. The native elk will die of thirst and malnutrition trapped by the fence, a shocking outcome anywhere but especially in a national park. Free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to fences, nor to culling or harassment. Private cattle operations aren't appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." You must remove the elk fence to honor these commitments, protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife, and restore the ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 21515**

To whom it may concern,

Please remove the fencing that is confining and killing the elk Tomales bay in point Reyes National seashore. We have all watched in horror as this confinement has devastating the population of these elk as they have such limited access to water.

Please, this has been horrific. Thanking you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Jennifer Maniar

**Correspondence ID: 21516**

To whom it may concern,

Last year I submitted comments to you relating to "wildlife, resource, and wilderness management issues" at Tomales Point in the Phillip Burton Wilderness within Point Reyes National Seashore in Northern California.

The native Tule elk, the smallest and rarest elk subspecies in North America, which are endemic to California are still threatened. The Tule elk are nearly extinct across California and are rapidly and needlessly dying at Point Reyes and within the Wilderness due to mismanagement of the National Park Service (NPS).

Unfortunately the General Management Plan for Point Reyes keeps elk trapped behind an 8-foot-tall fence, expands commercial agricultural use, and extends cattle ranch leases for up to 20 years.

The NPS currently has the largest Tule elk herd at Point Reyes fenced into an enclosure at Tomales Point in the Phillip Burton Wilderness. There is not enough forage for the confined elk. Recent drought years have caused freshwater to dry up. I believe this happened as the nearly 6,000 cattle that continue to graze within the national seashore, decades after the government paid fair market value to acquire private ranches and end livestock grazing there. Some 28,000 acres of public land at Point Reyes continues to be grazed despite the original agreement to end this commercial use.

Fortunately, the NPS now proposes a new direction. The plan is to remove the fence and allow Tule elk to naturally roam in the Wilderness and across Tomales Point as they previously did for centuries.

I appreciate that NPS has opened up a public scoping comment period on its Tomales Point Area Plan.

I believe that the best option is Alternative B, your preferred option. Removing structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. The other alternatives degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk.

However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered as well:

1. Please add that the removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness will be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.
2. Please add that grazing by cattle will be eliminated. Cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.
3. Please add that herbicides will not be used in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.
4. Please add that natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape will be allowed rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

Thank you for considering my input.

**Correspondence ID: 21517**

I was horrified to learn that park officials of all people are creating a situation that is killing animals. You must be able to develop a better plan to achieve your goals. What you are doing is inhuman. It's a disgrace.

**Correspondence ID: 21518**

Restoring and rewilding Point Reyes National Park should be a priority, and providing a wildlife connectivity corridor through the ranches is a must. A wildlife-friendly fence could be constructed to keep the cattle out of Tomales Point once the tall elk-proof fence is removed. Better yet, give the tule elk unrestricted access from Tomales Point to Drake's Bay by removing the livestock entirely!

**Correspondence ID: 21519**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I strongly support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units. Please do the right thing by removing these fences!

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

Thank you I'm advance for doing the right things for animals and the earth!

Sincerely, Kyana Jones

**Correspondence ID: 21520**

Please execute Alternative B, Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

Please remove the elk fence from Point Reyes. Fences are do not belong in wilderness, and cattle should not be prioritized over wild animals.

It is reprehensible that native elk are dying of thirst and malnutrition in a National Park.

Once the elk fence is removed and the elk can move where they will, they should not be culled, hazed or harassed. Remember this is supposed to be a National Park.

Cattle operations do not belong in Point Reyes and should never have been allowed in the first place. This land and its wildlife should be left for the enjoyment of the public and as a legacy for future generations.

**Correspondence ID: 21521**

PLEASE HAVE MERCY ON THESE BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS!!!

**Correspondence ID: 21522**

Please permit the Elks to roam freely so they can get enough food and water. How you are restricting them is practicing cruelty to animals - and I'm sure that is not what you really intended to do. Have a change of heart and take care of these beautiful animals.



**Correspondence ID: 21523**

Please act to remove this fence. The elk herd needs to be able to roam free in this area.

**Correspondence ID: 21524**

JESUS!!!!!! PLEASE PLEASE ALLOW THESE ANIMALS TO HAVE WATER!!!!!! HOW CAN HUMANS BE SO HEINOUS, SO HIDEOUS, SO HORRIFYING!!!!!! TO DENY THESE ANIMALS WATER FOR THE SAKE OF TORTURING MORE COWS TO MAKE HAMBURGERS!!!! I MEAN OUR SPECIES IS UNCONSCIONABLE!!!!!! HUMANS ARE HORRIBLE!!! IT'S SICKENING!!! PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE!!!!!! JESUS!!!!!!

**Correspondence ID: 21525**

Please adopt Alternative B for the Tomales Point Area Plan. I support the Alternative B proposed action which removes the elk fence and frees the confined elk. Go further and remove the commercial beef and dairy industries from our public land to rewild Point Reyes for the enjoyment of future generations. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21526**

Please execute Alternative B, Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

Please remove the elk fence from Point Reyes. Fences are do not belong in wilderness, and cattle should not be prioritized over wild animals.

It is reprehensible that native elk are dying of thirst and malnutrition in a National Park.

Once the elk fence is removed and the elk can move where they will, they should not be culled, hazed or harassed. Remember this is supposed to be a National Park.

Cattle operations do not belong in Point Reyes and should never have been allowed in the first place. This land and its wildlife should be left for the enjoyment of the public and as a legacy for future generations.

**Correspondence ID: 21527**

Please execute Alternative B, Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

Please remove the elk fence from Point Reyes. Fences are do not belong in wilderness, and cattle should not be prioritized over wild animals.

It is reprehensible that native elk are dying of thirst and malnutrition in a National Park.

Once the elk fence is removed and the elk can move where they will, they should not be culled, hazed or harassed. Remember this is supposed to be a National Park.

Cattle operations do not belong in Point Reyes and should never have been allowed in the first place. This land and its wildlife should be left for the enjoyment of the public and as a legacy for future generations.

**Correspondence ID: 21528**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

STOP DESTROYING AND KILLING EVERYTHING FOR PROFIT!!!!!!JESUS!!!!HUMANS ARE HORRIFYING!!!!WE DON'T DESERVE THIS PLANET!!!

Sincerely, Ms. Laura Cosentino

**Correspondence ID: 21529**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

As a native of the Bay Area, a lifelong environmentalist and someone who cares very much about the welfare of all animals including of course wild animals, I wholeheartedly SUPPORT the National Park Service's preferred "ALTERNATIVE B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Because of the fence, the tule elk have been SUFFERING AND DYING for many years because of their inability to move to find food and water when they need it and where they need it . Fences and confined animals have no place in national parks!

I also strongly urge you to officially RESCIND the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed.

I strongly oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks, including the elk at Point Reyes but also the cruel roundups of wild horses all over the western United States. Science allows us ways to manage overpopulation of animals without killing them.

Last but certainly not least, I urge the National Park Service to remove private cattle ranches from our national parks, including and especially the ranches at Point Reyes. The Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed. These cattle ranches are disastrous to the environment because of the pollution and degradation of freshwater and our ocean, because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Nadine May

**Correspondence ID: 21530**

Dear National Park Service,

Priority should be given to restoring the full ecological function of Tomales Point, of which the native Tule Elk are an integral part. While I sympathize with those who have ranched this area and the challenges they face, the hard truth is that ranching and dairy farming are not compatible with the full protection and restoration of the Tomales peninsula.

The damage the cattle operations are causing to the land is plain to see for all who visit, both in the degradation, erosion and water quality impacts that are obvious in heavily impacted cattle areas, as well as the poor health of the elk who have been shunted off to a fraction of their rightful range where they suffer thirst, malnutrition and even death. The current state of affairs is clearly inconsistent with the charter of the National Seashore and the mandate to provide for the "maximum protection, restoration and preservation of the natural environment" of Point Reyes.

I sincerely thank you for listening to the public's overwhelming support for removing the elk fence and incorporating a viable alternative to do so. I ask you to choose Alternative B to remove the fence and again allow the elk to roam freely on this land where they belong.

Thank you.

Suzanne Jones

**Correspondence ID: 21531**

To Whom It May Concern,

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore. Since the NPS has a responsibility to conserve and care for protected wild species, the elk's well-being should be prioritized over that of commercial ranchers. The elk herd must be able to travel to search for food and water in order to thrive.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best,

Lauren Schiffman

**Correspondence ID: 21532**

I urge you to support Alternative B, which is also the NPS preferred option, which would remove structures in the Wilderness, as well as the fence just outside of the Wilderness. Neither Alternative A nor Alternative C are acceptable, as each would degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. I urge you to go beyond Alternative B, though, by including the following measures:

- Ensure that the removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness be done by non-motorized means. Vehicles and machinery have no place inside Wilderness except where required for the protection of life and limb, neither of which are required here given that the structures in question are small, and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.
- Prohibit the grazing of domestic cattle. Cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

- Ban the use of herbicides within the Wilderness area. The removal of cattle would reduce competition for grazing space for Tule elk, while the removal of the fence would allow them greater access; the combination of the two factors would allow for better distribution of the elk would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.
- Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 21533**

Please save the native tule elk at Tomales Point Area from dying of starvation. Remove fence that prevents them from eating.

Killing these animales to promote cattle grazing that contaminates terrain with their feces is I Humane and not worthy of National Park Services

**Correspondence ID: 21534**

I am writing as physician and public health/environmental protection advocate who strongly supports full protection for Wilderness Areas throughout our country to remain a Wilderness.

At this time, I am writing concerning the Tule Elk in the Philip Burton Wilderness that is located in California. Isle Royale National Park and the issues of wildlife, resource, and wilderness management at Tomales Point in the Phillip Burton Wilderness within Point Reyes National Seashore in Northern California.

As a physician and public health. animal protection advocate, I am very concerned about the fate of native Tule elk, which are the smallest and rarest elk subspecies in North America, and are endemic to California. It is crucial to understand that tule elk are nearly extinct across California and rapidly and needlessly dying at Point Reyes and within the Wilderness due to NPS mismanagement.

The NPS General Management Plan for Point Reyes keeps elk trapped behind an 8-foot-tall fence, expands commercial agricultural use, and extends cattle ranch leases for up to 20 years. The NPS currently has the largest Tule elk herd at Point Reyes fenced into an enclosure at Tomales Point in the Phillip Burton Wilderness. Not only is there not enough forage for the confined elk, but recent drought years have caused scant freshwater to dry up, leaving the elk dying of hunger and thirst, as documented by visitor photographs of dead and emaciated elk. This is because the NPS prioritized the nearly 6,000 cattle that continue to graze within the national seashore, decades after the government paid fair market value to acquire private ranches and end livestock grazing there.

Some 28,000 acres of public land at Point Reyes continues to be grazed despite the original agreement to end this commercial use.

At this time, I am very relieved because after many petitions to the NPS, the NPS now proposes a new direction that is a good one, which is much appreciated. The plan is to remove the fence and allow Tule elk to naturally roam in the Wilderness and across Tomales Point as they previously did for centuries.

It is very important to understand that I strongly support full protection for the highly endangered Tule Elk and the Philip Burton Wilderness and this is best appreciated by choosing

the best option which is Alternative B, and this is also the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice.

I am alerting you to the fact that I completely oppose Alternatives A and C because they degrade the Wilderness and endanger the rare Tule elk.

However, there are changes to Alternative B to be considered which include the removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness which are best removed by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

I also very much support the total elimination of the presence of grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

To ensure full protection of the Wilderness in this environment, I strongly oppose all use of herbicides application in the Wilderness. The removal of cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of endangered Tule elk and would protect against expansion of invasive plants.

At this time, I thank you for your consideration of my letter and my recommendations. To ensure full protection for the Wilderness in this location, I very much support allowing natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. I support this option because the too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor the implantation of non-native invasive plants.

Sincerely,

Jean Marie Naples, MD-Ph.D

**Correspondence ID: 21535**

Please, please save these beautiful creatures and take this horrid looking fence down. They need water and food and I can't understand why some people don't allow that now. Jean Riding

**Correspondence ID: 21536**

Please remove the fence and allow the elk access to food and water that only your cruelty and the greed of ranchers could have ever withheld from these animals.

Haven't you allowed enough elk to die already? Haven't you allowed cattle gracing to trash the park enough already? Give the elk back their land --it's their rightful home.

**Correspondence ID: 21537**

Please remove that fence before more animals die, there is no reason to condemn lives to a horrible slow death.

**Correspondence ID: 21538**

STOP THIS HORRIFIC CRUELTY!!!!!!

**Correspondence ID: 21539**

Please fully remove the fencing to allow elk to roam freely. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21540**

The goal of all national parks is to protect, restore and preserve the natural environment. A great first step in doing that is to remove the fatal fence which puts survival pressure on this

native species, in favor of cattle. The very definition of “wilderness” areas seems to preclude any notion of fencing.

Allowing the culling and harassment of these native elk would undo the positive actions taken and put additional pressure on this species, and should not be allowed for any reason. The best alternative, and the path the National Park Service should choose is Alternative B, called “Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.”

Keeping this beautiful area for future generations requires effort now to restore and defend this land. We can no longer blindly ignore the damage caused by “business as usual” policies which benefit one area of commerce while risking permanent damage to publicly owned natural areas.

**Correspondence ID: 21541**

There is no place for cattle operations in a national park/seashore/forest.

The National Park Service should choose Alternative B, called “Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area,” which will remove the fence and allow elk to naturally roam free. It is unacceptable that elk die off from thirst and starvation.

We appreciate that the Park Service has noted public outrage about this situation. The proposed solution should prioritize wilderness and native wildlife over private commercial cattle operations. Fences do not belong in wilderness and are contrary to the National Seashore charter. Repairing the ecosystem should be part of the solution. Once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates “the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment” within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to “provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” Please cease all cattle operations, remove the fence, and repair the ecosystem.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 21542**

I am writing to state my support for Alternative B: Unconfined Tule Elk.

At this time of climate collapse we need to do everything we can to remove the drivers of climate change (grazing cows) and bring back Native browsers to assist in the tending of the ecosystems we live in. Tule Elk are master gardeners. Meadows where they roam are characterized by polycultural biodiversity of Native plants that improve soil biology and enhance CO2 sequestration. Their presence is crucial for our health by mitigating the impacts of climate change. Please get the cows off Point Reyes and give the Tule Elk their place in our collective healing of this injured planet.

**Correspondence ID: 21543**

Please protect the natural inhabitants (THE ELK) and the environment by removing the cows. This is the simplest and most effective way to restore the park and protect the Tule Elk. The cows should have been removed decades ago!

All work in wilderness areas must be non-motorized and no herbicides or pesticides should ever be used.

Thank you,

Moina

**Correspondence ID: 21544**

Thank you for allowing me to comment on your proposal.

After reviewing, I feel the best option is Alternative B, which is also the NPS preferred option.

Having worked in Wilderness, I prefer the removal of man-made structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice.

I oppose Alternatives A and C since they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk.

Removal of water structures which were unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

I also support the elimination of grazing by cattle in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness.

Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions and have the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

I have enjoyed both Point Reyes National Seashore and the Wilderness around Tomales Point. The Tule elk are integral and seeing and hearing them makes this area special. the Alternative B helps keep this experience open for others and it is my preference.

Best regards,

Paul Luehrmann

**Correspondence ID: 21545**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

They were here before we were.

Sincerely, Jill Kelly-Moore

**Correspondence ID: 21546**

NPS currently has the largest Tule elk herd at Point Reyes fenced into an enclosure at Tomales

Point in the Phillip Burton Wilderness. Not only is there not enough forage for the confined elk, but recent drought years have caused scant freshwater to dry up, leaving the elk dying of hunger and thirst.

I realize that cattle are important but so is our ecosystem for our future. There are reasons for certain landscape and living beings to belong to a certain ecosystem. We, most times, ignore the nature and force nature into what we think is best or for basic greed.

I don't think forcing living creatures into starvation or dying because of lack of water as being very humane especially when we have inserted an "invasive" species.

There should be ways that would be suitable for everyone, including the cattle and ranchers.

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Blocking vital water sources, especially during droughts, should be prohibited therefore removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles which would be less detrimental to wild life and the ecosystem in general.

While understanding the need for cattle to be able to graze, the need to eliminate grazing by cattle in protected areas should be halted as they do great damage to their surrounding area. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

The use of herbicides should be prohibited pretty much everywhere whether protected lands or along the highways. It adds to the destruction of all vegetation, wildlife and beneficial insects along with causing health conditions for ourselves. Herbicides are indiscriminate. Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

I think we have enough issues with fires these days and with the ever changing weather, the need to allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants. I think we do enough damage. Nature as a general rule does better than we ever could.

**Correspondence ID: 21547**

The elk, recently on the brink of extinction, are far more important than any commercial ranching operation. NPS should be protecting our wild species, not worrying about commercial animal agriculture. I support Alternative B to remove the fence that is preventing the elk from roaming free and to remove all commercial cow grazing. At this point we should be protecting all animals, not helping to continue the horrible abuse and slaughter of cows, pigs, chickens, ducks and so many other beautiful creatures.

**Correspondence ID: 21548**

SAVE THEM!



**Correspondence ID: 21549**

I support Alternative B as it would allow for better restoration of wilderness character in Tomales Point within the Phillip Burton Wilderness, part of Point Reyes National Seashore. All structures built within the Wilderness must be removed, and adjacent fencing inhibiting the free movement of wildlife to must also be eliminated. This must all be done without the use of power tools and engine powered machinery, especially within wilderness. Since the work can be done this way, it must be. That's the Law!

Decades ago the government paid fair market value to acquire private ranches and end livestock grazing in Point Reyes. 28,000 acres of Our public lands are still being grazed by non-native domesticated cattle. This is unacceptable as it spreads invasive species, imposes unwarranted pressure on indigenous wildlife, spreads diseases and ruins any notion of wilderness. The removal of cattle will greatly improve the resilience of local flora and fauna. Tule elks can provide more natural management of invasive plants. This will likely eliminate any need for pesticides. You must not use pesticides in wilderness, especially near vulnerable or endangered species.

Let fires burn naturally. This ecosystem has existed in harmony with wildfires for millennia. The frequent misuse of "controlled burns" disrupts the natural harmony and balance of local ecology. Irregular more intense burns serve the needs of native plants far better.

Remember, if your agency had simply obeyed the law and adhered to local agreements this situation would never have existed. Let the Tule Elk roam free, they cannot thrive in enclosures and their population numbers across California are far from restored. Tule Elk can provide the most persistent, beneficial, and least destructive weed control available to this habitat in Our time.

Thank you for for consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 21550**

We came close to losing the Elk! They are native to California! They have made it thus far because they are a protected species now! However NPS has the responsibility to conserve and protect these amazing animals! But no longer want to because of animal agriculture is more important to them than the needs of wildlife! Again greed is more important than wildlife and public lands! We need to do right thing here and make the Elk and lands need to be protected! Not cows! Once animals are extinct, we cannot bring them back! Man kind has done a wonderful job of killing species that will soon be gone forever, done by our own hands!

**Correspondence ID: 21551**

I would like to see the Tule Elk have the ability to roam without fences. I understand this will impact farm yields, but I also see that farmers/ranchers are protected in other ways such as through MALT. I'm deeply concerned by the fact that Tule Elk are starving as a result of being fenced in. I urge NPS to remedy this and allow Tule Elk to move freely, forage, and be a part of a natural cycle that doesn't pen them into an unnaturally small area.

**Correspondence ID: 21552**

As someone who loves the national parks, wildlife and teaches young kids, I'd love to see you do the right thing and to tell the children of your great seeds. I hope you take care of our elk. California has very few elk left compositor and none others in this region. Let's take care of

them, let's preserve our lands and animals as we should be doing Wyeth the national parks. It's an easy move, the right move and worth every actin to make this thoughtful action in history

**Correspondence ID: 21553**

Why are humans allowing such unnecessary abuse to these innocent animals. Show empathy and compassion.

**Correspondence ID: 21554**

Dear NPS,

I support alternative B for these reasons;

Pt. Reyes is OUR National Park created in 1962. Farming/Cattle Ranching has no place here.

The sunset clauses were not honored and revoked under circumstances that should never have occurred.

Wildlife within OUR National Park such as the Tule Elk are unique and can be found nowhere else. The diversity of Wildlife and beauty of the Park is what has kept me coming as a visitor. Their protection should be paramount. It is the Cattle that should be fenced in or REMOVED as was agreed upon decades ago.

Allowing the expansion of Ranching has caused the deaths of Wildlife within OUR National Park and is unacceptable on every level. The eyesores, such as the overdone "sensitive areas" signage while Cattle stomp all over the grounds, the veal igloos and illegal dumps within the Park is UNACCEPTABLE while Wildlife dies.

Please remove the fences and stop torturing Wildlife to a slow death. The public has spoken en masse about what we desire for OUR National Park.

Thank You, Debbie Merrill

**Correspondence ID: 21555**

Unfortunately, Tule elk are nearly extinct across California and rapidly and needlessly dying at Point Reyes and within the Wilderness due to NPS mismanagement. Native Tule elk are the smallest and rarest elk subspecies in North America, which are endemic to California.

The NPS General Management Plan for Point Reyes keeps elk trapped behind an 8-foot-tall fence, expands commercial agricultural use, and extends cattle ranch leases for up to 20 years.

NPS must eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement. Stop subsidizing the ranchers!

NPS currently has the largest Tule elk herd at Point Reyes fenced into an enclosure at Tomales Point in the Phillip Burton Wilderness. Not only is there not enough forage for the confined elk, but recent drought years have caused scant freshwater to dry up, leaving the elk dying of hunger and thirst, as documented by visitor photographs of dead and emaciated elk. This is because the NPS prioritized the nearly 6,000 cattle that continue to graze within the national seashore, decades after the government paid fair market value to acquire private ranches and end livestock grazing there. Some 28,000 acres of public land at Point Reyes continues to be grazed despite the original agreement to end this commercial use.

Remove the fence and allow Tule elk to naturally roam in the Wilderness and across Tomales Point as they previously did for centuries.

Protect rare Tule elk in the Philip Burton Wilderness!

**Correspondence ID: 21556**

I ask that Alternative B, the removal of the fence isolating the Tule elk herd, to be adopted. I also ask the Point Reyes National Seashore to be protected from commercial exploitation by no longer allowing commercial cattle grazing on the site.

Thank you for considering the welfare of these animals.

**Correspondence ID: 21557**

The following issues should be considered in your process of assessing the environmental effects of the alternatives for the Tomales Point Area Plan and the impacts of these alternatives to the natural and cultural resources in the Pastoral Zone:

A. Assess the need to supplement water and other nutrients for tule elk in the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve based on:

1. The determination or strong inference of whether elk significantly utilized supplemental water supplied in troughs during the last half of the drought years 2021 and 2022 south and then north of Upper Pierce Point Ranch.

- a. Lack of water in the Reserve for elk is not justification for continuation of infrastructure for supplementing water. Elk did not significantly use the water in the troughs installed by NPS during the drought of 2021 - 2022. My photos of the ground around the three troughs along the road to Pierce Ranch repeated throughout the dry season during the drought of 2022 showed lack of significant trampling by ungulates. My concurrent photographs of the water meters on pipes from the tanks that supplied water to these showed no flow. NPS contends that these meters were not sensitive enough to measure the amounts of water that may have been used by wildlife (or evaporation) at the troughs. This confirms that little water was used by wildlife in these troughs.

2. The inconsistent impact of watering facilities (tanks, pipes, and troughs) and means to supply and maintain them (ATVs) on the preservation of the aesthetic and natural values (sensitive plant species and mosaic of rare coastal prairie and scrub) with the reasons for inclusion of Tomales Point in the John Burton Wilderness Area. (See: 2006 NPS Management Policies Chapter 6: Wilderness Preservation and Management 6.3 Wilderness Resource Management and MINIMUM REQUIREMENT DECISION GUIDE: Instructions and worksheets for the Minimum Requirement Analysis for actions, projects, and activities in Wilderness.)

3. The amount of supplemental minerals used by tule elk supplied during the drought year of 2021-22 and the effect on their physical condition.

B. Determine an Optimum Population Size / Carrying Capacity of Elk in the Reserve and Pastoral Zone north of Sir Francis Drake Blvd and its maintenance considering:

1. Establishment of an upper limit or range of the total population of elk in the Reserve (carrying capacity) based on past annual censuses that would minimize their deaths due to deficient forage quality and quantity caused by future droughts. Over time, this carrying capacity

should be evaluated and then adjusted to maintain its positive effects on preservation of sensitive plant species and rare mosaic of coastal prairie / scrub.

2. The potential effect on elk density in the Reserve of removing the Reserve's 8-foot enclosing fence to allow elk movement back and forth into the Pastoral Zone. Assess whether this could naturally limit their density in the Reserve to their carrying capacity like what may be occurring in the free ranging Limantour Herd.

3. Mitigation to ranch leasees for the potential economic costs of free ranging elk consuming livestock forage and maintenance of livestock fences damaged by elk. This could be based on estimated and actual costs currently incurred by leasees on "C" dairy and "D" non-dairy livestock Ranches where elk are congregating.

4. An assessment of managing an unnatural carrying capacity of tule elk by comparing the feasibility of methods including contraception, lethal removal, and translocation.

a. Contraception was identified in the 1998 NPS Tule Elk Management Plan (for tule elk in the Reserve) as an option for reducing population growth of elk within the Reserve to not exceed a "management limit". Then, PZP was applied to elk within the Reserve in 1998-2000 during the herd's first population crash (Shideler et al. 2002). Virtually all elk administered PZP failed to conceive (Shideler et al. 2002). However, both PZP and GonaCon are effective for only one to two years at best (Powers et al. 2014, Carey et al. 2019) and therefore require repeated administration over an elk's lifetime.

C. An assessment of the genetic diversity of tule elk in the Reserve and throughout the Seashore would be prudent. Inbreeding depression is not currently evident from physical abnormalities or low fecundity. However, low genetic diversity reduces the resiliency of the Seashore's elk population to potential diseases. Experts in wildlife genetics should measure the genetic diversity of the Seashore's tule elk population, assess its resiliency to diseases and other factors, and whether introduction of tule elk with dissimilar genetics into and outside the Reserve should occur from other herds in California.

D. Identify and evaluate how specific techniques of Tradition Ecological Knowledge (TEK) will be used to implementing each of the Plan's three (3) alternatives based on NPS's General Agreement for Government to Government Partnership with Graton Rancheria dated August 9, 2021.

E. The Environmental Assessment for Tomales Point Area Plan should consider the salient points and numerous references of the letter dated June 24, 2021, to Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland and Deputy Director of NPS, Shawn Bengte that was signed by five professional wildlife managers including myself. They include the pragmatic efficiency of maintaining elk density in the Reserve when it comes near its carrying capacity as elk recovers from their current decline. In addition, NPS should give a high priority for management of elk in the Reserve to Calif. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife's goal to "Reduce the number of confined (tule elk) herds and the frequency for removing excess animals" as stated in its "2018 Elk Conservation and Management Plan".

F. The financial costs for NPS to administer and implement each of the Plan's alternatives should be assessed and justified for choosing a preferred Alternative. These costs should be made public knowledge to be used by the public for advocating an augmentation of the Seashore's budget for adequate implementation of the preferred Alternative.

**Correspondence ID: 21558**

NPS,

I support the removal of the hostile fencing that confines the Tomales Point Elk herd from roaming freely. I urge you to consider the societal and environmental impact of human supremacy.

**Correspondence ID: 22002**

Humans have messed with the ecology and have hurt the Earth and non-human occupants for millennia. We, humans are NOT taking care of the environment in a responsible manner. Hence floods, fires and drought that harms our homes. Please support sustainable fuels and better ways to husband the Earth.

**Correspondence ID: 22003**

Please ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the 8-foot elk fence is removed.

Please improve public education and interpretation about the Tomales Point elk and their role in the ecology of the Point Reyes peninsula.

**Correspondence ID: 22004**

Please remove the fence for these poor animals, how can you all sit back and let these animals die like this. I would think you are there to help all animals, and fencing them in where they end up starving to death, is cruel. Remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 22006**

I thank you for reading my comments as well as the issues below that are from the Wilderness Society that I am a member of.

Following the previous agreement that was made is what should be done. Not allowing the wilderness to thrive, and commercial agriculture to step back is bad policy.

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 22007**

I am in favor of Alternative Proposed Plan B which removes the Tule Elk fence and allows for the elk to roam free on our National seashore.

I am deeply connected to these elk and am heartbroken by the fence and what it has done to this rare herd, devastating.

The cattle farmers do not need these lands, the Elk NEED access to these lands and streams.

I speak for my relatives which can not, the Pt Reyes Tule Elk and their opportunity to exist in the lands that are their own.

**Correspondence ID: 22008**

Please remove the fence that is causing the elk to starve.

**Correspondence ID: 22009**

Dear NPS, we urge you to remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 22010**

I implore you to remove the fence that is confining the native tule elk at the Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore before any more die. They should be allowed to roam free as intended before it is too late.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22011**

Please protect Tule Elk, not big agriculture.

**Correspondence ID: 22012**

Please move forward on this proposed plan including removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd.

**Correspondence ID: 22013**

Hello I want to express my support for alternative B and the taking down the long elk fence and to consider and allocating funds and resources to restoring native habitat in this area of concern. Point Reyes is a national treasure and we are lucky to be stewarding it. Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 22014**

I support Alternative B: Unconfined Elk Herd to help restore biodiversity and protect wildlife.

**Correspondence ID: 22015**

Tule elk are dying of thirst and starvation because they are fenced. They need to be able to go where the food and water is. Please remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 22016**

Please approve the proposed plan that would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. Wildlife deserves to roam free and live the lives they deserve. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. The decision to remove the fence is a win for us and for them.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**Correspondence ID: 22017**

Please figure out a solution and remove this fence so that these poor elk do not have to die from starvation and dehydration.

**Correspondence ID: 22018**

Take down the fence so that the Tule Elk do not starve. They are at a critical period -- humans are responsible for the fence across their territory. We all deserve to LIVE in this world.

**Correspondence ID: 22019**

Please allow the Tule Elk to roam free. They are starving and too many have already died. Remove the fence and remove the cattle from their territory. Cattle grazing destroys ecosystems, contaminates water supplies with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and diseases, and wastes massive amounts of water. Cattle consume vast amounts of vegetation that is necessary for other species of animals, birds, and beneficial insects to survive. Please allow the Tule Elk to roam free.

**Correspondence ID: 22020**

Please help the Tule Elk !

Revise the management plan so they don't continue to starve ! Common sense !

Tule elk continue to die from starvation in the Point Reyes National Seashore under the current management plan," says Animal Legal Defense Fund Managing Attorney Christopher Berry. "The National Park Service must follow the law and revise its management plan for the National Seashore in a timely manner to avoid needless death and suffering."

"In recent successive drought years, I've seen emaciated, malnourished elk endure and die from hunger and thirst while trapped there, to benefit cattle ranches," are you all that dense , you can't fix this ? Cruel .

**Correspondence ID: 22021**

LET THEM RUN FREE!!!

**Correspondence ID: 22022**

Please let the Tule Elk roam free!!! I support Alternative B: unconfined elk!!!

**Correspondence ID: 22023**

I support alternative B: Unconfined Elk Herd. Native plant biodiversity increases where elk browse.

**Correspondence ID: 22026**

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Please remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 22028**

Please immediately remove the fence in Tomales Point. Free the elk so that they can live and thrive. They should not be dying on public park land.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 22029**

I am writing in support of the plan that includes removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. The elk should be able to roam free and live the lives they deserve. They need to have access to enough food and water to maintain their herd. Too many have died already. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22030**

Dear Sirs,

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park. Please act before it is too late.

Thank you, Elizabeth

**Correspondence ID: 22031**

Tule elk are native. Cattle are not. Any wilderness area or national park should prioritize the conservation of native plants and animals. Fencing which prevents native animals from accessing resources which they require to survive should not be allowed to remain within the Point Reyes National Seashore.

**Correspondence ID: 22032**

I am commenting in support of Alternative B to this plan: Unconfined Elk Herd. Removing cattle in such a way as to allow the Tule Elk unrestricted access. This is so important not only for these animals but the entire ecosystem of the area. Areas that these elk tend freely come back to life with native biodiversity. This action will therefore help the full system of living beings, including humans, in the long run. Please take this action to ensure the well being of the elk and the overall health of the land. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22034**

Why are you denying our native species access to the land and the nutrition it provides in order to give greedy landowners preferential treatment? Do we not owe a future to the animals that were here long before we were?

**Correspondence ID: 22035**

PLEASE TAKE DOWN THE FENSE WHICH HAS IMPRISIONED THE ELK'

This is inhumane and has caused suffering for them. This is about cattle rights and political power/control over land. The elk are here and have a right to life.

Please do the right thing...take down the fense!

Thank You Pamela Pierron

**Correspondence ID: 22036**

I AM WRITING ON BEHALF OF THE TULE ELK. I HAVE NEVER SEEN ONE, BUT I WANT THEM TO THRIVE SO THAT IF I VISIT OUT WEST THEY WILL BE THERE FOR ME. WE MUST HELP SUPPORT OUR NATIVE WILDLIFE, BECAUSE OUR HUMAN STRUCTURES



AND BEHAVIORS HAVE SO DEGRADED THE ECOSYSTEMS OUR FLORA AND FAUNA NEED TO SURVIVE.

I AM EXCITED THAT WE ARE ON THE CUSP OF REMOVING FENCING THAT CONSTRICT THE ELK FROM THEIR NATURAL MOVEMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN SEASONS WHERE FOOD AND WATER ARE SCARCE. IT IS A SMALL STEP, BUT ONE WHICH SHOWS OUR DEDICATION TO OUR NATURAL RESOURCES EVEN WHEN WE MAKE MISTAKES.

WHAT GOES UP, MUST COME DOWN.

**Correspondence ID: 22037**

Please remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. This will allow the elk to roam free, graze more widely and be both more humane to them and also better for the environment. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22038**

Support for alternative B Unconfined Elk

**Correspondence ID: 22048**

Dear NPS team, I support Alternative B, unconfined elk. We need the elk to be able to do their ecological role for the benefit of the land and native plants and we need to do our human role in removing barriers to the return to equilibrium. Finally we are ready to act and the cattle need to go. Thank you for the work you do. Abby Reyes

**Correspondence ID: 22052**

Cattle grazing really decimates our ecosystems, contaminates the drinking water supply with fecal bacteria, actually spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of precious water. Earth cannot afford further human exploitation. By continually grazing farm animals on our public lands, humanity has opened a can of worms, in terms of the crises they have created. These crises are all coming together, and have combined into a massive poly-crises that humanity is almost wholly responsible for, and must now deal with. Extinction is a large part of the poly-crises, and if humanity continues in its currently reckless vein, with little to no effort to avert the worst damages, humanity will surely add itself to the extinction crisis, it's responsible for. We are all-animals, plants, insects, and humans-all life on Earth is interconnected. What affects one group, will eventually impact all others. Humanity can no longer continue to ignore the impacts of its collective activities. Full, systemic change is drastically needed, right now. The "rugged individualism" crap foisted on the majority of Americans by the Overlords has proven to be entirely detrimental, and must now be replaced. Thank you for caring about life.

**Correspondence ID: 22056**

The fence needs to be removed, so the elcs can walk to the seashore again .

**Correspondence ID: 22059**

Please remove the fence so the elk can eat and drink and not starve to death.

**Correspondence ID: 22066**

Dear Mr. Kenkel:

You better than anyone know the effect that the fence around Tomales Point has had on the tule elk population.

The fence must come down so that the elk can roam, feed, and drink water. Three simple actions the elk need to take. It's not much to ask, yet it's what they need to survive.

Please be bold enough to do what is right.

Kind regards,

Heather Miller

**Correspondence ID: 22072**

Remove the fence!! Save the Elk before they die of dehydration!

**Correspondence ID: 22075**

Please let us not forget that truly ill were there long before people arrive. In all things we need to respect them as those who cannot advocate for themselves but who truly deserve their position in our society with respects and honor. You need to make sure that we defend those who cannot speak for themselves now and in perpetuity. Legislation fantastic Juliet let's be fair.

**Correspondence ID: 22079**

Save the animals

**Correspondence ID: 22085**

Please let us not forget that truly ill were there long before people arrive. In all things we need to respect them as those who cannot advocate for themselves but who truly deserve their position in our society with respects and honor. You need to make sure that we defend those who cannot speak for themselves now and in perpetuity. Legislation fantastic Juliet let's be fair.

**Correspondence ID: 22090**

As a resident of California, I support "Alternative B", your proposal to remove the elk fence at Point Reyes National Seashore, and let the tule elk herds that live there, roam free and have access to adequate forage and water that are acute for their survival.

These elks face the danger of extinction, if they keep being fenced in in that 2,900-acre Tule Elk Reserve. Hundreds of them have suffered and died during recent droughts, and this needs to change now, before they all go extinct! So please remove that fence, it's as simple as that.

**Correspondence ID: 22095**

Please remove the fence. Remind that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 22103**

Please please make sure the elk have enough to eat!

**Correspondence ID: 22105**

I vote for option C!

**Correspondence ID: 22108**

All construction must need to be sustainable, starting for what the government builds. It is a

shame having all the great minds at your disposal not been able to build areas with free animal movement between their own habitats.

Do something, preserve what is left of this beautiful animal, and also important for the ecosystem to keep the balance all we need.

Thanks

**Correspondence ID: 22109**

**SIERRA CLUB COMMENT**

The Sierra Club supports the preferred Alternative B “Unconfined Elk Herd.” As stated in the June 24, 2021 letter to the Secretary of Interior from distinguished scientists (p. 5): “Removing/opening the high fence across Tomales Point would allow the confined tule elk to disperse away from areas of inadequate forage and water during periodic droughts. This would lessen the likelihood of malnutrition and associated population crashes caused by irruptions in numbers of elk. Removal of the fence would allow elk to range freely into the Pastoral Zone, potentially interacting with livestock but also connecting with free-ranging elk herds at Drakes Beach and Limantour.” The removal of the fence will thus improve the health and genetic diversity of the entire Pt. Reyes elk herd. Removal of the fence is also recommended by the Cal Fish and Wildlife “Elk Conservation and Management Plan” for management of all elk, including tule elk.

Measures must be taken to keep cattle out of Tomales Point and the vegetation monitoring elk enclosures should be removed as they are not needed and a danger to the elk.

The purpose of the National Parks, which include National Seashores, is “to conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in the System units.” 16 USC 100101 Commercial cattle grazing is inconsistent with this purpose. Thus the cattle grazing leases should not be renewed, and there should not be any commercial grazing at Pt. Reyes National Seashore. The cattle grazing damages the “natural resources.”

**Correspondence ID: 22110**

Please remove the fence

**Correspondence ID: 22111**

Hello,

I am writing today to ask that the National Park Service choose Alternative B, called “Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area,” which will remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free. Fences are inappropriate in wilderness areas, and the Park Service shouldn't prioritize cattle over native wildlife. It's unacceptable to let confined native elk die of thirst and malnutrition, especially in a national park.

Private cattle operations aren't appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates “the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment” within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to “provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” Also, once the elk fence is

removed, free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

I urge you (the agency) to remove the elk fence to protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore the ecosystem.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely, Martha Vest

**Correspondence ID: 22113**

The Tomales Point fence should be removed and the elk should be allowed to range freely thru the entire Park. This will improve the health and genetic diversity of the entire herd. All commercial cattle grazing should cease. Such grazing damages park resources, especially the water, and is inconsistent with purpose of National Parks to conserve its natural resources. Cessation of grazing will also improve the visitor experience.

**Correspondence ID: 22114**

Hello. I just moved from California to Illinois. I remember commenting on this situation when I lived there a year ago! This is outrageous and inexcusable. The fact that the Tule elk are STILL starving and without water is inhumane and unjust. All because of what? Cattle?? NPS remove the fence IMMEDIATELY. "Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water."

Make the RIGHT CHOICE and not on the side of Big Cattle.

**Correspondence ID: 22115**

Please let the elk roam free and move the cattle elsewhere. The elk don't have enough water and resources to survive in their cage and are dying in droves.

**Correspondence ID: 22116**

NPS please remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 22119**

Please remove the fencing and allow the Tulare elk to move freely so that they may find adequate food and water sources instead of starving to death in the now-enclosed area. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. The NPS should not be catering to cattle ranchers when the result is such destruction.

**Correspondence ID: 22120**

The fencing needs to be removed to protect the Tule Elks.

That is all.

**Correspondence ID: 22121**

I urge you to please remove the fence.

As you may know, various researchers and studies have shown that cattle grazing is destroying our ecosystems. Our world is slowly dying because we keep killing massive numbers of cattle.

Additionally to all of this, cattle contaminates the water that we drink with fecal bacteria as well as the fact that spreads a lot of diseases. Because we kill so many animals, we can't inspect every dead animal for every disease. Cancer is a great example of this...We're having sick animals with tumors in our plates.

The right and WISE thing to do is to remove the fence. Let's protect tube elk and not animal agriculture.

**Correspondence ID: 22122**

Please take the barrier down so these beautiful animals won't suffer anymore . Please be kind ! Thank you !

**Correspondence ID: 22123**

I am writing to urge the NPS to remove the 3 miles of fencing that is confining the native Tomales Point elk herd and preventing them from grazing and having access to food/water. Please do not put the needs to cattle owners above the needs of wildlife and the environment. Cattle grazing cattle negatively impacts the ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope NPS will do the right thing by removing the fencing.

Sincerely,

Teresa Sem

**Correspondence ID: 22124**

I have been following this issue for quite some time. To choose cattle and starve an important animal, on PUBLIC land, is disgusting. This has been going on far too long. Free the Tile elk, get the cattle off public lands.

**Correspondence ID: 22125**

Tule elk are a CA subspecies who were brought back from the brink of extinction. Now there are hundreds (a conservation success story) but the current situation threatens their population once again. The elk are supposed to be protected by law but NPS is more interested in the commercial ranching operations who want to graze their cows on the land where Tule elk roam. A fence was put up so in 2020, 150 elk died in search of water & food. Not only is this animal cruelty by the NPS, it's their job is to be protecting & caring for wild animals, not agricultural needs. Please remove the fence. I support Alternative B. Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 22126**

TAKE DOWN THE FENCE AND LET THE TULE ELK LIVE!

**Correspondence ID: 22127**

Wildlife and nature should always come first. We are experiencing extreme climate chaos and the animals needs should be protected above all else. Please remove the fencing. It's cruel and bad for the environment.

**Correspondence ID: 22128**

Regarding the Tule elk situation. I am in favor of Alternative B. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Changes to make Alternative B even better would be:



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!!

**Correspondence ID: 22153**

I cannot understand why that fence is not just removed.

**Correspondence ID: 22154**

Trapped Tule Elk Are Dying of Apparent Starvation and a Lack of Water. Please consider the removal of the fencing so they are able to access food, water and roam freely.

**Correspondence ID: 22155**

Please remove the fence. How would you feel, starving? Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22156**

Remove the fence to prevent the cruel deaths of the tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore.

**Correspondence ID: 22169**

Sirs,  
  
Let's do what is right for the elks and not always bow down to the landowners.

The ecological problems created by you decisions over the years have put not only the elk but the entire eco system in peril.

Please correct these injustices and make a decision in favor of the elks.

Thank you, James M. Hutchison.....

**Correspondence ID: 22170**

Please proceed with the plan to remove the fence that is cruelly containing the elk, preventing them from accessing food and water.

**Correspondence ID: 22179**

I am very concerned about the number of elk that are dying while confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore. I understand you are considering removing the fence that confines them. This was originally put up to prevent elk from interfering with cattle grazing. However, cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. I really hope that you will decide to remove the fence permanently.

**Correspondence ID: 22186**

Esteemed National Park Service Authorities,

I am writing to stop the containment of the Tule Elk in the Point Reyes area in Northern Bay Area of California. The fence must come down.

From what I have researched, the majority of California citizens/tax payers want the fence to come down. Please adhere to this majority call and stop pandering to a small minority whose demand for profits has seemingly been given more power over this voice of the majority of Californians.

Please hear our call for the removal of this fence to stop the suffering of these noble beings. Please act in the name of good and in the name of our good democracy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ayana

**Correspondence ID: 22187**

Dear Team,

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

However, after years of campaigns by PETA and other advocacy groups, the NPS is finally considering removing the fence. The NPS is now taking public comments on a proposed plan that would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you, Pallavi

**Correspondence ID: 22200**

I strongly favor prioritizing the health and security of the Tule elk population in the Tomas Point, Philip Burton Wilderness area and the land surrounding this area. I support Alternative B.

Recently, to accommodate the livestock industry facilities at Pt. Reyes, the elk have been fenced away from water sources and the landscape they apparently need to survive. As I understand, fences to keep the elk away from the dairy industry facilities are inside the Wilderness Area.

I urge you to remove all fencing from inside the Wilderness area. Make sure the Tule elk are free to roam the entire Point Reyes Peninsula including on land now used by the dairy industry.

Further, water structures built in the wilderness area could be removed.

The dairy cattle operation in Point Reyes NS should be closed and all facilities except historically important buildings should be removed. With 2.3 million visitors to Point Reyes per year, this urban park should focus on providing outdoor experiences for the American people and it should provide quality habitats for all the native species that could inhabit this land area.

The livestock industry has no place inside our national park system. The NPS agree to phase out these ranches but retreated from their agreement to remove the cattle ranches. I know there is pressure from industry groups to maintain these ranches on our publicly owned land. Obviously these ranches could be located elsewhere on private land.



The dairy farms are consuming too large an area of the park that should be accessible to the public. The cattle are polluting the streams, polluting the ground water, and creating a stench that the public must endure. They displace wildlife and close public land from the public.

I am encouraged that you are focusing on the well-being of the Elk.

**Correspondence ID: 22205**

Please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 22221**

cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 22240**

DENIE ANIMALS WATER DENIE THESE ELKS WATER AND CUT THEM OFF WITH A FENCE.. the cruelty and ugliness never phases me with this GOP / DEMOCRATS OR REPUBLICANS AND RANCHERS and LOBBYISTS = NEVER NEVER PHASES ME WITH THE INNER CRUELTY OF UGLINESS THIS controlling and ruling agency government !!

TEAR DOWN THE FENCE = TEAR DOWN THE FENCE!!!!!!!!!!!! FREE ROAMING TO THE ELKS AND

WATER WATER WATER !!!!!!!!!!!!!

these ranchers for grazing there slaughter cattle do not OWN PUBLIC LANDS however the RANCHERS AND GOP CULT TAKE WHATEVER THEY WANT EMINENT NO MATTER WHAT ... AND KILL THESE ANIMALS BY DENING WATER .. A SOURCE THAT IS A NON HUMAN RIGHT AS WELL !!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Correspondence ID: 22241**

REMOVE the 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service intended to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. Native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore are dying of starvation and a lack of water. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. REMOVE the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd.

**Correspondence ID: 22242**

please remove defense that is causing so many deaths to the elk! The grazing cows, decimate the land, pollute the waters and the soil, the air, etc. these wild animals are a national treasure. Please don't allow them to starve to death. Thank you very much, joan cotton.

**Correspondence ID: 22244**

We write to comment on the NPS proposals regarding the Tomales Point Area Plan.

1. We support Alternative B. We commend NPS for taking the difficult step of removing the elk fence on Tomales Point and allowing the captive herd to roam free on the Point once again.

2. We support the idea of improving visitor education at Pierce Point Ranch, and suggest that one possible way to do this is to use the existing buildings to make a historically accurate

demonstration dairy ranch. This could include a herd of cows (appropriately fenced), with twice daily milking and the production of butter and perhaps yogurt and fresh cheese for sale to the public.

3. We also support greater inclusion of Indigenous People's traditional knowledge and expertise in the entire area of the Tomales Point Area, especially in sensitive cultural sites. It may be necessary to restrict access to some of these sites, mainly along the shores of Tomales Bay, in order to preserve them.

At the same time, we urge NPS to broaden the scope of its consideration of indigenous practices to include groups beyond the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. For example, the Coast Miwok Tribal Council of Marin has been doing excellent work and has much experience to add to the planning process.

Pamela Ross

Charles Gay

**Correspondence ID: 22247**

I urge the National Park Service to remove the 3-mile fencing currently confining the Tomales Point elk herd to the Point Reyes National Seashore peninsula. These animals need more grazing area to survive as a healthy herd. Thank you for your consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 22251**

I am contacting you to comment, regarding the plight of tule deer who are confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore.

It is my opinion that the three mile long fence which is confining them should be removed at once. It seems very unethical to leave the fence in place, causing the deaths of the deer, for the benefit of agricultural interests.

I implore you to please remove the fence, allowing the deer to access the food and water they need to survive.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**Correspondence ID: 22252**

September 24, 2023

RE: NPS' Development of Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP)

Tomales Point Area Plan

c/o Superintendent

Point Reyes National Seashore

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Superintendent Kenkel,

Thank you for the opportunity to make public comments regarding the Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP). This TPAP and its future final decision will have significant material impacts on all areas of Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) and the West Marin community, not just the defined Tomales Point planning area. Therefore, it is critical that this Plan recognizes the environmental and cultural impacts for areas within and adjacent to Tomales Point and PRNS.

I strongly support the proposed Alternative C, as outlined in the TPAP Public Scoping Newsletter. Alternative C best supports a thriving PRNS that meets the intended outcomes for all NPS-defined goals for the established zoning areas of PRNS. In summary, Alternative C will best protect the environmental and cultural and historic resources in land areas adjacent to Tomales Point and it will ensure a well-managed and thriving Tule Elk herd. Furthermore, Alternative C will help preserve critical Park resources, improve visitor experiences to Tomales Point, and continue the critically important partnership with Native Tribe ecological and traditional management and preservation activities within this area. Alternative C could be further improved to advance the maintenance of environmental and cultural elements of Tomales Point and the rest of PRNS. Active management of the Tule Elk herd supports the environmental maintenance of the TPAP planning area. Due to the historical changes in vegetation type and availability over the past 50 years (see page 17 of PRNS 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan) in the TPAP since the introduction of elk, it would seem necessary to study and continually assess every few years the carrying capacity of the Tule Elk herd in the TPAP planning area. This will support an elk stocking rate that is more in balance with the land carrying capacity, given the more frequent drought cycles influenced by a rapidly changing climate. The final TPAP environmental assessment (Environmental Analysis or Environmental Impact Study) should assess the following questions:

- What is the current elk stocking rate for the Tomales Point planning area?
- What Tule Elk stocking rate is justified by the current average feed resources (vegetation and grasses) at the Tomales Point planning area?
- What Tule Elk stocking rate is justified in a drought year and a non-drought year, given available Tule Elk feed resources (vegetation and grasses) in the Tomales Point area?
- What are the available water resources in the Tomales Point area, and do those water resources limit the carrying capacity of the land as justified by available feed resources?
- Precisely how will the Tule Elk be managed by NPS in accordance with the carrying capacity of the Tomales Point area in order to avoid further die-off due to lack of natural resources?
- What land and vegetation environmental indicators will be used to sustain a thriving and healthy Elk herd within the Tomales Point planning area?
- In drought years, how will PRNS establish additional water resources if natural water resources are in limited supply to sustain a healthy minimum herd population?

Alternative A and Alternative B, if chosen, will present deleterious effects to PRNS. The ineffective management and maintenance plan for the existing Tomales Point Tule Elk herd by NPS has caused horrific consequences to these animals. Furthermore, the management of Tule Elk at PRNS has fueled a false dichotomy between NPS-zoned and managed Wilderness and Ranchland areas, resulting in enmity and harassment of farmers and ranchers for simply operating in a federally designated ranching zone adjacent to a federally designated Wilderness

Zone where Tule Elk were established to thrive as a carefully managed species. Environmental analysis of Alternatives A & B can not be justified by a Finding of No Significant Environmental Impact under this environmental analysis. The grave consequences of status quo management of the elk in Tomales Point justifies a full Environmental Impact Study as the status quo alternative would lead to further unprecedented die-off of elk in future years as well as further degradation of Tomales Point landscape due to Tule Elk herd sizes potentially exceeding the carrying capacity of this Wilderness Zone.

An Alternative B recommendation should also require a full Environmental Impact Study since releasing a second Tule Elk herd on the NPS-codified Pastoral Zone, and potentially the unincorporated areas of Marin County would have significant environmental and cultural consequences to these areas, especially the historic Ranchland (Pastoral) Zone that was re-codified through the General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) Record of Decision (ROD) in 2021. As PRNS considers its preferred alternative (Alternative B) specifically, the removal of the Tomales Point Tule Elk fence, it should, at minimum, assess these areas of environmental impact on the adjacent PRNS Ranchland Zone and determine how it impacts and fundamentally changes the EIS established for the GMPA.

- What environmental and cultural impact will removing the Tomales Point tule elk fence have on the Ranchland (Pastoral) Zone defined in the 2021 GMPA EIS?

- What effect will the unlimited and unmanaged Tule Elk herd have on the Ranchland (Pastoral) Zone have on the natural resources of the Ranchland Zone as identified in the 2021 GMPA EIS?

- What effect will the Tomales Point Tule Elk herd have on the financial viability of the ranches and dairy farms in the Ranchland (Pastoral) Zone due to the inherent natural resource conflict between a free-ranging elk herd and farming operations?

- If the Tomales Point Elk Fence is removed, how will the Tomales Point Tule Elk herd and its future derivatives impact the lease terms and associated land value with dairy farms and beef ranchers, given the natural resource competition that will undoubtedly occur as Tule Elk migrate into leased pasture areas?

In Summary:

- Alternative C best supports the Tomales Point Area Plan and the entirety of PRNS goals and mission.

- If Alternative B is selected as a preferred alternative following this current public scoping period of the TPAP Environmental Analysis, then a full Environmental Impact Study should be required with an intentional focus on environmental impacts inside the Tomales Point area and in adjacent PRNS land areas given the significant and material impacts this will have on other management areas in PRNS.

- A thriving Tule Elk herd and Wilderness Character in Tomales Point must include a world-class Tule Elk management plan. PRNS should create an action plan based on best management techniques to ensure a healthy and thriving Tule Elk herd and Tomales Point wilderness ecology under Alternative C.

Sincerely, Albert Straus

Founder/CEO

Straus Family Creamery

**Correspondence ID: 22254**

Please remove the fence in Point Reyes and let the Elk have access to food and water and to roam free!!

**Correspondence ID: 22256**

You apparently aren't concerned about the animals under your care. To allow animals to go without food and water and watch them die take soulless individuals and organization. You need to find ways to help these animals.

**Correspondence ID: 22257**

September 24, 2023

Superintendent Craig Kenkel

National Park Service

Point Reyes National Seashore

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Superintendent Kenkel and the National Park Service,

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the Tomales Point Area Plan. I am grateful that the National Park Service (NPS) has announced a preferred Alternative B proposed action which includes removing the deadly 8-foot tall fence at the Tule Elk Reserve - allowing the Tomales Point Tule Elk freedom in our National Seashore once and for all. This is an important step so please understand that I am grateful for your consideration in moving this forward. I support the Alternative B plan: Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

Over the course of 15 plus years I have spent an extensive amount of time in the Reserve closely observing and documenting the majestic and iconic Tule Elk. It was my firsthand observations and documentations that uncovered and exposed the most recent catastrophic die-off. When I expressed my concern and disappointment to park staff and spoke out about my findings publicly in the news, through press releases, at rallies, and across social media, it was suggested by some NPS employees that I was misleading the public about the situation. This could not have been further from the truth. I am pleased that this truth is clearly evident to decision makers now.

Over the years I have worked closely with biologists and other environmental scientists from around the world, as well as NPS staff in other National Parks. I have always held such people, who are often like-minded, in high regard. This idea that I would intentionally mislead such individuals, NPS staff or the public about something as serious and personal to me as the die-off impacting these Tule Elk was always outrageous. As a professional wildlife photographer and camera operator for natural history films, I believe integrity is essential. Anyone who has worked with me or knows me well knows that I value it deeply. I appreciate the opportunity to express

this and make it very clear to you now that my priority was always the well being of the Tule Elk during their most pressing time of need.

I would like to say that I wish NPS staff would have taken more of an initiative initially and shown more concern, curiosity, or even disappointment in what was happening to these beautiful intelligent sentient beings. Instead of getting defensive and insinuating error on the side of me - the observer/documentarian, it would have been wise for NPS staff to listen, to take my concerns more seriously, and to keep an open mind about my observations, documentations and my years of experience being around these Tule Elk, getting to know them quite well - easily over a thousand hours in their presence.

While there are still many painful reminders for me and a great deal of depression and despair from this whole traumatic situation, I am here but far too many Tule Elk are not. I do my best to remain hopeful that brighter days are on the horizon. I am hopeful that NPS staff finally agree that when it comes to the deadly Reserve fence, the status quo is unacceptable. It is also my hope that NPS staff will acknowledge that what has happened to the Tomales Point Tule Elk is unnatural, unethical, inhumane, and dishonorable. There is no better time to correct course on a bad situation, you just have to get started. It was not that long ago that I held this agency, the NPS, in high regard. I hope to get back to that feeling one day again. Please see this Alternative B plan through for the Tomales Point Area and please prioritize biodiversity and environmental health throughout our precious National Seashore - the one and only National Seashore on the West Coast.

Additional Insights, Thoughts, Concerns, Considerations:

While I believe it makes sense to “discontinue provision of supplemental water and minerals for the Tule Elk at Tomales Point” as the Alternative B plan calls for, I would argue that this practice should be phased out gradually over a longer term while careful monitoring of the herds is also undertaken. If some NPS staff indeed believe that some Tule Elk in the northern portion of the Reserve are completely unaware of the existence of the fence, then it only makes sense that these Tule Elk have supplemental water and minerals phased out gradually. Even during this past summer I witnessed a herd with young approach a now defunct and unmaintained water trough, and this is after a historic winter full of rain. The conditions on the ground were far healthier than past years with more adequate water about, yet here a herd readily looked for water in this trough during one of the hottest and driest times of year. Furthermore, I believe it is a little presumptuous and shortsighted that anyone, let alone NPS staff, would suggest that these complex and social mammals would not naturally range out of this area if the fence were not there in the first place - especially when harsh drought conditions exist in the area. This is why monitoring is needed. While some of these Tule Elk in the northern portion of the Reserve may have never seen the fence (as NPS staff have said) - especially newborns and young as well as lead females of particular herds content in their chosen and established home ranges, I would not assume that they fail to communicate in a complex way in which it is clear there are risks and rewards to leading one's family group or herd in a direction where there is a shared understanding of obstruction, competition for resources, and risk of failure or even death, etc. Perhaps the Tule Elk do not have the ability to communicate with directional road signs and green and red arrows but I would not be so certain that they are dumb while still being complex mammals...then again I know of some other mammals that can be pretty dumb at times too. Nor would I sarcastically refer to their intelligence levels or limitations when our understanding of them is clearly very limited in scope and research funding. It should also be mentioned that

some of these Tule Elk, especially young ones in the northern portion of the Reserve, never got the chance to see the fence because they did not make it through their first year alive, as I have observed and documented personally. It would be difficult for all the Tule Elk in the Reserve to see the fence, if so many in the Reserve keep dying.

Please consider repairing and/or improving the former stock ponds within the Reserve which have over the years become home to endangered California Red-legged Frogs among other species. These stock ponds are, in many cases, the most relied upon water sources for a number of Tule Elk herds as well.

The Alternative B plan suggests adding a fence to exclude cattle from Tomales Point. This is an absolute must. However, why, after decades of public ownership and management by the NPS, are there still cattle within this precious National Seashore at all? Leases should have been phased out years ago and many of the areas that cattle currently roam in should have been restored to native California Coastal Prairie habitat among other habitat types. California Coastal Prairie happens to be the most species rich grassland type in North America. There is roughly 2% of this unique habitat type left on Earth. What better place to restore such a habitat type than in PRNS. Please consider phasing out animal agriculture throughout PRNS completely and sooner than later. Rewild the area; let native flora and fauna do what they have for time immemorial.

Consider a wildlife friendly corridor for the Tule Elk to navigate easily through the Tomales Point area and adjacent areas when they need to. Ideally some of these Tule Elk should be able to mix with other herds like the Drake's Beach and Limantour Tule Elk. Please make sure that all fencing is removed from this wildlife friendly corridor and not just the 8 foot tall Reserve fence. Make sure leaseholders do not intentionally disturb Tule Elk moving through such a corridor. I recall one morning along the road at J Ranch (or Kehoe Ranch), a group of Tule Elk jump over a high barb wire fence into a heavily degraded cattle grazed area adjacent to the road and ranch. Unfortunately, the last bull to jump got tripped up on the top wire and flipped over mid-air and landed squarely on his back with a thud, it was so painful to watch, I can only imagine how painful it must have been for this individual bull. I know of other park goers having similar observations regarding the extensive amount of fencing in PRNS and its horrendous impact on wildlife here. This is unacceptable for a National Park. Wouldn't it be nice if there was no fencing at all in the entire National Seashore?

On more than one occasion, I have heard NPS staff make the statement that during the 2012-2015 die-off in the Reserve, Tule Elk were not regularly seen near the fence. While this may be technically correct within very narrowly defined parameters, I do not agree with it because overall context matters. While I have regularly seen Tule Elk at the fence, even touching noses and antlers with individuals outside the enclosure over the years, and it remains a common area to spot Tule Elk, it is very important to understand that the larger established herds in the Reserve lay claim to more valuable foraging and more easily accessible watering spots not immediately adjacent or along the fence or in the dense coyote brush near it or steeper ravines before it but on the plateaus and lush hillsides most suitable to their needs. These areas are larger with more grass, safer and more inline with the Tule Elk's nature. If park staff had taken this under consideration during the die-off of 2012-2015, they would have likely noticed that more herds than usual, including some large bull bachelor groups were roaming the areas that I speak of.

More consideration and research is needed on the potential benefits and risks vs rewards for utilizing fire or prescribed burns as a management tool for the Tomales Point area. Please look further into this, but not immediately after removing the fence. While the area is almost an oasis when compared to heavily degraded cattle grazed pastures, there is an abundance of non-native grasses and plants in some areas choking out opportunities for Coastal Prairie restoration and rewilding. There are even areas within the Reserve with Eucalyptus stands that should be up for consideration of removal and restored with native trees instead. Some tree stands in the Reserve provide important habitat for multiple species and these trees are extremely efficient at pulling moisture from the fog laden air providing lush areas within their vicinity. The NPS should carefully consider what non-native trees should be removed while also considering what alternatives are available to continue providing a small but pretty important habitat at Tomales Point. Of course these shade providing tree stands and small lush riparian areas in the Reserve have proven very important, during ever-more frequent drought years, not only to the Tule Elk but numerous other wildlife - careful consideration is needed on this matter.

I believe that illegal Tule Elk antler poaching happens in the Reserve more than one might imagine. I have seen and reported this but like so many other concerns, observations and documentations, I fear it could have fallen on deaf ears. On one occasion I witnessed two individuals come ashore at a quiet beach area in the northern portion of the Reserve by way of kayak. They took an impressive set of antlers back to the eastern shore with them. As you know there are a number of little coves and beaches in the Tomales Point area, even some beaches that campers set up at. The NPS should consider more monitoring of kayakers and campers along the Tomales Bay checking for Tule Elk antler poaching. More enforcement of violations against visitors who take their dogs on walks at Tomales Point would also be a good thing.

Now, I would like to include a quote from Dr. Judd Howell as I believe he sums up a number of things worth your consideration: "As a certified wildlife biologist and retired member of the U.S. Department of the Interior, I conducted research about the tule elk at Pierce Point in Point Reyes National Seashore during the 1990s. The studies included elk population dynamics, habitat use, foraging behavior, food preferences and vegetation sampling to better understand long-term trends. I also helped build a number of exclosures. During the large elk die off several years ago, I think the penned in herd at Pierce Point hit a choke point. Severe drought probably did dry up water sources and limited forage. Having individuals with Johne's disease likely contributed to heavy mortality in that population. To hear that park officials are stating that there are a number of water sources there now (or have been observed recently) does not mean they were there during crunch time. Personally and professionally, I am for free-ranging elk and the posthaste phasing out of the ranches that have really overstayed their welcome. Historically, Point Reyes likely had up to 5,000 tule elk. Now it likely has more than 7,000 head of cattle, yet ranchers are complaining about a few hundred elk. These are our lands. The park is the heritage of our children, grandchildren and beyond. Ranching has a place in our society but not at our National Seashore." - Dr. Judd Howell

Conclusions:

Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) has always been a very special place for me ever since I started hiking and photographing here many years ago. When it comes to the Reserve, I like to recall the many peaceful and rewarding experiences I have had along this beautiful and unique stretch of the Peninsula. And when it comes to the Tule Elk, they have had and continue to have a very profound impact on my life. Today, I often take my 2 year old son to visit the Tule Elk. He



has already had some pretty incredible experiences - this is exactly the kind of thing that a National Park should provide. Visiting this area of the Seashore can feel as though one is at the end of the Earth in a way, the last bit of North America before the vastness of the Pacific Ocean. Before moving to West Marin, I remember waking up hours before sunrise to take the long drive out to this wild edge and immerse myself in the magic that awaited me. Please give a helping hand to this magic wild edge - I believe that is the core mission of the National Park Service and also the reason behind why PRNS was founded in the first place.

As for the Tule Elk, I would like to finish with these words that I wrote for the Mission Rewild website (MissionRewild.org). A website that I started to help assist in this journey to see PRNS live up to its highest ideals and greatest potential: "What a profound feeling it must have been for those who had a hand in saving the tule elk from the brink of extinction in the last two centuries. We are all better off and forever indebted to those who did such honorable work. Nevertheless, it's now the 21st Century, and if you ask me if the work is anywhere near complete, I would say we are just beginning. The tule elk story is one to continue writing. A voice for this majestic wild one, is a voice for the past, present and future of California."

Thank you Superintendent Kenkel and NPS staff for your time and consideration. You have the opportunity to be a voice for the Tule Elk at this historical moment in time. Thank you for proposing to remove the Tomales Point fence and free the Tomales Point Tule Elk once and for all. Please understand that my writing may have included a little frustration and even anger in tone at times, but this is simply because I truly love the Tule Elk and I love our Seashore and want to see the very best version of itself.

Please consider visiting MissionRewild.org to learn more about my time in PRNS and/or consider getting in touch with me to learn more about the Tomales Point planning area, I live nearby and I am easy to find.

Thank you Sincerely, Matthew Polvorosa Kline

[www.polvorosakline.com](http://www.polvorosakline.com)

[www.missionrewild.org](http://www.missionrewild.org)

**Correspondence ID: 22258**

I am contacting you today to implore you to remove the fence at Tomales Point. The fence is causing irreparable damage to the Tule Elk who live there; the elk are dying of starvation and lack of water due to the fence. 152 Elk have died already. I implore you to tear the fence down immediately before any more animals suffer and die.

I know this fence was erected to keep the Elk from grazing on surrounding seashore land, however, I would be remiss if I didn't remind you that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Please remove this fence immediately so that no more animals suffer and die. Thank you for your time in this urgent matter.

Sincerely

Erika Mijuskovic

**Correspondence ID: 22260**

Our federal government is tasked with maintaining these tule elk on federal property. As things stand, many are dying of starvation and/or thirst. The fence separating them from accessing more places to graze and drink is unconscionable. We need to protect and provide for these creatures as we are supposed to be doing. Get rid of the fences preventing the elk from surviving. Please be compassionate to sentient creatures. They did not ask to be confined to an area that can no longer support them. We must do the right and moral thing to nurture this herd. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22263**

Please save the elk!

**Correspondence ID: 22264**

Initially, I am re-submitting my May 4, 2022 scoping comments which I've been told were not considered because they addressed an area outside Tomales Point. I am resubmitting that comment since it makes no sense to reject a comment about an element in the 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan that you propose to replace with the Tomales Point Plan:

May 4, 2022 Comment:

“The March 31, 2022, notice seeking public comment on a 'Tomales Point Area Plan' states that the proposed plan is to 'replace the 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan for Tomales Point.' [Hereafter “1998 Plan.] Among the issues identified is removal of the Pierce Point elk fence. The release of the elk into the Limantour Area under the 1998 Plan led to establishment of free ranging herds of elk in the Pastoral Zone. Removal of the Pierce Point elk fence would result in even more elk challenging operation of the dairies and ranches in the Pastoral zone contrary to recognition in the 1998 Plan that:

“Point Reyes National Seashore . . . operates under . . . management, legal and administrative goals and constraints. The operation of historic ranches and public visitation must be considered. [1998 Plan, p.38]”

Since it was never intended that the Seashore be a wildlife zoo, surely the General Management Plan Amendment provides sufficient “drive-by” opportunities for visitors to experience “free ranging elk” in the Pastoral Zone, but could agriculture in the Pastoral Zone survive removal of the Pierce Point elk fence? Please expand the focus of your proposed plan to include measures identified in the 1998 Plan to make the Wilderness Area more accessible to the elk and thus expand the opportunity to develop additional free-ranging elk herds in the Wilderness Area rather than in the Pastoral Zone. According to the 1998 Plan, “. . . The desired condition of the herd would be free-ranging over some 18,000 acres as a long-term goal . . . . [See Figure 7, “Map of Tomales Point Elk Range and Proposed Elk Range for relocated population,” 1998 Plan, page 48.] “

Environmental review of the chosen alternative in the 1998 Plan led to a “Finding of No Significant Impact” [FONSI]:

“The preferred alternative was selected for implementation because it best meets the Service's goals to maintain viable populations of tule elk, use minimal intrusion to regulate population size where necessary, provide for a free-ranging herd, research and monitor the elk and their habitat, and provide the public within information on tule elk.”

A summary of effects of the preferred alternative on the environment include: "The maintenance and conservation of tule elk in Point Reyes National Seashore would contribute towards ecosystem restoration of native fauna; would be compatible with protecting habitats for several endangered, threatened, and rare species; would assist in preventing impacts from overpopulation that could threaten biological diversity in native habitats."

In addition,"Managing elk using relocations and scientific techniques would not result in the displacement of ranching activities with the Seashore. Existing conditions would continue within the Seashore as a result of the ability to manage elk on the restricted Tomales Point elk range."

The 1998 Plan contemplated using fire as a land management tool in the Wilderness area, one which would also contribute to restoring an historic working landscape: "The prescribed fire program at Point Reyes National Seashore seeks to return the pre-settlement fire regime to the Seashore's habitats while protecting against property or resource damage. Fire is seen as an important component for maintaining vegetative productivity allowing for a more natural equilibrium of vegetation types. Elk assists in reducing fuel loads in grassland and shrub areas where they feed, decreasing the area's susceptibility to fire effects. Thus, elk grazing reduces impacts from fires on forage species. Fire also works towards enhancing productivity through increased nutrient cycling, improving the quality of habitat for tule elk. [1998 Plan, pp 11-12]". Despite this recognition of the value of fire as a tool in managing the land for elk habitat, it took the Woodward fire to burn off the vegetation that limited elk access to suitable forage in the area south of Limantour.

Since the Woodward fire elk have migrated as far south from Limantour as Wildcat Camp, and as far east as the intersection of the Baldy and the Sky Trails. Unlike at Tomales Point and in the pastoral zone where natural fresh water sources are limited, there are several freshwater streams that come off the Bolinas Ridge as well as a couple of lakes and at least one pond in thousands of acres that would be ideal elk habitat if the Park took steps to restore it to the state in which the Miwoks are thought to have managed it prior to the 1800's. The pond I'm familiar with is no longer accessible to four-legged critters because the brushy vegetation has become so dense.

Tools to manage habitat for the elk authorized in 1976, P.L. 94-389, "Preservation of Tule Elk Population in California," [1998 Plan, P.3.] include the use of fire, and the 1998 Plan notes that "Park superintendents have authority to establish the 'administratively determined minimum tools to manage wilderness areas.'" [1998 Plan, pp.11-12.]

The plan to "collaborate with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria to incorporate tribal views and traditional ecological knowledge" is particularly appropriate to developing plans to restore the historic "working landscape" in the Wilderness Area. Citing from the 1998 Plan, p. 25:

"Treganza (1962) has estimated some 1,500 indians lived at Point Reyes in Miwok times. A number of observations since 1579 showed the Coastal Miwok used fire as a means of maintaining coastal prairie for the collection of grain and to enhance the habitat for grazing animals (NPS 1993). . . ."

Collaborating with local Native Americans to implement the 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan would be an exceptional opportunity for the National Park Service, acting through the Seashore,

to collaborate with Native Americans, in this instance the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, to restore an historic Native American “working landscape.”

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Teichman

Additional Scoping Comments:

(1) The 2021 GMPA establishes the guidelines and policies for management of the dairies and ranches in the area covered by the GMPA. How many elk do you estimate would migrate from Tomales Point onto the nearby dairies and ranches in each of the 20 years of a lease granted under the 2021 GMPA? What are the facts on which your estimate is based? What will the impact of the migrating elk be on the physical and financial ability of the ranchers to meet organic standards for their cattle and for the dairy herds in particular?

(2) Please provide a report on the steps taken and the outcome of implementing (or failing to implement) measures identified in the 1998 Plan to make the Wilderness Area more accessible to the elk.

(3) Please provide a citation to the “General Management Plan” that guides management of the Wilderness Area.

(4) What is the source for management guidance of the Wilderness Area? What will be the source of management guidance for the Limantour elk herd that remains in the Wilderness Area if the Tomales Point Plan replaces the 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan?

(5) Environmental review of the chosen alternative in the 1998 Plan led to a “Finding of No Significant Impact” [FONSI]: The preferred alternative was selected “. . . because it best meets the Service's goals to maintain viable populations of tule elk, use minimal intrusion to regulate population size where necessary, provide for a free-ranging herd, research and monitor the elk and their habitat, and provide the public within information on tule elk.” What actions has the NPS taken pursuant to the 1998 Plan to establish and maintain a “viable” population of tule elk in the Wilderness? Please provide the results of the “research and [monitoring of] the elk and their habitat since the 1998 Plan was implemented and the information provided the public about the research result.

(6) Please identify and compare the potential natural sources for fresh water for wildlife in both the pastoral zone and in the Phillip Burton Wilderness Area, both seasonal and year around, including ponds or wetlands where water would be available if the vegetation was managed as it was by the Miwok Indians, and not counting rancher-maintained stock ponds.

(7) How many elk were primarily living in the Wilderness [versus in the pastoral zone], and how far south were they moving or were they located before the Woodward Valley fire? Have additional elk migrated south or further south into the Wilderness Area since the Woodward Fire? When did the number of elk south of Coast Camp increase? And how much has the herd increased annually, if at all, since the Woodward fire?

(8) Does the NPS have a current policy and management action plan for dealing with wildfires in the Wilderness areas? Will NPS join California's January 2021 “Wildfire and Forest Resilience Taskforce? See <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/californiawildfireandforestresilienceactionplan.pdf>

(9) Does the NPS have the authority to collaborate with the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria to manage areas of the Phillip Burton Wilderness area or would Congressional action be necessary if the Graton Rancheria were interested in expanding the scope of the existing collaboration agreement?

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Teichman

**Correspondence ID: 22265**

Hello National Park Service, I agree with your preferred "Alternative B" to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point inside Point Reyes National Seashore. — which has confined the elk (for 45 years, since 1978) only to benefit private cattle ranches.

In addition, WHY is there private cattle on public land??? I want all these private cattle ranches removed from our public park. They are contaminating the fish and water that we humans use!! Their thousands of cows produce millions of gallons of manure and urine every year, contaminating the park's streams and poisoning elk, fish and all wild animals — and humans too! Commercial cattle operations pollute and have no business being in this or any national park.

Once the elk fence is removed, elk must be protected from greater exposure to manure-borne cattle diseases common in these commercial dairy and beef operations.

Finally, ranchers must be monitored and heavily fined if they haze, harass, or harm any elk or wild animals in the park, ever.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this.

Regards,

Lisa Sanford

**Correspondence ID: 22267**

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly implore the NPS to approve the important proposed plan that would remove the fence which confines the Tomales Point elks.

Grazing destroys our very fragile ecosystems. It also pollutes and wastes our finite water supply, while spreading diseases and harmful invasive species.

I urge the NPS to approve this environmentally safe and most humane plan.

Thank you.

Lynn Nishida

**Correspondence ID: 22268**

I can't believe the National Park Service would be so cruel! These animals are living beings who deserve food and water. Please tell me that you will rectify this horrible situation forthwith!

**Correspondence ID: 22269**

Please remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 22270**

they also have the right to eat and drink yes a right not a privilege God provided enough for everyone including the animals to roam and be free. So how are you to determine the fate of these animals . This is cruelty abuse and barbic in nature. Imagine yourself in the desert with no food and water. And there are resources within your reach that can provide these vitals essentials for you to stay alive and its being deliberately with held there enough for everyone and every living begin

**Correspondence ID: 22271**

Alternative B: Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area

(NPS Proposed Action)

Under alternative B, the NPS would update management zoning within the planning area to include a Wilderness Zone and a Scenic Landscape Zone. Alternative B consists of the following elements:

I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE B, WITH SOME CONSIDERATIONS AND POTENTIAL CHANGES MADE FOR ISSUES DESCRIBED IN MY POINT-BY-POINT COMMENTS BELOW.

Preservation of Park Resources

- Remove existing elk fence. Consider adding a fence to

exclude cattle from Tomales Point.

YES, I AGREE THAT THE EXISTING ELK FENCE SHOULD BE REMOVED. NPS-PRNS SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITY TO ADD A FENCE TO EXCLUDE CATTLE FROM TOMALES POINT. DAIRY RANCHERS SHOULD HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF KEEPING THEIR CATTLE ON THEIR PROPERTY, AND REMOVING THEM FROM TOMALES POINT IF THEY MOVE NORTH OF ANY OF THE HISTORIC DAIRY RANCHES STILL IN OPERATION SOUTH OF PIERCE RANCH.

NPS-PRNS SHOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RESTRICTING THE NATURALLY EXPANDING RANGE OF THE TULE ELK, ANYWHERE WITHIN THE NATIONAL SEASHORE, WHETHER IN AREAS DESIGNATED AS WILDERNESS OR SCENIC LANDSCAPE (E.G., HISTORIC DAIRY RANCHES). HOWEVER, WITHOUT NATURAL PREDATORS, THE ELK POPULATION AT POINT REYES WILL EVENTUALLY (AND RELATIVELY RAPIDLY AND SOON) EXPAND TO THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE ENTIRE AREA, HISTORIC RANCHES INCLUDED. AT THAT TIME, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO CONTROL THE SIZE OF THE ELK POPULATION WILL BE REQUIRED. EXPERIENCE IN PARKS LIKE YELLOWSTONE AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARKS HAVE MADE THAT CLEAR. IT WAS CLEAR REGARDING THE CONFINED ELK HERD AT TOMALES POINT AS LONG BACK AS 1993, WHEN A SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL NOTED THAT ELK POPULATION CONTROL WAS/WOULD BE NEEDED: DALE R. MCCULLOUGH, ROBERT A. GARROTT, JAY F. KIRKPATRICK, EDWARD O. PLOTKA, KATHERINE O. RALLS, E. TOM THORNE, "REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL ON CONTROL OF TULE ELK ON POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE," NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE, (1993):

[https://www.nps.gov/pore/getinvolved/upload/planning\\_tule\\_elk\\_report\\_scientific\\_advisory\\_panel\\_1993.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/pore/getinvolved/upload/planning_tule_elk_report_scientific_advisory_panel_1993.pdf).

NPS-PRNS SHOULD BEGIN TO LAY OUT AND LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR ELK POPULATION CONTROL ACTIONS IN THE FUTURE. CULLING IS LIKELY TO BE THE MOST POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY EFFICIENT SOLUTION. PERHAPS AN INDIGENOUS CULLING PROGRAM COULD BE INSTITUTED, OR A TRIBE-MANAGED HUNTING CONCESSION.

ALTERNATIVELY, AND MY FAVORED SOLUTION, WOULD BE TO REINTRODUCE WOLVES TO PRNS AS THE ECOLOGICALLY AND HISTORICALLY NATURAL MECHANISM FOR REGULATING THE ELK POPULATION.

- Discontinue provision of supplemental water and minerals for tule elk. Remove all existing, non-historic supplementary water systems. YES, I AGREE.
- Retain historic, cultural landscape features, unless they are incompatible with natural resources. YES, I AGREE.
- Inventory and manage invasive plant species, which may include manual removal and use of herbicides. YES, I AGREE.
- Implement programs to promote ethnobotanical resources in coordination with the Tribe. YES, I STRONGLY AGREE.
- Evaluate use of prescribed fire to meet desired conditions of native plant communities. YES, STRONGLY AGREE, AND SUGGEST THAT THE HISTORIC CONDITION OF NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES, SOME OF WHICH WERE FAVORED BY INDIGENOUS USE OF FIRE, BE LOOKED INTO AS A BASELINE CONDITION TO MANAGE TOWARD.
- Terminate vegetation monitoring projects that rely on the use of the twelve elk exclosures and remove elk exclosures. Encourage further vegetation research at Tomales Point that does not rely on the installation of permanent infrastructure within the Philip Burton Wilderness. PARTIALLY AGREE. IF THEY ARE SCIENTIFIC VEGETATION MONITORING PROTOCOLS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE ELK EXCLOSURE, THOSE SHOULD BE USED, BUT IF VEGETATION ECOLOGISTS DETERMINE THAT EXCLOSURES ARE NEEDED FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO INFORM MANAGEMENT GOALS, A LIMITED NUMBER OF EXCLOSURE EXPERIMENTS SHOULD BE PERMITTED, EVEN WITHIN THE WILDERNESS AREA.
- Continue to partner with the Tribe for the preservation and protection of significant cultural resources. YES, STRONGLY AGREE.

## Type and Intensity of Development

- Improve facilities at the Pierce Ranch to function as a core location for visitor use in the Tomales Point area. Revise circulation patterns to bring more visitors through the historic site and add a spur trail leading to an overlook of Tomales Bay on the eastern edge of the complex. YES, I AGREE WITH THIS MANAGEMENT ACTION.
- Add new vault toilets at the Pierce Ranch area. YES, I AGREE.
- Increase parking capacity by formally designating areas currently used unofficially. YES, I AGREE.
- Improve and maintain the Tomales Point and McClures Beach trails to better protect resources

while also providing access. YES, I AGREE. THE LAST FEW MILES OF THE TOMALES POINT TRAIL, MUCH OF IT OVER SAND, IS VERY POORLY MARKED AT PRESENT, LEADING TO A MULTITUDE OF SOCIAL TRAILS AND ROUTES WHICH IS DAMAGING AND UN-AESTHETIC. THAT PORTION OF THE TRAIL SHOULD BE STABILIZED AND MARKED, AND SOCIAL SPUR TRAILS CLOSED, TO THE EXTENT COMPATIBLE WITH WILDERNESS, WILDLIFE, AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.

## Visitor Capacity and Use Management

- Improve visitor use management for Tomales Bay beaches and coves through refinement of the camping program (e.g., site-based reservation system) or other options. Permitted camping locations may be limited to protect natural and cultural resources. Additionally, daytime use of beaches could also be limited to protect

natural and cultural resources. I AGREE THAT VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT BE "IMPROVED." I STRONGLY AGREE THAT BOTH CAMPING AND DAYTIME USE OF TOMALES BAY BEACHES BE REGULATED AND LIMITED (EVEN CLOSED) WHEN NECESSARY TO PROTECT NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES.

Comments by Bruce A. Byers inserted in ALL-CAPS TEXT BELOW. They are being submitted through the online public comments portal for the PRNS Tomales Point Area Plan at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=131377> on 24 September 2023.

Bruce A. Byers, Ph.D.

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**Correspondence ID: 22272**

I have lived in the Bay Area most of my adult life. I am an elder now. I have spent many special days in Pt. Reyes. And I have been sharing with educators and kids for years about our native Tule Elk at Point Reyes National Seashore.

I am glad to see that you are finally considering removing the 3-mile fence that has kept native Tule elk from sufficient water and nutrition for decades. Hundreds of elk have perished behind this fence as they are cut off from necessary food and water for their survival.

Take down the fence. Remove the cows. Restore Point Reyes National Seashore.

You should not be prioritizing cattle.

**Correspondence ID: 22273**

I am urging the NPS to remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 22274**

Dear NPS I am urging the NPS to remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 22276**

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE REMOVE THE FENCE!!!

**Correspondence ID: 22277**

Hi,

Please, first of all, work to eliminate grazing by cattle at Point Reyes National Seashore.

This is critical for the success of the native, rare Tule elk -- and most other native animals and plants.

Regarding your plan:

The best option is Alternative B, which is your NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. I oppose Alternatives A and C as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger Tule elk.

Thanks much,

Eric Smith

**Correspondence ID: 22278**

Mr. Kenkel,

Please execute Alternative B, as I, a US taxpaying citizen, want the NPS to tear down that 8 foot fence which keeps the native Tule Elk from roaming freely across my National Park, Point Reyes National Seashore.

In addition, REMOVE all tenant cattle, including the cattle ranching tenants and their 350+ miles of barb-wire fence.

Also, learn how to protect our native Tule Elk from the horrific and contagious wasting disease, Johnes, which was brought into PRNS by the tenant cattle .

It is time for the NPS to prioritize native wildlife on our public lands at PRNS, over the well-connected tenant cattle ranchers and their Ag lobbyists.

Kelli Petersen

A concern citizen of Marin County

**Correspondence ID: 22280**

Please allow the fence to be removed. The Tule elk must be protected . Cattle farmers have had their way long enough. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22281**

free those animals or provide food and water!

**Correspondence ID: 22283**

Take the fence down. It IS that simple, to be a decent human.

WHY do you want to kill innocent animals?

**Correspondence ID: 22287**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I strongly support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units!

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks!

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnes's disease! The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnes's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks!!

I sincerely thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue! We hope and pray that these elk will be free once again! Cattle ranchers must keep their cattle on their private ranges, certainly not on Public Lands!

Sincerely, Ms. Rita Cross

**Correspondence ID: 22288**

SAVE THE LAST REMAINING ELK so they have a chance to reproduce BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE for yet another

SPECIES! THANK YOU

**Correspondence ID: 22289**

Please free the elk and protect Point Reyes for native wildlife and do not let the cattle destroy it.

**Correspondence ID: 22290**

I fully support the removal of the ELK FENCE within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I learned of this issue from

Friends in CA and am horrified that cattle are being prioritized over the native species of Tule elk.

Wild animals suffering and dying or being culled in a NATIONAL PARK is not acceptable.

Take down the fence and let the Elk roam free on their land.

Elizabeth K Newmiller

**Correspondence ID: 22291**

We support Alternative B which would remove the elk fence. Please be sure the Park ensures that the cattle will not be able to enter the wilderness area once this fence is removed. Thank you for your consideration.

Would it be possible to inventory and restore our native coastal habitat as well.

Sincerely, Rebecca Panchot

**Correspondence ID: 22292**

National Park Services,

I was appalled to learn that 152 tule elks have died in 2020 alone due to apparent starvation and lack of water!!!! I urge your and plead with you, PLEASE, PLEASE REMOVE THE FENCE that prevents the elk from grazing at the nearby seashore land. This practice, and this fence is cruel and inhumane!!! I would also like to remind you that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Please do the right thing!

Thank you, Megan A.

San Mateo County Resident

**Correspondence ID: 22293**

The best option is Alternative B-Removal of structures in the wilderness & the FENCE just outside the wilderness area, is the Right Choice. Alternatives A & C must be opposed for they degrade the wilderness & endanger or rare Tule elk. Also there are other changes to alternative B that really ought to be included and considered.

There are old illegally built water structures in the wilderness area that are small and can be removed, and if they are they must be removed by nonmotorized sources.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. Cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes now or ever again as per the ORIGINAL AGREEMENT.

Do not use herbicides in the wilderness. If you remove the cattle & the fence, that would allow for better distribution of Tule Elk & would mitigate against the expansion of invasive plants./

Get rid of manager-ignited fires which create artificial conditions. This tends to create non-native invasive plants. Natural fires should be allowed to burn & reshape the landscape

The iconic Tule Elk have been treated so horribly because of the cattle industry who have no right to be there and the BLM should be replaced by an organization that puts the animals and lands first instead of their pockets. Please let these Elk be able to have proper food & water and the right to survive.

Thank You

**Correspondence ID: 22294**

I am giving my support to the Alternative B Plan: Unconfined Elk. I believe that the Tule Elk deserve to roam free to graze without intrusion or any threat that they would not run into in the wild. Please take my comments into consideration in regard to this matter.

**Correspondence ID: 22295**

Please rip the fence down and stop starving these noble, beautiful animals!

**Correspondence ID: 22296**

Re: Point Reyes National Seashore Tomales Point Area Plan

Dear National Park Service:

This is a letter in strong support of Alternative B:

Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area

(NPS Proposed Action).

As a 30+ year Bay Area resident I've visited Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) many times, most recently over several weeks in December 2022. On this last visit elk were seen in three locations:

- a small herd foraging together at Pierce Ranch,
- larger groups intermixed with cattle seen from both sides of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. en route to Kenneth C. Patrick Visitor Center, and
- a small group resting near a fence visible from the trail to Abbott's Lagoon.

Cows were encountered on or at the edge of the road a couple of times, and some fences apparently there to hold cows in, were down.

IT'S WILDERNESS, ISN'T IT?

It doesn't make sense that an area designated as wilderness would keep its largest native ungulate penned in to small areas where it cannot freely explore more resources for water and forage, nor interbreed with other Tule Elk.

Designated as part of the Central California Coast Biosphere Reserve in 1988, with 33.4 thousand acres of designated and potential wilderness, it nevertheless has wilderness areas bifurcated-- cutting off potential for wildlife populations to expand. And yet it seems agricultural businesses with cattle are expanding instead.

## ELK PENNED IN HAVE NO ACCESS TO FOOD and WATER

With the recent unprecedented drought and heat, there were several Tule Elk die-offs at PRNS-- losing hundreds of elk to typical problems of overpopulation: dehydration and starvation.

## ELK PENNED IN HAVE NO ACCESS TO OTHER MATES

Of course, losing however many animals pales in comparison to resulting lack of genetic diversity within the Tule Elk herd-- something no amount of water or forage can fix-- and something vital to the species surviving over the coming decades and through millennia. As earth continues to warm we can expect more extreme weather events-- something healthy genetic diversity helps species maintain viable breeding populations.

Penned in large ungulates must have a deleterious effect on the overall larger ecosystem-- as other species are not predated nor do they spread as they naturally would.

## PLEASE IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVE B.

In sum, I urge you, please implement Alternative B:

Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely, **Correspondence ID: 22297**

Dear National Park Service,

I agree with your preferred "Alternative B" to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point inside Point Reyes National Seashore. — which has confined the elk (for 45 years, since 1978) only to benefit private cattle ranches.

**I IMPLORE YOU TO RETURN TO YOUR PROMISE AS HONEST GUARDIANS OF THIS AMERICAN NATIONAL PARK TO HONOR AND PROTECT THE WILD CREATURES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES THAT YOU ARE MANDATED TO HONOR AND PROTECT AND RELEASE THESE ANIMALS FROM THE HELL YOU HAVE HELD THEM IN FOR FAR TOO LONG.**

In addition, I want all these private cattle ranches removed from our public park. Their thousands of cows produce millions of gallons of manure and urine every year, contaminating the park's streams and poisoning elk, fish and all wild animals — and humans too! Commercial cattle operations pollute and have no business being in this or any national park.

Once the elk fence is removed, elk must be protected from greater exposure to manure-borne cattle diseases common in these commercial dairy and beef operations.

Finally, ranchers must be monitored and heavily fined if they haze, harass, or harm any elk or wild animals in the park, ever.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22298**

I am writing to support a plan to remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd, thus allowing them to roam free and graze nearby seashore land. The fence preventing them from doing so has resulted in the deaths of 152 elk on Tomales Point in 2020 alone from starvation and lack of water. The Park Service has rented the parkland to private cattle and dairy ranches

since 1962. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 22301**

I welcome this plan to improve the circumstances of the tule elk at Point Reyes National Seashore.

I warmly support Plan B.

I have been sent copies of comments being submitted by others that are also supportive of Plan B. I was glad to see them!

I have one concern: Nowhere in this document is there any mention of the fact that the tule elk will continue to reproduce. No "carrying capacity" is stated or inferred for a park that borders some settled, inhabited communities. This may not be the time for such a concern to be analyzed but sooner or later I believe it will have to be considered.

**Correspondence ID: 22302**

In general, I support Alternative C as it protects Isle Royale's wilderness character. Structures in the designated Wilderness portions should not be maintained or stabilized and if the Park Service does want to maintain any of them, they should be moved to the outside of the Wilderness area where they can be preserved and made more accessible to the public. Such actions should be in accordance with the 1964 Wilderness Act.

I wholeheartedly support the conversions of as much as 93 acres to wilderness but if there are plans to rehabilitate any of the structures that will not be used by the administration, those areas should not be reclassified.

As for commercial use, there should be absolutely none.

As for visitors, they should be managed so that the Wilderness is protected to respect the integrity of Isle Royal and Alternative C would fill that necessity.

While many might want to visit in the winter, the Park should be closed in the winter to give the animals a break from all the human traffic the rest of the year, It is their home and their need for solitude and peace must be respected.

I hope Alternative C will be followed for the sake of the Park and wildlife who live there, To have Isle Royale is a wonderful thing but it must be protected and nature and wildlife be the priorities.

**Correspondence ID: 22303**

In reference to Point Reyes Tule Elk:

WHEN IS HUMANITY EVER GOING TO PUT THE WELFARE OF OUR WILDLIFE - IN THIS CASE, THE POINT REYES TULE ELK - AHEAD OF PUTTING JUICY BEEF STEAKS ON OUR PLATES?

Remove those fences TODAY! And remove cattle from our national parks and Pt. Reyes National Seashore!

Sincerely, Robert Taggart

**Correspondence ID: 22307**

Hello,

I am a wildlife biologist and avid visitor to Pt. Reyes. I am writing in support of support of Alternative B- removing the tule elk fence.

Sincerely, Christine Klinkowski, MS

Wildlife Biologist

**Correspondence ID: 22309**

Please remove the fence. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

These facts are already known by you so please :

SHOW YOU CARE and do the right thing. Be accountable.

thank you

**Correspondence ID: 22310**

Hello, i would like to remind you that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

it's unnecessary today or in the future. we have plenty to eat.

thx & best,

a.

**Correspondence ID: 22311**

Please stop this.

**Correspondence ID: 22312**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please end cattle grazing at Point Reyes. Point Reyes and other Wilderness areas are public lands and I would prefer that we manage it as such.

Also, I support the removal of any fences that endanger the Tule Elk and keep them confined.

I support Alternative B. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice.

Thank you

Soumya

**Correspondence ID: 22313**

These beautiful animals deserve to roam free on our protected lands.they should also have

access to free acres of grazing, as all our domestic wild life do. Please rectify this situation so these Elk can live out their lives in a normal manner.

**Correspondence ID: 22314**

Stop this cruelty enough is enough we r their voices, please be kind to all animals, open your heart and soul do the right thing now, be a great leader and more will follow your footsteps.

Thank you

Mrs

S Rocha

**Correspondence ID: 22318**

Please remove the fence confining the elk at Pt. Reyes.

They belong there, not cattle and other livestock.

Lindsay Mugglestone

**Correspondence ID: 22319**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

TAKE IT DOWN!!!

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk.

Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units!

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease.

I do not want my tax dollars subsidizing the meat and dairy industries!

If these industries had to survive on their own, they would collapse, and that is exactly what they should do.

The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease.

Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks!

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms Mary Domhan

**Correspondence ID: 22323**

It essential to provide our families with alternatives to large industrial farms and ranches. Those



alternatives include locally sourced small farms and ranches that give families a high quality, safe and environmentally friendly product for our children to eat and drink. Everyone wants to preserve the environment for its beauty, biodiversity and wildlife. However pushing out local farms and ranches will have a detrimental effect on our local families. Which is why I suggest limited reserve space with minimal impact on our local farms and ranches. Thank pw

**Correspondence ID: 22324**

Please free the tule elk by eliminating the fence that is restricting their range. The elk are native to the region, so their survival and well being should be of the utmost priority. Please help them. Thank you for listening and recognizing this tragic fence must come down.

**Correspondence ID: 22325**

HELP THEM1

**Correspondence ID: 22326**

The tule elk should not starve or die of thirst. Please do what you can to remedy this situation.

**Correspondence ID: 22327**

Please remove the fence so the elk can roam freely. Pt Reyes is NOT the place for cattle.

**Correspondence ID: 22328**

I support Alternative B which removes the elk fence, and I urge the park to ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the fence is removed.

**Correspondence ID: 22329**

Please don't let the ELK DIE. HELP THOSE WHO CANT HELP THERE SELF

**Correspondence ID: 22330**

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. NPS remove the fence to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

**Correspondence ID: 22331**

National Park Services,

It is a great decision to remove the elk fence in the Point Reyes Seashore national park. So many Tule elk suffered from starvation and malnutrition and died since the fence was built.

It is absolutely not possible that wild animals are dying on the national public lands because their territory is used for the private cattle industry.

Once the elk fence is removed, free roaming Tule elk shouldn't be harassed or killed by park services. Wild elk should be protected in the park, natural preservation should be restored, so visitors will enjoy the park.

Sincerely, Joan Kayser

**Correspondence ID: 22332**

I have previously submitted a comment about this issue, and why it still continues is beyond my comprehension. Please release these Tule Elk from behind their fences so they can obtain water and food. It is inhumane to do otherwise. Keeping them behind a fence is animal cruelty

and even though I am a huge NPS supporter, you should be criminally charged for this continued practice. Again, please release these elk so they won't starve to death. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22334**

PLEASE remove the fencing, that has kept the ELK from food and water and has caused so much SUFFERING and DEATH!!!

They deserve to be FREE and PROTECTED from the greedy ranchers!!!

PLEASE release them ASAP!!!

**Correspondence ID: 22335**

I am urging the NPS to please remove the fence because the cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and diseases, and wastes massive amounts of water. they need to roam further than they are allowed.

Thank You, Ani

**Correspondence ID: 22336**

I am writing to NPS top remove the fencing in this area. Cattle grazing decimates thia rea and adds fecal matter to the local water supply.

**Correspondence ID: 22337**

Had a wonderful opportunity to visit Point Reyes and learned a bit about the history of the park and how it was established. It is a magical place worthy of protection and investment as any of our national parks. I was shocked to learn how ranches were bought out years ago with defined leases allowing future leaders to re-wild the park but no leaders have taken any actions.

Call to park leadership to end renewing cattle leases, remove fences and invest in this park for the recreation of the people. Currently too much is enjoyed by too few for a public place.

**Correspondence ID: 22338**

FREE THE ELK!!!

Take down the fence. This is very inhumane.

I am very tired of livestock owners demanding land from everywhere!

The elk maltreatment will lead to extinction!

**Correspondence ID: 22340**

Please help the Elk

**Correspondence ID: 22342**

There are millions of acres where cattle can graze. Some animals like these elk have only certain areas they prefer. They have been in the area much longer than the cattle. Let them live. We need balance.

**Correspondence ID: 22343**

Thank you for listening to the overwhelming public support for removing the elk fence. Fences are inappropriate in wilderness areas to start with, and the Park Service should never prioritize cattle over native wildlife. The National Park Service should choose Alternative B, called

“Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area,” which will remove the fence and allow elk to naturally roam free, as they should have been able to do all along. It's completely unacceptable to let confined native elk die of thirst and malnutrition, especially in a national park, especially for the benefit of cattle. Once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk should not be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason by anyone.

Private cattle operations are totally inappropriate in Point Reyes to start with, as a national seashore area, and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates “the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment” within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to “provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” This is not possible with the existence of private cattle operations at Pt. Reyes.

Please remove the elk fence to protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore the ecosystem.

thank you -

Wilhelmina Tax

former resident of Berkeley, El Cerrito, Sausalito, and Richmond, CA

**Correspondence ID: 22344**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I am writing in support of option B to remove the fence barrier at Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve in Point Reyes that is restraining free movement of Tule Elk within the park. That includes keeping the water troughs in place and filled for the next couple years during the transition period they will need. I also ask that the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing culling of the herds now or in the future be rescinded. A third and very important request is that all private cattle operations in the park be removed. They have no place in a national park and are a major obstacle to truly re-wilding the park and are polluting the water and soil there, thus exposing the elk to toxins.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering my comment.

Sincerely, Ms. Teri Forester

**Correspondence ID: 22345**

Hello,

I am writing to request that you choose Alternative B. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk.

However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered:

- 1) Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

2) Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

3) Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

As a California native and former resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, I have visited Point Reyes many times just to see the Tule elk. This is a rare and endemic species. The NPS should be doing all it can to preserve and protect this imperiled sub-species. Cattle do not belong at Point Reyes. Remove the cattle; keep the elk!

Thank you for considering my comments.

**Correspondence ID: 22346**

I agree with the position advocated by Straus dairy farm. I believe the traditional farming community in Pt. Reyes and Marin can co-exist with wildlife if it is managed intelligently.

**Correspondence ID: 22347**

I wish to submit my comments on the NPS's new plan for management of the Tule Elk at Tomales Point.

My opinion is that Alternative B is the best option: removing structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness. However, I support additional changes to this plan.

Cattle grazing should be eliminated. As per the original agreement, cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness. It goes without saying that cattle grazing degrades Wilderness, and the rare Tule Elk should not be in competition with a domestic species for the scarce natural resources.

Stop the use of herbicides in the Wilderness. Allow the expansion of the Tule Elk outside the fence to control the expansion of invasive plants. Additionally, allow natural fires to occur rather than performing managed burns.

Removal of the water structures that have been unlawfully built in the Wilderness should be done by non-motorized means, in keeping with the principles of the Wilderness.

Please!! For once, take proper action in support of a rare, native species rather than catering to cattle ranchers! Adopt and implement these additional changes along with Alternative B in the Tomales Point Area Plan.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22348**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

TEAR DOWN THE FENCES AND DO NOT KILL ELK. I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Rene Torres Ruston

**Correspondence ID: 22349**

September 24, 2023

Dear Park Service Management:

It is unconscionable to restrict the movement of elk and allow them to die of dehydration and malnutrition, so cattle can graze at Point Reyes National Seashore. Therefore, I urge you to put the interests of a few aside and remove the elk fence at Tomales Point in order to protect the native wildlife and effectuate the restoration of the ecosystem. Please honor the Point Reyes National Seashore charter and provide "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" by choosing Alternative B—"Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area" and allow the elk to roam freely and live as God intended—free of confinement, culling, hazing, and harassment.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts!

Respectfully,

Nikki B

**Correspondence ID: 22350**

Please remove the fencing and allow the elk at Point Reyes Park to roam unconfined.

I was horrified to read that these elks were perishing from hunger and thirst because a commercial cattle operation was allowed to operate in the park. Wilderness areas and wildlife conservation habitat are becoming scarce enough as more people push further into these once isolated places. Within park and wilderness areas wildlife needs to be left unmolested and unrestrained, and if they leave the park area, they should be left in peace as well.

Climate change is intensifying stress on wildlife and their habitat. Human populations need to make life easier, not harder, for these stressed wildlife.

Thank you for your kind attention to my concerns, and for your response to overwhelming public concern for the elk and other wildlife. Best wishes, Gillian Anderson

**Correspondence ID: 22352**

Please remove the fence which does not allow elk to roam free, as they are dying from thirst and malnutrition. Fences are inappropriate for wilderness areas. It is important to protect Point Reyes for native wildlife — not for the livestock owners whose cattle are destroying its ecosystem. Thank you for taking the time to consult the public on this important issue.

Kris Aaron

**Correspondence ID: 22355**

The sacrifice of Tomales elk in a national park just to accommodate ranching interests is a travesty. Restoring and rewilding Point Reyes National Park should be a priority for the NPS. The Tomales elk should be free to roam across the rest of the National Seashore and mingle with free-roaming elk herds. Water troughs would then no longer be needed because the elk could reach water sources throughout the Seashore. Therefore, a wildlife connectivity corridor is also a must. A wildlife-friendly fence could be constructed to keep the cattle out of Tomales Point once the tall elk-proof fence is removed. Better yet would be to remove the livestock entirely. Why should they be a priority in a national park?

**Correspondence ID: 22356**

We do not support removing the elk fence at Tomales Pt., PRNS. to have 300 more elk roaming free for the following reasons.

It will reduce the forage and water available to the cows on the historic ranches and affect native deer. The two other free-ranging elk herds already compete for forage and water. Water supplies will vary depending on winter rain fall and climate change. Also, water evaporates from ponds during the year. This would end historic ranching in the park. There would be too many free-ranging elk on the ranchlands.

The ranchers need the 20-year leases so they can plan ahead for the operations of the ranch.

In addition, the elk have damaged/destroyed the other ranch fences causing financial hardship and stress for the ranchers. The elk also trample coyote bush and bush lupine.

January 2019 a rancher told me he had to put down 2 cows and 1 bull due to bull elk attacks and injuries. Plus 2 more cows were injured. At least 1 other bull had been injured. Most likely, more injuries occurred over the years. Also, I was told that the elk had been eating the hay storage supply. During that month I saw a dairy cow laying down desperately trying to get up and it was obvious she was injured. I reported it to the rancher. I don't know how the cow was injured.

Elk reproduce every year, increasing the herds. We support both the park's no-action alternative and the third alternative. The elk must be managed. There are few mountain lions to decrease such a large elk population.

We are concerned about the possibility of wasting disease from elk infecting the cows.

There is nothing stopping the elk from coming over the ridge into private property. A number of years ago elk had been seen up to or near the Fir Top area.

Ranching is hard work and the small ranches in the park do not make much money nor do their employees. Many of the workers are Latinos. Everyone is part of our local communities. The anti-ranching activists and their lawsuits are causing tremendous stress and fear among the ranchers and their employees, as they don't have the means to defend themselves. Fear of losing their livelihood as ranchers and employees' loss of jobs and living on the ranch and impossible to find same work on other ranches because they don't need any more workers. They could even possibly end up without work and homeless.

Thank you.

Susan & John Van Der Wal

**Correspondence ID: 22357**

Please remove the 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service at the Tomales Point peninsula. It is impeding the tule elk from grazing at nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. The elk are well known and held with endearment by the people in the bay area and by tourists who come to visit our area and parks. I support the effort to maintain the park's environment and wildlife in state as 'natural' as possible. Cattle grazing destroys this ecosystem, pollutes the water supply as well as wastes massive amounts of water, and spreads disease. This is not healthy for our wildlife nor people. Are our public lands being managed in the best way possible by the private sector individuals who are using the park lands? Please remove the fence. Thank you for your consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 22358**

Since tule elk don't have a voice, I'm hoping you will choose Alternative B, called Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area, which will remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free. Fences are inappropriate in wildness areas, and you shouldn't prioritize cattle over native wildlife.

Once the elk fence is removed, free roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

The National Park Service is an agency that mandates the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment within Point Reyes.

Thank you...

**Correspondence ID: 22359**

September 24, 2023

Superintendent Craig Kenkel

National Park Service

Point Reyes National Seashore

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Superintendent Kenkel and the National Park Service,

My name is Matthew Polvorosa Kline - I am the director of Mission Rewild, a grassroots organization that I founded in 2021. One of the reasons that I founded this organization was out of love for this truly unique and geographically significant Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) - a National Park that I have personally spent more time in than any other. One of the goals of Mission Rewild is to see this only National Seashore on the West Coast live up to its greatest potential, the very best version of itself.

In less than 3 months our petition on Change.org titled "Free the Tule Elk at Tomales Point" has garnered over 1,450 signatures. Our 1,450 plus supporters would like to see the Alternative B plan: Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area implemented.

Here is the full text of the petition that over 1,450 people have signed on to so far:

"My name is Matthew Polvorosa Kline - I'm a wildlife photographer and filmmaker (@polvorosa\_kline) who cares deeply about wildlife conservation, biodiversity, and environmental health. I have been documenting the lives of Tule Elk in Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) for over 15 years. These magnificent wild ones have changed my life and I owe it to them to speak up on their behalf. I have witnessed far too much pain, suffering and unnatural death afflicted upon these beautiful animals. I continue to document and speak up about this tragedy, one that has already claimed the lives of hundreds of these elk thus far. It was my firsthand observations that led to a lawsuit against the National Park Service for their neglect and mismanagement of these elk back in 2021, the same year I later founded Mission Rewild.

The rare and iconic Tule Elk, a flagship species endemic (native) to California, was once thought to be extinct. Today a few thousand of these majestic wild mammals still survive in a number of disconnected "islands" scattered through the state. This remains a sad representation of what was once a population of 500,000 animals not long ago.

In the only National Seashore on the entire West Coast - Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS), one such disconnected herd of Tule Elk continues to suffer catastrophic die-offs most noticeably observed during ever-more frequent drought years. This is actually preventable.

The Tomales Point Tule Elk that we are referring to are inhumanely forced to try and survive behind an 8ft tall woven wire fence inside a so-called "reserve." They are unnaturally prevented from roaming elsewhere in the National Seashore when poor conditions on the ground in the form of inadequate water supplies, a lack of adequate forage and essential minerals exists. Hundreds of these wild, beautiful, social, and intelligent Tule Elk have suffered and died as a result of this horrific enclosure. This fence that keeps these wildlife from being free might have a place in a zoo, but it has no place in a National Park.

This is our public land. These Tule Elk have suffered enough. We implore the National Park Service (NPS) to remove the entire 8ft tall fence and refrain from putting any fencing or other obstructions in its place. We ask the NPS to heal the scar that this fence has left not only on the land but on its wild inhabitants. The NPS in PRNS should protect the very unique wildlife with which they have been entrusted - Free the Tule Elk and help us take down the fence once and for all.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration, please help us by signing and sharing this petition. Free the Tule Elk!"

Mission Rewild would like to thank you Superintendent Kenkel and the National Park Service for this opportunity to comment on the Tomales Point Area Plan. We are grateful that the NPS has announced a preferred Alternative B proposal to remove the deadly 8-foot tall fence at the Tule Elk Reserve - allowing the Tomales Point Tule Elk freedom in our National Seashore once and for all. We are grateful that the NPS is considering this important step, and thank you for your consideration in moving this plan forward.

Sincerely, Matthew Polvorosa Kline

Founder & Director

MISSION REWILD



www.MissionRewild.org

Based in Marin County, California

**Correspondence ID: 22360**

I am writing to urge you to end this inhumane treatment of indigenous animals by removing this fence. I don't understand how an organization committed to preserving nature does not protect this magnificent creature rather than condemning them to a cruel and slow death.

It is man and profit that exploits natural resources, not the animals.

Please end this practice.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Ann A Albence

**Correspondence ID: 22362**

Protect the elk

**Correspondence ID: 22363**

I totally support Alternative Plan B - complete removal of the Tule Elk fence.

Not only is it time to allow these beautiful, native wild animals access to better forage and water resources, it is also time to remove the real invasive species - ranchers - so that true land restoration, and a national park for all, can begin.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22364**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Dear NPS,

Some of my most magical moments at Point Reyes have been witnessing the Tule elk bounding through the landscape at dusk. Something so magnificent has endured, and you have the chance to be their champions.

One holistic organic regenerative responsible cattle farm might remain to show folks how to do it right, on a smaller scale, but otherwise., no one needs cows in their wilderness space! I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. Be brave and reverse your historical stance!

Sincerely, Michèle Shockey

**Correspondence ID: 22365**

Please save the Elk...rescue them from death...get food & water to them

**Correspondence ID: 22366**

Cattle ranching has no place in a national park, especially in Point Reyes National Seashore. The American public paid dairy- and beef-rancher families fair-market dollars starting 61 years ago this month to vacate the newly created 71,000 acre park. There was never any intention by the Seashore's founders or its legislation signed by President John Kennedy to allow these rancher families to corrupt the original intent of Point Reyes National Seashore, and stay to wreak havoc on ecosystems, wildlife, and habitats while claiming good stewardship.

It is well-known that these rancher families took the equivalent of more than \$400M in today's dollars from the American people and used it to expand their commercial ranching operations within and outside the Seashore. Their record of blatant hubris, privilege, deception, intimidation, and more speaks for itself. The National Park Service and Point Reyes National Seashore management have continued subservience to a core of about 25 ranchers rather than service to millions of Americans and the rare coastal lands, waters, habitats, wildlife that should be so obviously protected by federal and state legislation, law, regulation, policy, and mandate.

I believe the National Park Service should immediately begin the process of a 5-year plan, maximum, to finally remove all rancher families and operations from Point Reyes National Seashore. And that these same rancher families should be financially and practically responsible for complete toxic and other cleanup of their leased properties in that process.

Short of that, my comment for this stand-alone and incomplete planning process is: The National Park Service should choose proposed action Alternative B, Unconfined Tule Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

Before and after the abominable and death-creating eight-foot-tall prison fence is removed, Tule Elk should not be subject to harassment, hazing, poisoning, stressing, bothering, killing, or any other harm done by any means, especially at the hands of rancher families. There should be clearly defined, rigorously enforced, high financial and legal penalties — including incarceration based on conviction of federal offenses — for anyone taking those actions against Tule Elk or any other wildlife within the Seashore.

The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates “maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment” within Point Reyes National Seashore. Similarly, the Organic Act designates national park lands to “provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” Native cultural and sacred sites desecrated alone by rancher families must be much more protected and restored with comprehensive representation of local Native organizations, tribes, and individuals based on absolute best scientific and cultural practices.

For far too long, the National Park Service and its Point Reyes National Seashore local management unit's supervisors, erstwhile scientists, and other personnel have acted primarily in

the interests of the cattle rancher families who have thumbed their noses at the American public, selfishly claiming priority when they are literally only new arrivals who have squandered their opportunities to be considered for further lenience by government or the vast populace. Where could be thriving beautiful native coastal prairie lands, waters of all kinds, and abundant healthy wildlife and habitats, fully one-third of the Seashore is a barren, contrived, sickly dead zone of barbed wire, contaminated land and water, hazardous waste, and intimidating if not at-time violence-prone rancher families ready to force the local, regional, national, and global visitors off merely leased allotments. Walk the fields, note the waters, smell the air — full of rancher-caused degradation and destruction.

AGAIN: The National Park Service should choose proposed action Alternative B, Unconfined Tule Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

Remove the fence, and use this as another step to promptly, finally design and enforce a 5-year plan to rid Point Reyes National Seashore of rancher families who were paid to leave yet connive to stay through 61 years since Seashore founding. Restore some basic faith in the National Park Service and Point Reyes National Seashore management. The American and world's people, and the Seashore itself, will support, remember, and be grateful.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 22368**

Use your humanity, you still have it, don't you?

**Correspondence ID: 22370**

I strongly believe these elk should be protected.

**Correspondence ID: 22372**

First of all, I am recommending that the National Park Service choose Option B and remove the (fatal) fence, allowing the elk to roam free and uninhibited. I am thankful to the Park Service for even entertaining such an option. They must be coming to the realization of the majority of the public supporting this option because at its core, fences in a wilderness area are inappropriate and native wildlife should be prioritized over cattle.

I have been horrified at seeing native elk die of hunger and thirst because of a fence barrier while trying to exist within a national park. Furthermore, once the fence is removed it would be equally immoral and unjust to engage in culling, hazing, or any other type of harassment. These animals deserve fair, honest, and humane treatment and I like to think of myself as standing with the taxpayers who demand nothing less!

I am a person who feels private cattle operations at Point Reyes are completely out of place and inappropriate, to say the least. What happened to honoring the charter of the National Seashore? As a private citizen I should not be the one to have to remind the Park Service that the Point Reyes "Enabling Legislation" mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment within Point Reyes." Additionally, I have read that the Organic Act designates National Park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." This says NOTHING whatsoever about fencing in elk!

The Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and ecosystem call for restoration, and the best way to accomplish it, in my opinion, is the removal of the fence.

Thank you very much for allowing me to comment on this issue.

**Correspondence ID: 22373**

Please remove the fence confining Tomales point elk

**Correspondence ID: 22374**

Requesting that you execute Alternative B - Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

National Parks and Refuges should be safe havens and habitats for Wildlife, like native Elk, to thrive without exclusion by methods of fencing from water and food - doing so is not acceptable and should not be practiced.

Once the Elk fence is removed allowing the Elk to roam freely, steps should be taken to avoid any culling, hazing, or harassment of the Elk for any reason.

Cattle operations are no longer appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ceased to honor the true charter of our Seashore, stated in the Point Reyes Enabling Legislation as "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment within the area," and in the Organic Act of 1916 as to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 22375**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

Petra Jenkins

**Correspondence ID: 22376**

I am a frequent visitor to Point Reyes for decades. I would like to advocate for Plan C

The ranch lands need stewardship to continue under the care of the ranchers. Please do not let the elk fence down. The natural ecosystem of past centuries is no longer in existence. Mountain lions aren't taking out elk and maintaining balance. I think those advocating for "endless elk" ignore this reality. The ranchers have been there for a very long time and are solid stewards of this land. We all benefit from their dairy products and commitment to the land.

If the Tomales Point herd is released into the pastoral zone, they will eventually become overpopulated and lead to an imbalanced ecosystem.

I understand that Elk de-grade and erode soils by pulling bushes and grasses out of the ground and that cattle cut the grasses with their tongues, leaving the roots in the ground to continue to grow and reseed.

Please vote for Plan C!

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Janet Harrison

**Correspondence ID: 22377**

Please remove the fence and stop directly contributing to the Tule elk staving to death. It's horrific and cruel what you're doing.

**Correspondence ID: 22378**

Please endorse the plan that would remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. The survival of the herd depends on having access to a larger area where they can roam.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22381**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Tomales Point land management plan.

I fully support alternative B, removing the elk fence and allowing elk to freely roam in the National Seashore. While I support potentially adding a fence to exclude cattle from entering the Tule elk reserve, the park should consider removing the cattle from the adjacent lands first. It is well documented that lease holders and prominent ranch supports believe elk pose a threat to personal profits of lease holders. The law states that the land must be managed for the maximum protection of natural resources before all else. The protection of the Tule elk must be the priority over cattle, and in the face of this conflict the cattle should be removed. Elk moving from the planning area into the adjacent fields should have priority to forage over cattle.

The NPS statement that they will remove water tanks should have a time consideration associated with it. Tule elk in the north part of the planning area may take months or years to understand the changes with the removal of the elk fence. Supplemental water may continue to play a vital role to the northern elk in the planning area.

Alternative A should not be considered. CDFW has stated it rejects confined herds of Tule elk in the state and emphasizes managing all Tule elk in a free roaming state. Keeping the fence up would be in conflict with CDFW directives.

Under alternative C, Tule elk would be shot. This is not maximum protection of natural resources as required by law. Alternative C would also be inconsistent with CDFW directives of eliminating confined herds of Tule elk in the state. Alternative C should not be considered.

I applaud the National Park Service in its efforts to maintain free roaming Tule elk throughout Point Reyes National Seashore and support alternative B.

**Correspondence ID: 22384**

Please take the 3 mile long fence down and stop killing off the tule elk population by torturing with a cruel death of starvation.

**Correspondence ID: 22385**

WE support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

For the animals,

Theresa Paradis and family

**Correspondence ID: 22386**

Please remove the 3-mile fence that keeps the Tule Elk trapped in the "Tule Elk Reserve" at Tomales Point, in the northern part of Point Reyes National Seashore.

Tule elk once inhabited the grasslands of the Point Reyes peninsula and the Olema Valley. They were the dominant grazers on these lands. Point Reyes National Seashore is the only National Park unit where tule elk can be found.

Hundreds of Tule Elk have died behind this Tule Elk fence, due to lack of water and adequate forage, as reported by the National Park Service.

Thank you for accepting comments from the public on this plan.

Sue Adler

**Correspondence ID: 22387**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. Please remove the fence confining them and let them roam free as they deserve. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22388**

The National Park Service should choose Alternative B, called "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," which will remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free.

Fences are inappropriate in wilderness areas, and the Park Service shouldn't prioritize cattle over native wildlife. It's unacceptable to let confined native elk die of thirst and malnutrition, especially in a national park.

Once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

Private cattle operations aren't appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Please remove the elk fence to protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore the ecosystem. To sacrifice one species for another is unfair and ecologically unsound. Thank you for considering my comments.

**Correspondence ID: 22391**

Please remove the fence so the tile elk can have access to water and more space. Those dairy farms should not be on the land.

**Correspondence ID: 22392**

September 24, 2023

(please add this additional comment to my comment from earlier today, it was mistakenly left out)

Superintendent Craig Kenkel

National Park Service

Point Reyes National Seashore

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Superintendent Kenkel and the National Park Service,

Earlier today, I submitted a personal letter in regards to the Tomales Point Area Plan. While there are a number of things I covered in this letter, including my support for the Alternative B plan: Unconfined Elk Herd, there is one important subject area that I accidentally left out of my letter that I would like to add to the administrative record. This has to do with the Water Locations Map that the NPS released after I went public with my observations and documentations of the ongoing Tule Elk die-off.

I took the map and examined it in detail and I went on a mission to investigate as many of the "water" locations identified by NPS staff as I could in the days and weeks after the map release. Some days I investigated areas of Tomales Point alone, other days I investigated with a documentary filmmaker friend of mine. What I found was startling to say the least. I must admit that I am still shocked that some of the locations on that map were identified as a water source at all. Other locations I am shocked were identified as a water source for a Tule Elk. I would estimate that I checked nearly 90% of the locations on the map and what I found was very clear to me - the Water Locations Map was deeply flawed.

I should mention that I documented my efforts to uncover these locations and gave, whomever made the map, the benefit of the doubt and looked far beyond the marked "water" location when I could not find any sign of water. This actually happened at quite a number of map locations.

Some map locations had no water whatsoever anywhere near the identified map location. Some locations had a puddles worth of water. Some locations had only mud. Some locations had enough water to provide a bird a drink but clearly not an adult Tule Elk. While yes there were indeed locations on the map that had water or a spring or seep and yes there was even a stock pond in the northern portion of the Reserve that never completely dried up (but came far too close), it was bewildering for me to try and make sense of how that map could so falsely identify so many completely inadequate "water" sources/locations or "water" sources/locations that were actually non-existent.

There were also locations that were identified that were barely accessible by me, crawling on my hands and knees. There were filthy little pothole size water spots that were completely inaccessible and surrounded by thorny brush with no signs of elk movement whatsoever to the location. Again it is my very strong opinion that the Water Locations Map was deeply flawed and utterly misleading.

Furthermore, I have asked this question to NPS staff on more than one occasion, and most recently (3 times) during the Zoom question/answer period that was held on the Tomales Point Area Plan.. this question has always been ignored - How much water per day on average does an adult Tule Elk need, especially during the driest periods of the year? For whatever reason, I cannot get an answer to this question. Is this because NPS staff would clearly contradict the "water" sources map? Or is it perhaps because biologist at PRNS simply do not know? I believe

that I read (correct me if I am wrong) that larger Rocky Mountain Elk need 5-7 gallons of freshwater a day. Can anyone at the NPS confirm this? If this is correct or even close to correct, I imagine that the smaller Tule Elk needs at least, at a minimum 1 gallon, 2 gallons, 3 gallons per day - at the minimum - is that reasonable to suggest?

The reason I would like to know this information or even an estimate or average is to better inform my observations and documentations as well as help assist NPS staff when it comes to the management of Tule Elk in PRNS.

Personally I have been proactive and doing my best to confront over-exaggerations, mis-identifications, or embellishments made against the NPS but the truth is that no one can control everything people say or feel about a charged or controversial situation - especially one in which sentient beings are dying en mass. I along with the grassroots organization I founded - Mission Rewild - has always strived to lead with integrity and honesty in our field observations and documentations. I appreciate the opportunity to make this clear to you and NPS staff, and I hope that these same values are held in high regard at 1 Bear Valley.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration, Sincerely, Matthew Polvorosa Kline

[www.polvorosakline.com](http://www.polvorosakline.com)

[www.missionrewild.org](http://www.missionrewild.org)

**Correspondence ID: 22393**

Having researched the significant negative environmental impact and harm of wildlife caused by ranching and dairies in Point Reyes, my interest is in seeing a removal of fencing, a removal of ranches and dairies from this public park and a return to its natural state. This is the most sensible, sustainable and humane course of action. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22395**

That wall better be torn down. It never should have been constructed In the first place, you people are supposed to be to protecting wildlife, not making money taking bribes from the ranchers, and disgracing your uniforms.

**Correspondence ID: 22396**

As a supporter of all wildlife, I strongly oppose this fence that prevents elks from reaching the necessary food that nature provides for them. It is cruel to be the cause of animals starving to death because of the way they are hindered by humans. I would ask that this fence be taken down immediately to save innocent wildlife who are just looking for food to survive.

**Correspondence ID: 22397**

Superintendent Kenkel,

Thank you for the opportunity to make public comments for the Tomales Point Area Plan. I strongly support proposed Alternative C, as outlined in the TPAP Public Scoping Newsletter.

I feel Alternative C will best protect the environmental, cultural and historic resources in the land areas adjacent to Tomales Point. It will also ensure a well-managed and thriving Tule Elk herd.

As Alternative A and B plans are now written I don't see that they will effectively manage the Tomales Point Tule Elk herd. I see a severe impact on these historic dairy farms and beef ranches as well as on the landscape.



Again, Alternative C supports the Tomales Point Area Plan and the PRNS goals and mission. It also protects our local dairies and ranches which leads to helping us in our efforts to reduce the environmental problems that we are currently facing. BUY AND SHOP LOCALLY.

Adi Girroir

**Correspondence ID: 22399**

I understand that the NPS is now taking public comments on a proposed plan that would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd.

Please remove the fence to both protect the ecosystem, the elk and the wildlife that are prohibited from grazing due to the NPS fence.

NPS has a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

I strongly urge the NPS to remove the fence. It is critical to remember cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 22400**

Thank you so much for finally getting around to this serious and ethical National Parks issue; the taking down of the fence which so brutally confines our precious Tule Elk. They need special care, at this point. I believe the cows currently on public land need to die out naturally, or be removed. The damage they have done, and continue to do, to public space, should be repaired by the Park Service and/or the tenant, according to their leasing agreement, but must be done, and quickly, in order to protect the various species (including us) who live on or near, or visit this beautiful Park, from further contamination.

I thank you on behalf of ours and future generations.

Verna Winters

**Correspondence ID: 22405**

Remove the Tule Elk fence!

**Correspondence ID: 22406**

I am writing to urge the National Park Services to remove the fence that has restricted Tule Elk to the Tomales Point peninsula, preventing them from accessing other grazing land and water. By allowing farmers and ranchers to have priority over grazing land for their livestock we are damaging the environment, upsetting ecosystems and destroying wildlife. Please allow the elk to roam freely without more damage to their habitat and further shrinking of their herd.

**Correspondence ID: 22407**

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and diseases, and wastes massive amounts of water. STOP

**Correspondence ID: 22408**

I support proposed Alternative C, as outlined in the TPAP Public Scoping Newsletter.

As a 60+-year resident of Marin County I am particularly concerned that Alternatives A & B both have likely future bad outcomes for the Tule Elk and that these Alternatives will continue to fuel a false opposition between NPS-zoned and managed Wilderness and Ranchland areas.

Frankly, it seems to me that re-introducing the Elk without concurrently planning for natural predators has led to an unsustainable situation. Also, as climate change disastrously accelerates, I am more and more concerned that we support local, organic food production to minimize the carbon footprint of vital food delivery so I do not want concern for the Elk herd to override our need to support agriculture (as has been part of the understanding that created the NPS Seashore at its inception).

Thank you for your attention; please support Alternative C.

P.S. Because I use my housemate Adi Girroir's computer, Google thinks "Ron Skellenger" is an alias she uses, but I am, in fact, a separate person and citizen whose family brought me to Marin County in 1949.

**Correspondence ID: 22409**

For far too long we have allowed livestock owners to dominate the discourse concerning our natural environments. This is wrong on so many levels, especially if our native creatures are to survive in a changing climate.

**Correspondence ID: 22410**

Supporting plan B - removing cattle and allowing the Tule Elk to manage the land as it evolved to be managed.

**Correspondence ID: 22411**

We will be mailing in print comments of this same comments since we include photos and maps, which are apparently not supported by this web portal. This is a short-coming of this form of communication with the public, and NPS needs to allow attached PDFs so photos and maps can be more easily shared. Also, our references will not be able to be included, and we will discuss other options to send these to you at a later date.

Western Watersheds Project, Mission Rewild, and Jocelyn Knight Photography

Tomales Point Area Plan

c/o Superintendent

Point Reyes National Seashore

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Comments submitted via National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment website at

[https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?documentID=131377&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?documentID=131377&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), and by US mail.

September 24, 2023

RE: Tomales Area Plan Environmental Assessment

Dear Superintendent,

Please accept our scoping comments on the Point Reyes National Seashore Tomales Point Area Plan. We have been visiting Tomales Point since the 1980s and have watched the peninsula gradually recover from historic dairy operations. Tomales Point is a scenic coastal peninsula where hikers can enjoy herds of tule elk, beaches, views of the Pacific Ocean, and a visit to the historic Pierce Ranch where dairy cattle were removed in 1973. Yet despite the Organic Act mandate that this National Park Service (NPS) land be managed for natural resources to be unimpaired, we have also observed major drought mortality events of the fenced tule elk population within Tomales Point, as well as invasive weeds spreading unhindered from adjacent active ranch-leases in the Seashore.

Although we are of the opinion that Tomales Point management should have been reviewed together with the entire Seashore in a holistic General Management Plan (GMP) revision together with the ranch-leases and Wilderness Areas, and not segmented off into different plan amendments. Yet we are happy to support the NPS proposed action for the Tomales Point Area as an update and amendment to the 1980 GMP which covers a wider array of more general resources in Tomales Point, and not simply an update of the narrow, lower-tier 1998 Elk Management Plan.

#### We Support the Proposed Action to Remove the Elk Fence

The proposed action (Alternative B) includes removal of the tule elk fence and all temporary water systems installed during the most recent drought, and we support this. Thank you for listening to the people, and to the best science for managing native wildlife unimpaired in a park unit.

The fence at Tomales Point prevents tule elk movement throughout the Seashore, but also halts connectivity of other wildlife such as black-tailed deer and predators such as bobcats because of the woven wire mesh. On the right this photo taken October 2022 shows silage fields and manure-dumping areas which is significantly impacting the recovering coastal prairies and north coastal scrub communities on the inside of the fence, on the left. This fence should be removed and management measures taken to mitigate the impacts of dairy cattle industrial practices on the ranch-lease directly adjacent to the outside of the elk fence.

During recent extreme drought periods, the Tomales Point tule elk herds have suffered high mortality due to a lack of adequate fresh water and adequate forage, as they are presently trapped behind an 8-foot-tall fence which keeps them off adjacent active dairies leasing lands in the Seashore.

Matthew Polvorosa Kline has documented with photographs the dry stock ponds and mud-filled seeps in the Tomales Point elk reserve situation in September, 2020.

An overlap with the Philip Burton Wilderness Area has made trucking in water for the elk difficult, yet the park service found ways to install water troughs to supply the Tomales elk with water during the dry summers.

We applaud the National Park Service's proposal to take down this elk fence and allow the Tomales elk to freely roam into the rest of the Seashore and mingle with the free-roaming elk herds. Water troughs would then no longer be needed as the elk could reach water sources throughout the Seashore.

In several past comment letters on the General Management Plan Amendment we have noted that free-roaming tule elk have already spread northwards from Limantour and Drake's Bay to the Tomales Point elk-proof fence, to where we have photos of elk almost touching noses on either side of the fence. Thus, the fence has become a moot point.

Matthew Polvorosa Kline has photographed tule elk at the fenceline of the Tomales Elk Reserve, but on the cow side of the fence, not within the reserve. Apparently free roaming tule elk are regularly walking the fenceline of the Tomales Elk Reserve, perhaps in a natural dispersal pattern.

Removing the elk fence will benefit the Tomales Point elk herds, and help to prevent further contentious drought die-offs, and negate the need to truck water into the wilderness area using very old roads. These old routes should be restored.

We have documented segments of old elk fence that are down inside the Tomales Point Area elk area, which have posed a threat for entanglement to elk, and potential mortality events have been documented with photos by Matthew Polvorosa Kline (see photos below). The EA should discuss these "junk fence" segments and detail how the Park Service is removing these hazards to wildlife.

#### Tule Elk Management

Alternative B proposes to remove existing elk fence and consider adding a fence to exclude cattle from Tomales Point; and discontinue provision of supplemental water and minerals for tule elk, while removing all existing, non-historic supplementary water systems.

We have opposed the maintenance of an elk fence trapping tule elk on the rather arid coastal peninsula of Tomales Point because this is actually a strong form of management that does not allow the elk to migrate out of the area during droughts.

Tule elk in the Tomales Point Elk Reserve. Photo: Jocelyn Knight.

I have speculated (Cunningham 2010) that before European colonization large tule elk herds may have seasonally visited Point Reyes National Seashore, and perhaps some herds were resident year-long, but that during severe droughts the herds may have migrated out of the coastal areas in search of moister dry season habitats inland—such as the Delta and vast riverine freshwater marshes of Sacramento Valley that existed before 1850. The elk-proof fence keeps elk artificially within a confined space, more like a wild animal park. Allowing elk in such an enclosure to "self-regulate" and have little management for water and nutritional quality of forage, amounts to poor wildlife management in a National Park unit, as well as animal cruelty. During droughts, the lack of adequate water may have caused elk to colic.

Therefore, we are thankful that NPS is proposing to remove this fence and allow the Tomales elk herds to be able to connect with other areas of the Seashore and find richer water and forage resources.

Questions as to the increase of connected and free-roaming tule elk population numbers and carrying capacity within the greater Point Reyes National Seashore should be considered at a future date, with a new environmental review and General Management Plan revision, when the park unit as a whole can be considered holistically, and options for management elk after the removal of competing livestock can be properly reviewed.

How will existing and historic stock ponds be managed in Tomales Point? These stock ponds fill with rainwater and are an important water source for tule elk at Tomales Point. They were constructed historically for livestock water sources. All stock ponds should be inventoried, mapped, and described as to whether they contain dammed springs or are rainwater basins. Will these left to degrade over time? Or will NPS actively manage them as wildlife water sources? How will these management decisions impact tule elk in Tomales Point? Drying stock ponds have been a cause of elk mortality as elk seek adequate fresh water and become trapped in deep mud.

### Cattle Management

Since the Kehoe Dairy (J Ranch/K Ranch lease) is adjacent to the existing Tomales Point elk-proof fence, options for excluding cattle entry into Tomales Point should be reviewed in detail.

Degraded condition on the ranch-lease adjacent to the elk fence at Tomales Point. Photo: Jocelyn Knight.

Elk are at times becoming entangled in cattle fences in the free-ranging herd areas of the Seashore south of Tomales Point, as has been documented in films and photographs (see Cunningham 2020 for photos taken in the field by Matthew Polvorosa Kline).

Livestock management options to review to keep cattle out of Tomales Point should include:

1. At the very least wildlife-friendly fences need to be constructed to replace the elk fence. Cattle fences should be limited in height to no more than 36" high, with the bottom strand at least 16" above the ground and all wires made of smooth wire. Tule elk have been filmed jumping over barbed wire fencing, and also barbed wire strands becoming entangled in tule elk bull antlers. This is not our favored management measure.
2. A better management measure would be to administratively exclude cattle from a large portion of the J Ranch/K Ranch dairy ranch-lease next to the Tomales Point boundary, so that a tule elk connectivity corridor is created where no fences impede wildlife movement. Wildlife-friendly livestock fences could be constructed in the ranch-lease to restrict cattle to a smaller area, while freeing up a corridor of free elk connectivity and movement towards Drake's Bay and the Limantour areas.
3. Cancel the J Ranch/K Ranch dairy ranch-lease adjacent to Tomales Point to create a large wildlife connectivity corridor and restore these former elk habitats to native plant communities as connected actions to Alternative B.

Tule elk may continue to be infected with Johne's disease spread from cattle, which can be carriers. The pathways of Johne's disease spread from cattle to tule elk should be analyzed in the EA. Specifically, how many of the cattle on Point Reyes are infected by Johne's disease. The NPS should require testing of all livestock on ranch-leases adjacent to Tomales Point. This should be analyzed.

The sign in this ranch-lease at Point Reyes National Seashore warns of disease control of dairy cattle. Photo: Jocelyn Knight.

Tule Elk Connectivity Corridors Proposed From Tomales Point to Free-Ranging Elk Herds

NPS should consider and review in its EA the details of how tule elk will reconnect with free-roaming herds through cattle-dense areas of the Seashore, as a connected action to the proposed Tomales Point Area Plan.

Mission Rewild has undertaken extensive fieldwork along the elk fence, and areas adjacent to the fence in documenting the status of tule elk at the Seashore. The following map of the elk fence region indicates field observations which should be reviewed in the EA.

Tomales elk fence field observations by Matthew Polvorosa Kline.

To construct and manage a viable wildlife connectivity corridor from Tomales Point to the greater Seashore area, we suggest this map to start a conversation on how the boundary of the Tomales Point Area should be managed for wildlife and the reduction of natural resource impairment.

The Black Line indicates the Main Elk Fence.

The Red Line indicates an older section of fencing, broken up in some areas, that was left behind (the older original fence line). The NPS needs to review the status of these older fence segments, and how they will be removed, or are removed, in order to reduce threats to elk and other wildlife.

The Yellow Line is another section of fencing that is broken up in some areas as well.

The Blue Line indicates the main areas along the fence that elk from inside the enclosure as well as outside congregate, interact, and touch noses on either side of the elk fence, from the field work of Matthew Polvorosa Kline. The EA needs to analyze this interaction zone and consider how to remove cattle from the ranch-lease side of the fence in order to facilitate connectivity.

The Pink Lines are two of the main areas where Matthew Polvorosa Kline has seen elk outside the fence moving around. There are apparently springs here and lush vegetation that may help facilitate elk movement in the area. Free-roaming tule elk are attracted to elk within the Tomales Point elk reserve fenced area, and NPS needs to analyze how connectivity will be provided once the elk fence is removed that reduces cattle and livestock fence barriers to elk dispersal.

The Green scribbled areas on the map indicate areas that have reduced tule elk movement due to dense vegetation or steep topography, or other reasons. Elk are not observed to travel through these areas as much as other parts of the map. The EA should analyze this as part of fence removal and wildlife connectivity corridor assessment.

We believe ideally a corridor along the East side would provide these elk with more access to water and forage and they would deal with less car strikes and harassment along this stretch.

Nevertheless currently the elk seem to gravitate to the western ridge just outside the elk fence. Removing the Red and Yellow line fences and the Black line fence to the west of the road would be the best place to start in order to make it easier for the elk to move through the habitats which they seem to prefer in field observations.

If the McClure Dairy is closing a corridor to the west of Kehoe Ranch makes the most sense to manage so that the elk could make it easily to Kehoe Creek and then onto Abbotts Lagoon.

These are suggestions for tule elk connectivity corridors based on field observations, and we hope that NPS analyzes these in its EA.

#### Native Plant Community Restoration

Once cattle were removed from Tomales Point, we observe erosional gullies filling in with vegetation and stabilizing. Willows are growing in these swales and creeks that are not seen in the cattle-grazed ranch-leases. Native plant communities are gradually returning here.

Native plant communities that need to be inventoried, baseline reference sites mapped and described, and restoration plans developed on Tomales Point include:

- Coastal prairie
- Wet meadow
- Spring habitats
- Riparian communities, willow groves
- Freshwater and brackish (tidal) marsh
- Fens
- Vernal pools
- North coastal scrub and coyote brush scrub
- Sand dune and beach
- Oak woodland
- Coniferous forest (any Douglas fir and Bishop pine forests on moist north-facing slopes)
- Rare plant habitats
- Eelgrass beds

#### Coastal Prairie Restoration

Currently Tomales Point is managed with passive restoration measures—the area is left to recover from past intensive livestock grazing gradually with little management. We have observed some good recovery and increase of native plants. But we also observe persistent invasive weeds.

We recommend some active restoration measures, including invasive weed removal, and inventorying and monitoring of native plant species, including native coastal prairie grasses and forbs. Seed collection, and planting seedlings back into areas of disturbed Tomales Point sites could help speed the restoration and rewilding of native plant communities here.

We include our comments from 2018 on recovering coastal prairie in the Tomales Point tule elk reserve area.

These areas had a 100-plus-year history of livestock grazing, so still show introduced annual grasses. But more native species are present with less grazing pressure. Coastal bush lupine and coyote brush were present in a mosaic with open grassland. Old eroded headcuts were

recovering in the reserve area, with vegetation growing over eroded bare dirt, and willows colonizing the ravines and seeps. No trailing or erosion were visible.

Introduced annual grasses were still present from past livestock disturbance, but native bunchgrasses are recovering well from cattle grazing:

- Purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*)—common on drier open hills.
- California oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*)—fairly common on open hills.
- Blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*)—fairly common on open hills.
- Creeping wildrye (*Elymus triticoides*)- -On the Tomales Point tule elk fenced area, we saw an elk trail through a beautiful, ungrazed green patch of Creeping wildrye in a ravine bottom near a marsh; we did not see these kind of native grass stands in the Pastoral Zone with dairies and cattle ranches.
- Pacific reedgrass (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*)—fairly common in robust stands on open hillsides.
- Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*)—a few small bunches were observed on open hillsides.
- Onion grass (*Melica imperfecta* or *M. torreyana*)—a few have been observed and need identification.
- Red fescue (*Festuca rubra*)—rare.

Shrubs and forbs observed during many visits include:

- Coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*)
- Coastal bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*)
- Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*)
- Silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*)
- Cow parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*)
- California buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus*)
- Brodiaea (possibly *Dichelostemma capitatum*)—native bulb wildflower. This species is sensitive to heavy grazing.
- Red maids (*Calandrinia menziesii*)
- Miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*)—native wildflower eliminated by grazing.
- White yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
- California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)
- Chick lupine (*Lupinus microcarpus*)- -annual.
- Wild cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*)
- Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.)



- Baby blue eyes (*Nemophila* sp.)
- Goldfields (*Lasthenia* sp.)
- Checker (*Sidalcea* sp.)
- Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium* sp.)
- Bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*)

Restoration of these species should be encouraged in order to restore a diverse coastal prairie community on Tomales Point.

Coarse large Pacific reedgrass (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*) stands in Tomales Point, October 2022.

Small native bunchgrass California oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*) are common in places on open hills. They are more resistant to cattle grazing so probably survived in larger numbers than coastal prairie grasses that are very sensitive to cattle grazing, such as red fescue.

Trail through Tomales Point, October 2022, showing numerous small California oatgrass bunches on the slope adjacent to the trail. These are indications that coastal prairies are beginning to recover after decades of heavy cattle grazing. The small size of the bunchgrasses indicates past heavy grazing pressure. These populations should be inventoried and monitored.

We found no “old growth” mature coastal prairies that have not been impacted by cattle grazing in Tomales Point during years of visits, but more detailed surveys searching for relict sites might discover potential reference sites. Otherwise, all coastal prairie species we found show indications of early recovery from cattle grazing impacts, and may take decades more to mature into climax coastal prairie communities. For example, we found no biological soil crusts in our observations, although more surveys should be undertaken for these taxa.

This photo south of Tomales Point taken during the same visit in October 2022 as the above photos shows our reference site in Point Reyes National Seashore that has been apparently ungrazed by cattle for decades, as it shows a diversity of native coastal prairie bunchgrasses that are sensitive to cattle grazing—here in view mostly Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) and red fescue (*F. rubra*). These grasses are decreaseers with heavy livestock grazing, and in our surveys have largely disappeared from Tomales Point around the Pierce Point dairy area. This reference site showcases a high diversity of native perennial coastal prairie bunchgrasses, with a spongy soil full of biological soil crusts, no bare soil or erosion, and a mosaic of coyote brush. We found tule elk sign here, but no cattle. We would be happy to take NPS staff on a field trip to this site and explain why we consider this a true coastal prairie climax community that should serve as a baseline and reference site to guide the restoration of coastal prairies in Tomales Point.

#### Native Meadow Restoration

Native wet meadow plant communities need to be inventoried and monitored, and mapped, with potential active restoration on Tomales Point.

We have observed low swales that contain native rushes (*Juncus* spp.) appear in many places in Point Reyes National Seashore, as at L Ranch. These may have held native perennial

meadow grasses that have been extirpated by heavy livestock grazing. This needs assessment on Tomales Point where heavy dairy livestock grazing may have degraded wet meadows.

We found tufted hairgrass within the elk fenced area at Tomales Point. Tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) is a large northern coastal prairie bunchgrass of moist or marshy soils and meadows that are prone to flooding during rains, or in ecotones with drier soils. Some forms are salt-tolerant.

The subspecies *Deschampsia cespitosa* ssp. *cespitosa* is widespread along the coast and in mountain meadows of the Sierra Nevada and Coast Range, as well as the Great Basin. The subspecies *D. c. holciformis* is the common coastal form. It was reported by Jepson (1901) in wet meadows and stream borders on the Oakland Hills and in San Francisco. Watson (1880) went further to say this large robust bunchgrass furnished good yields of hay in moist meadows of Oakland and San Francisco — this must be a lost habitat, dug up and covered with concrete and asphalt now. Coastal Marin County may have had large acreages of this native meadow community, as at PRNS before fenced heavy cattle grazing. At Point Reyes National Seashore, we found large bunches of *D. c. holciformis* dominating the relict coastal prairies behind dunes, in both dry areas and moist puddles.

Cattle grazing quickly eliminates tufted hairgrass, leaving little trace of these moist meadow habitats. Only hints may remain under grazing pressure: inedible rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and native wild iris (*Iris douglasiana*) that can be seen in the Point Reyes Pastoral Zone, signs of former more diverse meadow habitats that are now degraded.

This habitat needs to be surveyed for and restored at Tomales Point. See Cunningham 2018.

#### Invasive Plants

NPS proposed in Alternative B to inventory and manage invasive plant species, which may include manual removal and use of herbicides. We recommend hand pulling and recommend against the use of herbicides which could impact native plants, pollinators, and wildlife.

We observed an infestation of veldtgrass (*Ehrharta* sp.), a South African grass that is spreading in the Bay Area, at the restroom at Pierce Point. This should be hand-pulled and controlled.

Wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), a Nitrogen-fixing white-flowering invasive weed, appears to be part of the silage mix planted in the Pastoral Zone for dairy cow supplemental feed, and we observed numerous examples of the invasive non-native plant invading the Tomales Point area. See Cunningham (2018).

All silage growing fields and manure management areas adjacent to the Tomales Point Area should be eliminated, as weed seeds are spread from these agricultural practices into recovering elk habitat, coastal prairies, and the Wilderness Area. Silage field impacts next to Tomales Point should be analyzed in the EA.

We have documented heavy weed infestations at the Kehoe Dairy adjacent to the Tomales elk fence, including:

- Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)—introduced weed, toxic to livestock, increasing on disturbed areas.

- Wild mustard (*Brassica* sp.)—Nitrogen-fixing yellow-flowering invasive weed.
- Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)—weed, increases with disturbance.
- European grasses such as Ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), Velvet grass (*Holcus lanatus*), Rattail fescue (*Festuca myuros*), Hare barley (*Hordeum murinum* ssp. *leporinum*), Italian ryegrass (*Festuca perennis*, formerly *Lolium multiflorum*).
- Domestic crop grasses such as barley (*Hordeum* sp.), ryegrass and/or rye (*Festuca perennis*, *Secale cereale*), and oats (*Avena* sp.).

Wild radish by the elk fence, spilling over from silage fields in the Kehoe ranch-lease. Photo: Jocelyn Knight.

The EA needs to analyze how NPS plans to control spread of these invasive introduced weed plants associated with cattle grazing and industrial agriculture, and prevent invasions which have most likely been ongoing into Tomales Point and the Philip Burton Wilderness Area. An Invasive Weed Management Plan needs to be prepared.

#### Prescribed Fire

Alternative B proposes to evaluate use of prescribed fire to meet desired conditions of native plant communities. We support this. Fire is a natural process that has occurred for thousands of years according to pollen cores within the Seashore, from lightning ignitions (as demonstrated by the recent Woodward Fire), and cultural fire practices by tribes. Active fire suppression during the historic period is a form of management that has negatively impacted native plant community diversity. We have sent in extensive comments on the history of fire at the Seashore for the General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (see Cunningham 2018, 2019, 2020).

A pollen-spore-charcoal core analysis of one site in Point Reyes, going back to 7,000 years ago, shows the presence of coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) and grasslands prior to European colonization (Anderson et al. 2013). This argues against the position that coyote brush expands “unnaturally” as a “weed” without livestock grazing. Depending on which point in time in this core you look, *Baccharis* and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) shrubs have expanded and contracted in coastal grasslands according to the pollen counts over the millenia, and Indigenous cultural burning had periods of greater and lesser intensity. Coyote brush scrub has always been present as a native plant community, perhaps most like what we see at Tomales Point with elk grazing. The pollen analysis found coyote brush to be a natural part of plant communities in Point Reyes National Seashore:

Charcoal influx in sediments prior to c. 4000 cal. BP is minimal, but small amounts of charcoal were deposited consistently in sediments between c. 4000 and 2200 cal. BP, with a higher influx after 2540 cal. BP. After c. 4000 cal. BP, pollen evidence suggests the beginning of development of the modern vegetation characteristics around Glenmire, not only with abundant conifers, *Alnus*, and *C. cornuta* var. *californica* (Figure 5) but also with continuing importance of

open *B. pilularis* coastal scrub grassland.

During the middle and late Holocene at Glenmire, the site was surrounded by a mosaic of vegetation types, including mixed conifer forest with coastal scrub grassland prior to c. 4000 cal. BP. Subsequently, the site witnessed an increase in hardwoods such as alder and expansion of coastal scrub (e.g. *Artemisia*, *Baccharis*) until c. 2200 cal. BP when tanoak, and particularly *Pseudotsuga* and *Sequoia*, expanded.

Significant changes occurred over a very short period of time, beginning in the late 1790s but accelerating in the mid-1800s. These included the arrival of the Spanish Franciscans, removal of the native Coast Miwok population, the subsequent settlement for ranching by Mexican nationals, and land clearance for ranching and dairying by the Americans at the height of California's gold rush. The Glenmire record documents these changes with the (1) decreasing charcoal input following the 1793 fire suppression proclamation, (2) decline of native forest species, (3) arrival of non-native weedy invasive species associated with livestock grazing and land disturbance, (4) introduction of non-native trees for firewood and windbreaks, (5) an increase in coprophilous fungi associated with the presence of large numbers of sheep and cattle, and (6) changes in sedimentation type and rates associated with increased erosion around the site. (Anderson et al. 2013 )

We recommend further study and pilot projects that could create a shifting mosaic of coastal prairie and coyote brush/north coastal scrub habitats, as well as thriving ethnobotanical resources (basketry plants, fiber plants, and food bulb plants, for example), in consultation with the Graton Rancheria and non-federally recognized Tribes and tribal families who are culturally rooted in this landscape.

We emphasize that Wilderness management that includes fire suppression and ignores cultural fire from thousands of years of indigenous fire use is in itself a form of post-colonial management; in other words, the “let it be” wilderness philosophy has embedded in management measures which may lead to unnatural conditions.

We approve of the NPS handling of the August 2020 Woodward Fire, which was caused by lightning ignitions and was recognized to provide ecological benefits while no structures were harmed. Rare lightning ignitions occur even in coastal California, and are a natural process helping to shape Point Reyes National Seashore plant communities and wildlife habitat.

Cultural Values

We support the collaboration with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria to incorporate Tribal views and traditional ecological knowledge into the management of Tomales Point within the limits of the park enabling legislation and the Organic Act. Managing the tule elk to allow free roaming without fences in the Seashore, restoring California condor populations, and pre-colonial predator populations would benefit these ecosystems and cultural values. We also support traditional management of plants for foods and traditional uses, as well as the restoration of Cultural Fire on the land (prescribed fire in consultation with Tribes).

We hope that the non-federally recognized Tribes and other Coast Miwok people and families will be equally consulted, and traditional properties given back or co-managed. This includes the historic house at Felix Cove.

#### Wilderness

Alternative B would terminate vegetation monitoring projects that rely on the use of the twelve elk exclosures and remove elk exclosures, and encourage further vegetation research at Tomales Point that does not rely on the installation of permanent infrastructure within the Philip Burton Wilderness. We support this.

#### Conclusion

Let the park know that restoring and rewilding Tomales Point should be a priority, and providing a wildlife connectivity corridor through the ranches is a must. A wildlife-friendly fence could be constructed to keep the cattle out of Tomales Point once the tall elk-proof fence is removed. Or cattle in the adjacent ranches could be removed to allow unobstructed access of tule elk from Tomales Point to Drake's Bay.

Thank you, Laura Cunningham

California Director

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- - - -2020. Comment letter to Point Reyes National Seashore RE

#### **Correspondence ID: 22412**

Please stop grazing cattle on this land. Bring back our native Tule Elk! Thank you!

#### **Correspondence ID: 22413**

Dear National Park Service,

I am a Coast Miwok lineal descendant. The tule elk are part of the Oral History of the Miwok. They watch over Tomales Point now, which is a Coast Miwok sacred place, site of an ancient ceremonial complex and pathway of the dead.

See: <https://www.sacredamerica.org/2023/02/a-preview-of-stars-on-earth.html>

My book about this place will be published soon.  
<https://www.sacredamerica.org/2023/09/coming-soon.html>

I agree with your "Alternative B" to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence.

I would like private cattle ranches removed from Point Reyes.

Once the elk fence is removed, the elk must be protected.

Thank you.

#### **Correspondence ID: 22414**

Imagine Point Reyes with NO FENCES!

I frequent Point Reyes National Seashore and have spent many hours on the beaches, out tracking wildlife and bird watching. It has always felt incongruent that ranches and cattle exist on a national seashore at all. They are polluting. They are not properly contained, and there is something fishy about the specially discounted arrangement between the ranchers and the park service.

Please, please rewild this precious stretch of national park. It is a unique resource. It needs desperately to be cleaned up and have the livestock removed. Please do everything possible to restore the historic biodiversity of the park. And, please support the well-being of the Tule elk. There are plenty of cows all over Western Marin County. They are not particularly interesting. And, they produce filth.

It breaks my heart each time I hear those ranches referred to as historic while ignoring the centuries of habitation and stewardship of the original residents.

Let's make Point Reyes a model for restoration and preservation.

Kathryn Rile

**Correspondence ID: 22415**

Please remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. Please help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

These beautiful native tule elk have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water due to this confinement by the fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS).

The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Remember that cattle once grazed openly.

**Correspondence ID: 22416**

Dear National Park Service,

I agree with your preferred "Alternative B" to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point inside Point Reyes National Seashore.

In addition, I want all these private cattle ranches removed from our public park. Commercial cattle operations have no business being in this or any national park.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22417**

I support 100% the proposal to remove the fence for elks and allow them to roam free (Alternative B). It is difficult to imagine that rare Tule Elks have to be confined to a fraction of the Point Reyes National Seashore. With climate change leading to droughts and fires, it is more important than ever that these animals are free so that they have better chances to survive. The two fatal droughts of the past eight years reduced the Tomales Point herd from 445 elk to 292 elk! Free-roaming elks outside the fenced area did not experience the same population fluctuations or declines.

Moreover, as a visitor (who had spend vacations in your beautiful Californian National forests and parks years ago!), I would find normal to see free roaming elks in Point Reyes National

Seashore, not cattle. Therefore, NPS should seriously consider building a fence to keep privately-owned cattle from entering Tomales Point. This would avoid food and water competition between elks and cattle and would lead to less conflicts between wildlife and ranchers.

Thank you in advance for your time and considerations.

Sylvie Lefebvre

**Correspondence ID: 22418**

I am writing to support expelling cattle from state park lands and unconfining the Tule Elk on the land.

**Correspondence ID: 22419**

You need to remove the fence that confines the Tomales Point Elk Herd. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 22421**

Dear NPS,

I support Alternative B and the removal of the Elk Fence. Ranching should be phased out in the park and the land restored and allowed to heal. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22422**

Thank you, National Park Service, for finally listening to the overwhelming voice of the public and removing the elk fence from Point Reyes. Fences are inappropriate in wilderness, and cattle should not be prioritized over wild animals.

**Correspondence ID: 22425**

I support the NPS Alternative B proposed plan, which removes the elk fence and frees the confined elk. Let our national parks remain parks where animals wonder. Our national parks are not for the agriculture lobbying industry. We must protect the tule elk that have been let down repeatedly by the NPS. Do the right thing and take down the elk fence. I want my children to see these animals roaming free, not dead in dried mud because NPS prevented them from access to water.

**Correspondence ID: 22426**

I love point Reyes. I love the tule elk. And I love Strauss products. I'm not sure how to reconcile all my love, but I have a problem w national parks supporting commercial enterprises over the nature they are supposed to protect. The elk deserve space to roam without being fenced and deprived of water. The commercial farms on park property have degraded the landscape, had toxic runoff into waterways, garbage dumps scattered on the property. I love Strauss products, but i think they and all the other commercial farms need to be relocated and pt Reyes returned to a true natural preserve without commercial gain. I truly wish Strauss well and hope they can thrive in a new location.

**Correspondence ID: 22427**

September 24, 2023

Dear NPS:



The Marin Audubon Society (MAS) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Tomales Bay Area Plan. In accord with MAS's mission, our comments focus on habitat and wildlife concerns. We support removal of the elk enclosure fencing; however, we have a number of questions and issues that the Plan should consider and that the environmental review of the Plan should address.

1. How many herds are in the enclosed area at Tomales Point? How did the Drakes Bay and Limantour herds get to the habitats they currently occupy? Were they moved by the NPS or did they escape from the enclosure? If the former, describe the procedure used to remove the animals, difficulties encountered and if any elk were lost.

2. Describe the habitat use patterns of the elk. Specifically, it was mentioned that various herds in the confined area remained in their areas during the droughts. Please discuss the fidelity of elk herds to a given habitat patch. What conditions, if any, may lead to their moving out of their area? What is the general size of an elk herd habitat area?

3. Are there conflicts between elk and visitors to the Tomales Bay enclosed area? If there have been conflicts, describe conditions causing the incidents. Do the elk much stay away from people or are they attracted to people? Would increasing dedicated rangers help reduce conflicts?

4. It was reported at the public meeting that the reason for elk deaths during times of drought was not lack of water but reduced forage. Did similar circumstances, i.e. reduced forage, also occur in the habitat areas occupied by the unconfined herds? If so, what did those herds do? Did they move or remain in their areas?

5. How will the NPS handle situations that are likely to arise sometime in the future when elk leave the park and enter private property? The answer at the public meeting was to return them to the park. What is a likely scenario, one elk moving off, or more than one?

6. Are there any circumstances in which elk would not be returned to the park? What if a whole herd leaves? To move animals requires them to be captured which is a difficult and stressful for the animals? Describe the techniques that would be used. What is the risk to the animals?

7. Describe how the elk that leave the enclosed area be managed? The answer at the public meeting was that they would be managed according to the General Management Plan Amendment. The GMPA describes culling if herds increase to beyond a certain size in the current areas occupied. What will happen if the Tomales Point elk if they roam into new areas or join either of the other unconfined herds?

8. What are the criteria for maintenance of a wilderness area? Evaluate the compliance of a new trail within the wilderness designation.

9. There are structures within the area the purpose of which is to exclude elk in order to evaluate the effect on vegetation of the absence of grazing. It is disappointing to hear that data has not been gathered from these test plots. We recommend that these plots be maintained and that the study be reinitiated in order to inform management of park resources. Discuss the plan for the test plots.

10. Show the proposed spur trail on a figure and explain why it is needed in view of the many vistas that exist throughout the park? There is certainly no lack of views in the Seashore.

Discuss how the location for the trail was chosen? Does the alignment extend through habitat for an elk herd or any other known wildlife species.

11. Evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed new trail, expansion of the parking lot (anything else?) and other expansions of recreational uses on the wilderness habitat, its elk and other wildlife. Consider potential impacts: they will directly destroy habitat and direct more people into a previously unvisited portion of the habitat (smells, noise, litter etc. into habitat )and analyze how they will potentially adversely impact elk and other wildlife that depend and on the area.

Thank you for responding to our comments.

Sincerely, Barbara Salzman, Co-chair Roger Harris, Co-chair

Conservation Committee Conservation Committee

**Correspondence ID: 22428**

I am a regular visitor to Pt Reyes. I support the immediate removal of the elk fence in the Tomales Point area of Pt. Reyes, to permit the elk to freely roam throughout Pt. Reyes. Pt. Reyes is a park first, for the public and for the park wildlife. Permitting the elk for roam freely throughout Pt. Reyes will help restore the park to its natural state.

Thank you

Sincerely

Karl Mack

**Correspondence ID: 22430**

Hello,

Please remove the fence for the Tule Elk. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you, Mary Ragsdale

**Correspondence ID: 22432**

National Park Service

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Please remove the fence ASAP.

Thank You

Barry Frazier

PS Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 22433**

Tomales Bay and the communities there are such an amazing part of Calif. One of my favorite drives is out to the lighthouse. Passing the amazing farms and ranches on that drive are part of the history of that area. Many of them are there because of Spanish land grants, and changing that should not be allowed. Many of those dairy areas are working to lessen the impact of cows on the planet. By changing things so the elk interfere with that process makes no sense.

**Correspondence ID: 22435**

Please remove the fence that confines the Tule elk herd so they can freely roam the park and be protected from starvation and dehydration. Thank you very much for your consideration in protecting these animals.

**Correspondence ID: 22436**

A melhor opção é a Alternativa B, que é a opção preferida do NPS. A remoção de estruturas na Terra Selvagem e da cerca fora da Terra Selvagem é a escolha certa. As alternativas A e C devem ser combatidas, pois degradam a região selvagem e colocam em perigo os raros alces de Tule. Contudo, algumas outras alterações à Alternativa B devem ser consideradas.

A remoção de estruturas hídricas construídas ilegalmente no Sertão deve ser feita por meios não motorizados. As estruturas são pequenas e podem ser facilmente removidas sem o uso de veículos motorizados.

Eliminar o pastoreio do gado. O gado não deveria mais ser permitido em Point Reyes ou Wilderness conforme o acordo original.

Não use herbicidas no deserto. A remoção do gado e da cerca permitiria uma melhor distribuição dos alces Tule e mitigaria a expansão de plantas invasoras.

Permita que incêndios naturais queimem e moldem a paisagem selvagem, em vez de usar fogo aceso pelo gerente para criar condições artificiais. O uso muito frequente de fogo aceso pelo gerente tende a favorecer plantas invasoras não nativas.

Claudio Simoes

**Correspondence ID: 22437**

A melhor opção é a Alternativa B, que é a opção preferida do NPS. A remoção de estruturas na Terra Selvagem e da cerca fora da Terra Selvagem é a escolha certa. As alternativas A e C devem ser combatidas, pois degradam a região selvagem e colocam em perigo os raros alces de Tule. Contudo, algumas outras alterações à Alternativa B devem ser consideradas.

A remoção de estruturas hídricas construídas ilegalmente no Sertão deve ser feita por meios não motorizados. As estruturas são pequenas e podem ser facilmente removidas sem o uso de veículos motorizados.

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Permita que incêndios naturais queimem e moldem a paisagem selvagem, em vez de usar fogo aceso pelo gerente para criar condições artificiais. O uso muito frequente de fogo aceso pelo gerente tende a favorecer plantas invasoras não nativas.

Heloise Henriques

**Correspondence ID: 22438**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone. Don't remove the fencing, cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 22439**

Dear Superintendent Kenkel,

I strongly support alternative B for the Tule Elk Management Plan.

As a background, I have lived in Inverness or other parts of West Marin since 1980. I am a biologist and naturalist. For most of the last thirty years I have taught natural history classes at Point Reyes National Seashore.

I am very familiar with the natural history of Tule elk and other wildlife here.

Currently, the primary adverse impacts on the Tomales Point Tule Elk are caused by confinement behind the elk fence. Removal of the elk fence would reduce the need for water system infrastructure in undeveloped areas and not require active management of the elk population through lethal removal. The construction and maintenance of artificial water systems conflicts with the goal of minimizing human impacts on park resources and values. Further, active management of the Tule Elk population potentially involves an intrusive and continuous commitment of limited resources to diminish the natural character of Tomales Point. Removal of the fence is most compatible with the mission of the National Park Service and the purpose of the Point Reyes National Seashore.

Concurrent with removing the elk fence I advocate:

- Preventing non-native animal and plant species from entering the wilderness area;
- Ensure Tule Elk are not inhibited by other management actions that would impair their ability to freely access the rest of the Point Reyes National Seashore;
- Enhance and restore habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife within the planning area;
- Improve public education and interpretation about the Tomales Point elk and their role in the ecology of the Point Reyes peninsula, including the feasibility of establishing a docent program.

Sincerely, David Wimpfheimer

**Correspondence ID: 22440**

Please save the elk.

**Correspondence ID: 22441**

I urge the NPS to remove the fence containing the elk at Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore. I remind you that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. The elk should not be contained like this. Let them roam freely.. Too many die.

**Correspondence ID: 22443**

Get rid of the fence in California. Free the Elk.

**Correspondence ID: 22445**

It's past time that we started prioritizing native wildlife over the livestock industry. TAKE DOWN THE FENCE.

**Correspondence ID: 22446**

Please, free the Elk. There has to be a way to work together on this. 300 Elk to 5000 head cattle isn't competition and everyone knows it. This is politics, as usual, at the expense of wildlife and our ECO system. Let the Elk live in peace and thrive. The ranchers and their cattle won't even know they are there. West Marin land is plentiful because we chose to keep it plentiful, and Marin should be proud of that. It's world renown for that reason. Let's us continue to use it wisely as we always have with pride. There is plenty of room for the Elk and cattle. FREE THE ELK!

**Correspondence ID: 22448**

We should be protecting our resources not big Agriculture.

**Correspondence ID: 22450**

Please beautifully remove the fence for the Elk. Thank you. Andrea Wayne

**Correspondence ID: 22454**

To Whom It May Concern,

I'd love it see the elk fence removed, and the Pierce Point Ranch turned in to a hostel or camping area.

Thanks

**Correspondence ID: 22455**

Please remove the fences and free the elk! It is time to restore the park lands to their wild state and protect the heard by allowing them to roam free. During these times of increasing climate crisis and instability we must preserve our wild lands and the wild life who inhabit them, like the elk. It is time for the fences to come down, this wii give the elk population a chance to recover.

**Correspondence ID: 22457**

Why is this a question of what to do? Take the cattle someplace else and let the Elk have their space. Wildersess needs to be treated as Wilderness. Follow the rules and stop giving exceptions. Simple.

**Correspondence ID: 22459**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS)

with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

I'd like to remind the agency that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Please remove the fence and allow the elk to live and to improve the land. Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 22460**

Please do whatever the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria group desires.

**Correspondence ID: 22463**

I used to live in Humboldt County and it was a joy walking along the beach and seeing the Tule Elk drifting by. Please take down the fence and let them graze freely. It is my pleasure to be able to promote their freedom.

**Correspondence ID: 22464**

Dear NPS Service,

As a resident of the Point Reyes National Seashore I appreciate the opportunity for the public to respond to the land management plan at Tomales Point. Removing the elk fence and managing Tomales Point as a national park unit is supposed to be managed with the first priority being the protection of natural resources, including the elk. The protection of natural resources is the highest priority in units of the national park system. *Bicycle Trails Council of Marin v. Babbitt*, 82 F.3d 1445, 1453 (9th Cir. 1996). Alternative B would best achieve this goal.

If you were proposing either your Alternative A or C, as opposed to Alternative B, an EIS would be required. The elk fence at Tomales Point, it is not consistent with CA State position today, which is what matters. The California Department of Fish & Wildlife's "Elk Conservation and Management Plan December 2018," rejects the idea of confined herds (there were three confined herds when the 2018 plan was prepared, including Tomales Point). Furthermore, the State's 2018 Plan requires some measures to provide increased forage for the three captive herds pending their release from captivity. The logical choice is to simply allow elk herds access to the forage in the national park and stop prioritizing cattle grazing over wildlife restoration plans – which violates both state and park regulations and mission to preserve and protect wildlife.

[A]rtificial conditions associated with their confinement are undesirable in the long term. The Department should shift objectives to emphasize managing tule elk in a free-roaming state to the maximum extent possible, as specified in the Management Plan for the Conservation of Tule Elk (Tule Elk Interagency Task Force 1985)."

Obviously, whether or not the State ever required a fence at Tomales Point, as claimed in this PSN at pages 4 and 5, it clearly does not require one now and, in fact, State policy is now clearly against confinement.

Tule elk are resident wildlife. As such, the State of California has primary jurisdiction over them and, thus, the plan applies, as a matter of policy, to the captive elk at Tomales Point. 43 C.F.R. Part 24. The EA should address all of this, including the status of discussions with Cal F&W regarding releasing the elk and enhancing their habitat until they are released. For example, please discuss whether the task of working with Cal F&W to "identify/establish specific

vegetation management thresholds for Tomales Point,” as identified in the last quote above from the State Plan, has been completed.

I strongly urge you to select Alternative B with one revision: to install a wildlife friendly cattle fence to keep cattle out of Tomales Point, which is not part of ranch lease areas. That would allow elk to move freely back and forth for forage and water needs as protected wildlife. It is essential to exclude cattle from this restoration area, and equally essential that the fencing be wildlife-friendly: including a 20-inch barbed wire free bottom clearance wire and a top wire that is also barbed wire free to exclude entanglement. It is encouraging to finally see PRNS write that preservation of natural resources is the highest management priority in units of the national park system under the Organic Act, not to mention the Seashore legislation. I support adopting Alternative B as the only alternative that supports not doing an EIS. It is also the only alternative that is consistent with Cal F&W's Elk Conservation and Management Plan of 2018 and the Wilderness Act.

Sincerely, Greg Long

**Correspondence ID: 22465**

I am writing in support of Alternative B: Unconfined Elk

**Correspondence ID: 22466**

I support Alternative B which removes the elk fence!

Elk should take priority of domestic cattle. For God's sake it is a National park not a private farm!

The park should ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the fence is removed

Private farms should be scaled back over time

**Correspondence ID: 22467**

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of California, visitor to Point Reyes NS, and American citizen, I would like to offer my comments on the Tomales Point Area Plan.

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Private cattle operations aren't appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates “the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment” within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to “provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” Therefore, cattle should no longer be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness, and their grazing should be eliminated.

Herbicides should be used only under exigent circumstances or not at all in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

Thank you for listening to the overwhelming public support for removing the elk fence, and for your careful consideration now.

**Correspondence ID: 22468**

Let the Tule elk roam free so they don't become another human cause extinction.

**Correspondence ID: 22469**

It appears the NPS will go forward with proposed "Plan B," to remove the elk confining fence at Tomales Point. This is a sensible action. Thank you, in advance, for doing this.

However, this initial action by itself doesn't constitute a complete plan for wildlife preservation and restoration.

As is evident from tule elk deaths within their confined region at Tomales Point, natural fresh water sources are insufficient during the dry months of summer and autumn. The elevation at most of Tomales Point is significantly higher than that of the leased lands of PRNS directly below. Because of this greater elevation, the elk effectively are left high and dry. This is especially cruel, because seasonal rainfall at Tomales Point feeds a perennial spring in the adjacent valley below.

Unfortunately, that fresh water spring has been developed and is monopolized by the I and J ranches, currently leased to the McClure and Kehoe families. As reported in The Pt. Reyes Light in the year 2021, the McClure commercial operations were using 20,000 gallons of fresh water per day (ref. <https://www.ptreyeslight.com/news/mcclure-dairy-shuts-down/> ). Such an abundant source of water must be made available to wildlife, and it must be allowed to flow naturally to places like Abbotts Lagoon, which could become an oasis for local and migratory creatures.

After the fence is taken down, the plan doesn't specify how the freed tule elk will get access to fresh water.

Please remember the crucial importance of fresh water at Point Reyes. This natural resource should be shared with wildlife, rather than monopolized and monetized for extractive operations such as commercial beef and dairy ranching. The existing development of the natural spring below Tomales Point has adversely affected availability of water for both fauna and flora in that area.

**Correspondence ID: 22470**

The elk fence needs to be removed and the native wildlife protected and prioritized.

**Correspondence ID: 22475**

Please remove the fence. The well-being of the tule elk population must be prioritized. These elk are treasured in Point Reyes, and their access to resources is threatened by the ongoing existence of the fence.



**Correspondence ID: 22476**

Thank you for this chance to comment on the Tomales Point Area Plan--the plan impacts Tomales Point as well as the neighboring communities. I urge the Park to move forward with the proposed Alternative C as was outlined in the TPAP public scoping newsletter. The final environmental assessment for TPAP's plan should clarify the Park's approach to managing the elk, particularly as our state faces long periods of drought. A well-managed and thriving Tule Elk herd is essential to supporting the Wilderness character in Tomales Point.

The ranchland pastoral zone is also an important part of this region's history and food economy, and in combination with the Wilderness areas, makes Point Reyes National Seashore a unique and multi-layered park experience. Alternative C supports the Tomales Point Area Plan, and PRNS goals and mission -- and with strategic planning and active collaboration between wilderness conservationists and agriculturalists, this is an opportunity to create a model for both wilderness and agriculture preservation, each of which contribute to the local economy and the beauty which defines California.

**Correspondence ID: 22477**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

For a long time, I have been very upset that ranchers have been given priority over wildlife. Wildlife were here before ranchers that they deserve to live free!

I appreciate the efforts of this who work to protect wildlife and support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Periel Stanfield

**Correspondence ID: 22478**

Tule elk are a native California subspecies, who were brought back from the brink of extinction after their population plummeted to near-zero during the 1800s. They now number in the hundreds — a conservation success — but their current situation threatens their population once again.

Though the elk are protected by law, the National Park Service (NPS) is prioritizing the interests of commercial ranching operations — who lease a portion of this public land for grazing cows — over the well-being of the elk by keeping them confined behind a fence. Prevented by the fence

from traveling further in search of food and water, more than 150 elk died in 2020 alone during drought conditions.

The NPS has a responsibility to conserve and care for protected wild species but is instead prioritizing commercial animal agriculture interests over the needs of wildlife and public lands.

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

**Correspondence ID: 22479**

Tule elk are a native California subspecies, who were brought back from the brink of extinction after their population plummeted to near-zero during the 1800s. They now number in the hundreds — a conservation success — but their current situation threatens their population once again.

Though the elk are protected by law, the National Park Service (NPS) is prioritizing the interests of commercial ranching operations — who lease a portion of this public land for grazing cows — over the well-being of the elk by keeping them confined behind a fence. Prevented by the fence from traveling further in search of food and water, more than 150 elk died in 2020 alone during drought conditions.

The NPS has a responsibility to conserve and care for protected wild species but is instead prioritizing commercial animal agriculture interests over the needs of wildlife and public lands.

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

**Correspondence ID: 22480**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I want ranchers off public land now! They are exploiting animals and killing wildlife.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confinement barriers have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Brad Stanfield

**Correspondence ID: 22481**

Lived here 30 years. 50 years in the county. Have ridden and still ride regularly in the Park since 1983. Great job by all Park personnel. Please leave the fence up to keep most elk controlled. Please work at maintaining ranches/cattle as long as possible. I believe that was the original intent of the creation of the Park.

Thanks

Murph

**Correspondence ID: 22482**

Superintendent Kenkel,

Thank you for the opportunity to make public comments regarding the Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP). I strongly support the proposed Alternative C, as outlined in the Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP) public scoping newsletter. It will ensure that all parties involved in the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) and the West Marin community can co-exist together. The introduced Tule Elk needs to be managed through Tribal ecological and traditional management in order to ensure that the Tule Elk population that currently has no natural predators does not grow beyond the land's carrying capacity.

A concerned citizen and patron of the sustainable organic farms of the West Marin community.

Dennis Lau

**Correspondence ID: 22484**

Hello, I'm writing to you on behalf of the Tule Elks of Tomales Point.

I am asking that you please remove the fence that was put in place by the NPS, along the peninsula, restricting their free movement, to make way for privately owned cattle. This is so very wrong, and not much different than what happens to we every day people when we are priced out of our homes and neighbourhoods by developers; the only difference is that we do have ways of accessing food, water, shelter... either by whatever means we may have, through family, of social services available to us – the Tule Elks do not have any of this. They have limited resources, limited options to acquire or find new resources, and no services being made available to them.

Maybe my comparison is too hard to relate to, or possibly makes no sense, but the fact remains – Tomales Point in the Point Reyes National Seashore has been their home, their sole source of food & water, and where they have belonged for their entire lives. They are a native species of the area - and - Point Reyes National Seashore has been a wonderful success story of having reintroduced the Tule Elk to the area, which also helped restore the ecosystem, after it had been decimated, and the Tule Elk had been erased in the area by hunters & RANCHERS of the past. Why would NPS go through all the time, dedication, and care, to do that, only to take it all away away? Only to erase the Tule Elk from the area, again? It seems all so cruel.

Please, I implore you, take down that fence.

**Correspondence ID: 22488**

Please can you remove the fence to allow these animals to go and eat , they are dying from starvation why are you allowing this to happen? Please help them?

**Correspondence ID: 22489**

Dear National Park Service,

We must do everything we can to protect the remaining Tule elk. We must give them the right to live in a sustaining environment.

Right now, that isn't the case. They are dying. Painful deaths. Shame on the NPS for allowing this to happen.

I fully support "Alternative B" to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point inside Point Reyes National Seashore.

We, the American citizens--who fund the NPS with our tax dollars--do NOT want private cattle ranches in our public parks.

We want our public parks preserved for our precious wildlife. That's why we GO to our national parks. To see the wildlife.

Not to see cattle.

These ranches pollute OUR land and they do NOT belong in our national parks.

It's long past time to remove the fence and to protect our precious Tule elk.

No more private ranches on our land! We are fed up with the way this has been managed for 45 years. Enough! Enough! Enough!

We want ranchers to be monitored and heavily fined if they haze, harass, or harm any elk or wild animals in the park, ever.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22490**

Please move forward with Alternative B and remove the fence trapping the elk.

**Correspondence ID: 22491**

What is a National Park?

I do not believe it is land for a private commercial ranch operation. But that is exactly what has happened in California at Point Reyes National Seashore.

Tule elk are a unique native California subspecies of elk. Although the elk are protected by law, the National Park Service (NPS) is prioritizing the interests of commercial ranching operations — who lease a portion of this public land for grazing cows.

The elk have been confined behind a fence preventing them from traveling in search of food and water. More than 150 elk died in 2020 alone during drought conditions. This is totally unacceptable.

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore immediately.

**Correspondence ID: 22492**

Defense of Place was founded by Huey Johnson in 1997 to defend lands held in Public Trust whose protective deeds, statutes and management integrity are breached for predatory reasons or imprudent oversight. Over the past few years, the founding charters and contracts enacted to preserve Point Reyes National Seashore have been flaunted to an egregious extent that threatens the Park's coastline, grasslands and forests, and wildlife.

The assaults on the Park from unrestrained ranching practices require complex political and policy deliberation. BUT one issue that can and SHOULD immediately be resolved by the NPS is the current and future survival of the Tule elk.

We believe this can best be achieved by adopting Alternative B in the Tomales Point Area. Studies should show that removal of the fence confining the elk will have a "domino" effect that opens up the Tomales Point Area -- and other ecosystems and expanses of the Park -- for the recovery of other flora and fauna; improved public access; improved educational opportunities; and increased understanding of wildlife management.

We support Alternative B.

**Correspondence ID: 22493**

The enabling legislation for PRNS specified that its first priority is preservation of the natural environment, with a second priority for recreation, education, historic preservation, interpretation, and scientific research. The proposed Alternative B (removing the elk fence, returning Tomales Point to a more natural state, and improving historic and recreation opportunities) is the most consistent with the park's mandate.

While some will complain that elk will interfere with commercial ranching, the law is clear that the Seashore is intended to be a natural area, with limited recreation and historic preservation activities, and no commercial activities. Fencing in wildlife in the interests of commercial ranching has nothing to do with natural preservation, recreation, or historic preservation.

Alternative B is the only alternative consistent with the law and therefore should be adopted.

**Correspondence ID: 22494**

I appreciate the efforts of those who work to protect wildlife. I 100% support the removal of the deadly fence. I want the elk to be free and I want ranchers off public land!! I also want a ban on culling and hunting the Tule Elk.

Wildlife should take priority over ranchers.

**Correspondence ID: 22495**

I appreciate the efforts of those who work to protect wildlife. I 100% support the removal of the deadly fence. I want the elk to be free and I want ranchers off public land!! I also want a ban on culling and hunting the Tule Elk.

Wildlife should take priority over ranchers.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

**Correspondence ID: 22496**

Going forward with proposed "Plan B," to remove the elk confining fence at Tomales Point is the most sensible action. Thank you, in advance, for doing this.

However, this initial action by itself doesn't constitute a complete plan for wildlife preservation and restoration.

As is evident from tule elk deaths within their confined region at Tomales Point, natural fresh water sources are insufficient during the dry months of summer and autumn. The elevation at most of Tomales Point is significantly higher than that of the leased lands of PRNS directly below. Because of this greater elevation, the elk effectively are left high and dry. This is especially cruel, because seasonal rainfall at Tomales Point feeds a perennial spring in the adjacent valley below.

Unfortunately, that fresh water spring has been developed and is monopolized by the I and J ranches, currently leased to the McClure and Kehoe families. As reported in The Pt. Reyes Light in the year 2021, the McClure commercial operations were using 20,000 gallons of fresh water per day (ref. <https://www.ptreyeslight.com/news/mcclure-dairy-shuts-down/> ). Such an abundant source of water must be made available to wildlife, and it must be allowed to flow naturally to places like Abbotts Lagoon, which could become an oasis for local and migratory creatures.

After the fence is taken down, the plan doesn't specify how the freed tule elk will get access to fresh water.

Please remember the crucial importance of fresh water at Point Reyes. This natural resource should be shared with wildlife, rather than monopolized and monetized for extractive operations such as commercial beef and dairy ranching. The existing development of the natural spring below Tomales Point has adversely affected availability of water for both fauna and flora in that area.

**Correspondence ID: 22497**

I strongly urge the National Park Service to remove the fence currently confining the native Tule elk to Tomales Point peninsula in Point Reyes National Seashore.

That elk population is being devastated because of their confinement, with robust evidence indicating the cause to be starvation as well as lack of water caused directly by their confinement.

Worse, the grazing cattle here and elsewhere untenably disrupt the area's ecology such that this region and too many others become unable to support essential native life.

In this case, for example, the damage caused by the cattle grazing includes but is not limited to the contamination of the water supply by cattle feces, with their bacteria-laden fecal matter introducing and spreading disease. This effectively ruins an intolerably large volume of essential water – a resource so precious that we cannot waste any of it – while the imbalance sets up conditions that not only support but, worse, favor invasive species over native ones.

This dangerous and deadly imbalance must be rectified. A critically needed step to improve the situation is, again, to please remove the fence that currently and lethally confines the native Tule elk.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I am very appreciative.

**Correspondence ID: 22498**

Remove the Elk Fence! Alternative B! Free the Elk to Roam Throughout PRNS, it's a National Park!

**Correspondence ID: 22499**

It's inhumane and evil to restrict these wonderful creatures of something so essential but yet simple to provide.

Please allow this immediately

**Correspondence ID: 22500**

I Support Alternative B! NPS, Take Down the Elk Fence!

**Correspondence ID: 22501**

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I lived 15 years near to Point Reyes and cannot imagine the rare and wild Tule elk contained within a fence!

**Correspondence ID: 22502**

I'm writing to request that you remove the fence in this area because it's causing huge numbers

of the trapped elk to die from starvation and dehydration. It's cattle grazing that destroys ecosystems, contaminates the water supply, wastes large amounts of water, and spreads invasive species and disease.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

**Correspondence ID: 22503**

There should not be dangerous fencing in a national park where native animals live that can be harmed or killed by the fencing that is intended for private cattle. The elk and all native animals should be able to freely roam and live without risk of dying because they cannot cross the fencing to migrate and get food and water. When the fencing is removed, the elk should be allowed to be safe from hunting and human interference. Cattle ranching should not be allowed in wilderness areas and in national parks in the first place. Please remove the destructive fencing which will protect the elk and allow Point Reyes ecosystem to thrive. Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 22504**

Please free the elk and protect Point Reyes for native wildlife! This is your duty!

**Correspondence ID: 22505**

Good morning, I have been reading about the Elk that have died as a result of fence that holds them away from their natural grazing. I also believe that there is cattle grazing on this land that causes contamination to the water supply. This is another terrible problem that should be addressed. I have also read that you are considering taking down the fence to allow these beautiful creatures back to where they belong. Please, please do this sooner rather than later to stop any more dying. Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 22518**

What is the reason for not removing this fence?

**Correspondence ID: 22680**

To whom it may concern,

It is truly disheartening to me that the NPS is putting the needs of cattle ranchers above the needs of the animals they are supposed to be protecting.

To my knowledge the National Park Service is supposed to be taking care of the park and all of its inhabitants not the gluttonous needs of cattle ranchers that shouldn't be allowed to be on public land in the first place.

Wild animals are already pushed to the brink due to development from humans with nowhere to go, and it is disgusting that these poor elk are being tortured to death for the sake of greedy cattle ranchers.

I implore you to take the needs of the wild animals above paying customers

Thank you for your time

**Correspondence ID: 22705**

Dear NPS - I request that you select Alternative B to remove fencing and allow native tule elk access to water and forage for the Tomales Point Area Plan at Point Reyes National Seashore. I believe that wildlife should be the priority for our national park.



**Correspondence ID: 22710**

Please help the elk. I support alternative B to remove the fence and allow the elk to roam free.

**Correspondence ID: 22711**

Do the right thing for the Elks! Every Life matters!

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by how Its Animals are treated.”

Mahatma Gandhi

**Correspondence ID: 22750**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

**Correspondence ID: 22759**

Please free the Elk before they are all gone. Wildlife matters and they should be roaming free like all other wildlife. That is their habitat, and they need to be able to have that right. Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 22810**

I'd like the Tule Elk to have unrestricted access please. They will assist in restoring the native plants. National Parks should be left for wild animals, not for cattle grazing businesses!

**Correspondence ID: 22957**

Please let these animals live. We have taken so much from them. Let's start giving back. Please.

**Correspondence ID: 22958**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

However, after years of campaigns by PETA and other advocacy groups, the NPS is finally considering removing the fence. The NPS is now taking public comments on a proposed plan that would include removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd.

Let the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve.

**Correspondence ID: 22961**

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**Correspondence ID: 22964**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule Elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park. Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

**Correspondence ID: 22965**

I would like to add my name to the individuals calling for the removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. The number of deaths due to this fence are unacceptable. Removing

the fence would allow the elk to roam free as nature intended. This is in the best interest of all of us.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 22966**

I strongly support continuing ranching in Point Reyes. The ranches are an important asset to our community.

**Correspondence ID: 22970**

I urge you to act as quickly as possible in removing the fence that prevents the native tule elk from reaching the shoreline. The herd's inability to roam has resulted in the death of more than 100 animals, lack of food and water, and overall suffering. The National Park Service should be taking all measures possible to preserve and enhance the existence of wildlife, including the tule elk, for the benefit of the citizenry as a whole and for the enjoyment of future generations. Prioritizing grazing domestic cattle over wildlife only benefits a few private individuals who want personal gain, at devastating cost to wildlife. Please remove the fence, this is a matter of great importance and should not be delayed.

**Correspondence ID: 22971**

The Tule elk fence should be eliminated so they can range freely; the National Park Service should select the alternative B. For the Tule elk, cattle ranching is a better option than factory farming. By better controlling invasive animals like the Tule elk, cattle ranchers will save money. Cattle should not take precedence over the wild Tule Elk in the National Park. The Tule elk won't be threatened after the fence is taken down. In conclusion, it is best to take down the fence in order to restore and safeguard the environment of Point Reyes National Park. Controlling and managing invasive species is crucial.

**Correspondence ID: 22972**

The Tule Elk have been eradicated once before and we must prevent that from happening again. While the 8-foot fence protecting the Tule Elk was once a good idea, it now has become more harmful than helpful in restoring Tule Elk populations. I urge the National Park Service to choose Alternative B, known as the "Unconfined Elk Hear and Pierce Ranch Core Area" as this is the best choice to help the growing Tule Elk populations and supporting the mission of the National Park Service. Protecting cattle operations in Point Reyes National Seashore is not appropriate for the park. According to the Organic Act, national park areas are created for enjoyment of scenery, wildlife, and historic objects for humans. Cattle operations do not follow this mission statement and should be ended in Point Reyes National Seashore to remove the fence keeping the Tule Elk confined to one area of the park. It has been proven that the Tule Elk do not compete with cattle as they avoid cattle ranches and graze in other areas of the park; therefore, the Tule Elk should be freed from their enclosed area. The fence has caused more Tule Elk deaths than for the elk that are free to roam. The National Park Service should work to protect and preserve the Tule Elk as they are native to Point Reyes, which is the mission of the National Park Service: to protect wildlife. The cattle are not native to the area, nor should they be protected by the National Park Service. I propose that the money used for building the Tule Elk fence can be provided to cattle ranchers in the area to build fences around their cattle to prevent Tule Elk from encroaching on their property. The welfare of the Tule Elk is declining behind the fence, so I urge the National Park Service to remove the fence to save the Tule Elk populations.

**Correspondence ID: 22974**

I'm originally from Northern California, a 5th generation Californian who moved to Oregon 5 years ago. My grrat great grandparents are Sam and Addie McCurdy who owned McCurdy ranch in the late 1800s to early 1900s.

I write in support of option B, unrestricted tule elk herd. It is time to restore our relationship with the native tule elk and live in harmony with them giving them space to live.

**Correspondence ID: 22975**

Monday, September 25, 2023

Craig Kenkel

Superintendent

Point Reyes National Seashore

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94903

Subject: Protect the Tomales Point's Wilderness Values and Tule Elk -- Tomales Point Area Plan - Public Scoping Comment Period

To Superintendent Kenkel:

Thank you for considering my comments on the Tomales Point Area Plan.

I believe that the best of the three alternatives offered in the Public Scoping Comment Period newsletter is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

The Tomales Point Area Plan newsletter indicates that the park does plan to increase parking capacity by formally designating areas currently used unofficially. Before doing so, Point Reyes National Seashore should determine an appropriate, science-based visitor carrying capacity for both the Tomales Point Trailhead and the McClures Beach Trailhead.

The National Park and Recreation Act of 1978 established a statutory requirement (54 U.S.C. § 100502) that national park general management plans include "visitor carrying capacities for all areas" of each park unit. However, the only reference to carrying capacities in Point Reyes National Seashore's General Management Plan (completed in 1980) applies to cattle grazing in the pastoral areas and maricultural operations in estuarine areas. (And given how denuded many pastures around ranches are in the summer and fall of each year, I would say that park's management has utterly failed to "manage seashore activities in the pastoral...areas in a manner compatible with resource carrying capacity." But I suspect that, given that this parenthetical comment pertains to ranching, it will not be considered relevant to the Tomales Point Area Plan since ranching is already not allowed in the area addressed by this narrowly focused plan.)

Regardless, the park's 1980 General Management Plan effectively did not address visitor carrying capacity, as is required by law, and the park's 2020 General Management Plan

Amendment apparently only addressed carrying capacity for locations within the Pastoral Zone. It is extremely disappointing that 45 years after the passage of the National Park and Recreation Act of 1978, Point Reyes National Seashore allows what would appear to be visitation to Tomales Point (as well as the Point Reyes Headlands and the Palomarin Trailhead) that is far in excess of the area's carrying capacity on many weekends throughout the year. This negatively impacts the park's vegetation (e.g., trampling by vehicles and pedestrians), wildlife, and Wilderness values. (It's difficult to feel like one is in Wilderness when a hundred or so hikers pass by, say, Windy Gap or Bass Lake every hour.)

Point Reyes National Seashore should follow the law and implement and enforce science-based visitor carrying capacities for Tomales Point—and for every other area of the park. While the 2020 General Management Plan Amendment's Appendix I addresses carrying capacity and establishes thresholds representing the minimum acceptable condition for various indicators of over-visitation, I have yet to see any implementation of these carrying capacity limits anywhere in the park. As an example, the threshold for informal parking is “No more than 10% increase in extent of informal parking at key destinations, per day.” There are about 40 parking spaces within the Tomales Point Trailhead and McClures Beach Trailhead parking areas. Ten percent of 40 is four, which would seem to imply that the park would shut off further access to the Tomales Point when the number of vehicles exceeds 44. Yet I've only observed the park closing access to the area when there are over 100 or more vehicles. Visitors park their vehicles wherever there appears to be enough room to fit the vehicle, frequently parking on vegetation, in “No Parking” zones, or even in a lane of travel. (Similarly for the Point Reyes Headlands and the Palomarin Trailhead.) Granted, the NPS has yet to formally establish carrying capacities for Tomales Point or other non-Pastoral Area locations, so park managers may not apply the 10% increase threshold at these parking areas. But it's been 45 years since the NPS was required to set carrying capacity limits and even when thresholds are set, I am skeptical that they will be enforced.

Returning to increasing “parking capacity by formally designating areas currently used unofficially,” I strongly urge the park to ensure that these new or redesigned parking areas are covered in permeable surfaces so that rainwater can soak into the ground rather than running off. And please replace the asphalt surface of the McClures Beach Trailhead parking lot with a permeable surface.

There is currently a dearth of regulatory and informational signage at Tomales Point and throughout the park. As of September 2023, there is a sign just north of the elk fence indicating that the collection of elk antlers is prohibited. A second sign less than 100 yards north indicates no pets or camping. But beyond that, there is next to no other regulatory signage to inform visitors about NPS and Wilderness values, ethics, and rules and the types of activities that are and are not allowed in Wilderness and national parks. When I arrive at trailheads at national forests, Marin County Parks and Open Space, and Marin Municipal Water District areas, it is rare not to find signage or bulletin boards that contain a fairly comprehensive account of the area's rules and regulations, whether it be in print or icons. When I arrive at trailheads or beaches managed by Point Reyes National Seashore, I may find a sign with icons indicating no dogs, no camping, and maybe one or two other rules, but I have long found these signs to be extremely inadequate when I observe other visitors violating rules not included on the signs, such as approaching or feeding wildlife, picking flowers, collecting rocks and seashells, flying drones, using metal detectors, etc. (On the topic of inadequate or confusing signage, the icon

used by Point Reyes National Seashore for no dogs—a silhouette of a person holding a leash attached to a dog with a red line running diagonally through the leash—needs to be replaced with one featuring just a silhouette of a dog with a red diagonal line.) Point Reyes National Seashore needs to install better regulatory and information signage at the Tomales Point Trailhead, McClures Beach Trailhead, and throughout the park.

The National Park Service should not use herbicides in the Wilderness to control for invasive plants. Point Reyes National Seashore should increase the number of paid NPS employees whose responsibility it will be to manually remove invasive plant species and to raise and propagate native plant species across Tomales Point and the entire park. Removing the elk fence (and cattle throughout the park) would allow for better distribution of tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

**Correspondence ID: 22976**

Please put into action the proposed plan that includes removal of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. Cattle grazing has a number of negative effects on the ecosystem, and the elk herd is being decimated without enough access to food and water.

**Correspondence ID: 22978**

since this is designated as a wilderness management area, I believe that NPS is obligated to preserve and protect native species within. water and minerals, and fenceless roaming are required by wilderness for health and herd maintenance. Cattle are not wild and should not be a priority for the Pt Reyes Nat'l seashore and Tomales Point, but Elk are and should be protected. Commercial ventures should not outweigh native protections. thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22979**

The fence enclosing the Tule elk populations in Point Reyes National Seashore should be removed. The benefits of removing the fence would outweigh the negatives.

First, releasing the Tule elk would further genetic diversity and allow the different groups of the elk to interbreed. This genetic diversity would help maintain the species into the future and help prevent the species from dwindling again.

Secondly, the wild Tule elk population would help maintain and protect the California ecosystem. Elk are grazers; therefore, they help reduce excess brush and vegetation that fuels fires. Releasing the elk would benefit the ecosystem as it would help reduce thatch and maintain the grasslands.

The article “Using Grazing Animals to Reduce the Risk of Wildfires” by Brian Shobe highlights elk as grazers: “Grazing animals play a part in maintaining healthy ecosystems by controlling the ecological balance of vegetative species, reducing fire fuels that result from the accumulation of non-native plant biomass (called thatch) and shrub invasion into grasslands, and improving soil health by trampling plant residue and their own waste into the soil profile.”

Here is a link to the article: <https://calclimateag.org/using-grazing-animals-to-reduce-the-risk-of-wildfires/>

A counterargument is that the elk interfere with cattle ranching. However, there is evidence that they do not directly compete with cattle. The practice and history of cattle ranching in the area is considerable. If the fence is removed, the budget allotted to fence maintenance and drought assistance for the elk could be given to cattle ranchers in the area to protect their farms from the elk.

**Correspondence ID: 22981**

Greetings,

The National Park Service should choose Alternative B, called "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," that way the Tule Elk may roam free and have access to the necessary resources for them to survive on their own, unaided by human intervention. I appreciate that the National Park Service is listening to the people and allowing us to make comments on this issue, as it not only affects the wildlife, but humans too. Keeping the fence up would surely lead to the unnecessary death of many more Tule Elk from a lack of resources such as water and food. The release of the Tule Elk so they may roam freely should also come with the idea that they would be protected, meaning they could not be harassed or culled in any way by ranchers or citizens visiting the area. In order to uphold the NPS mission statement, I believe it is in the best interest for the National Parks Service to end the agreements with the local cattle ranchers and allow for these elk to roam freely and unimpacted from cattle ranch fencing and culling methods. By doing so, the NPS could ensure that they are prioritizing the charter of the National Seashore and upholding the guidelines put in place by the Organic Act. Please take this opportunity to remove the fence restricting the Tule Elk from being able to roam freely for resources, that way the native wildlife can behave naturally and the ecosystem can be restored.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22982**

The fence containing the Tule Elk should be removed. The Tule Elk, as a native species, should take priority over cattle. Despite the cattle ranchers' claims, releasing the additional elk will not take resources from cattle, as research has shown they do not compete. It is not unreasonable to allow the current population to roam the area, as over a million of these elk used to live in California. We do not need to be concerned with overpopulation. The elk population, if allowed to roam free, will not grow past what their environment allows as a natural carrying capacity will be established. The elk, as a native species, are well suited to this environment and it should be expected that they will be able to adapt and manage themselves. The increased number of elk will increase their value in the ecosystem, the elk play roles in vegetation control, shaping the natural landscape, herbivore seed distribution, and as prey.

The funds currently being allotted to fence and drought control can be directed toward preserving the Tomales Point area and encouraging native species and fauna.

Sources in addition to the NPS document:

[https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/protecting\\_Point\\_Reyes\\_elk/pdfs/TuleElkBrochure.pdf](https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/protecting_Point_Reyes_elk/pdfs/TuleElkBrochure.pdf)

<https://animalia.bio/tule-elk#:~:text=A 2007 study at the,diverse, shrub-dominated ecosystems>

[https://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/nature/tule\\_elk.htm](https://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/nature/tule_elk.htm)

**Correspondence ID: 22983**

The National Park Service and the cattle ranchers have coexisted for generations. The ranchers' livelihoods and the welfare of the tule elk are involved. I think it is fine for the ranchers to continue leasing the land and raising their cattle. From their point of view, it seems like the fence keeping the elk in is effective, and they want it to stay. However, the elk behind the fence struggle to survive sometimes, especially during drought and wildfires. Why not compromise and move the fence? Instead of having the fence keeping the elk in, have it keep the elk out. If the fence is effective at keeping the elk contained, then it should be effective at keeping it off the ranchers' leased land and away from the cattle. The National Park Service and the ranchers should discuss who maintains the fence. Having the elk contained has caused disease to spread among them, like Johne's disease. Since this disease makes it more difficult for the elk to absorb nutrients, a drought would significantly lower the amount of nutrients they can get. It would also save the park some money if they do not have to feed or provide water to the elk. Thank you for reading all the comments and working to find the best solution for everybody involved.

**Correspondence ID: 22984**

I recommend the proposal of Alternative B to remove the fence around tule elk and allow them to roam free. The main mission of national parks across the nation is to protect and preserve the ecosystem and native species found in the park. Therefore, the Park Service should prioritize the tule elk over the cattle. The fence was initially in place to regrow the populations of the nearly extinct Tule elk. This has been successful, as they have regrown and have a decent population. Now that it is successful, they should have the space and resources to thrive in the National Park without the restrictions of the fence. Tule elk dying because of a lack of basic necessities like water and food is unacceptable in a national park when they are supposed to be protected as native species. I understand that there are claims from cattle ranchers in the park of negative interactions between their cattle and the elk. However, if there was a fence strong enough to keep the elk in, there is a fence strong enough to keep them out of the ranches. Instead of using money and resources to keep the elk confined, use those resources to improve the ranch fences to allow cattle to roam in their pastures. This will allow the tule elk and cattle to both thrive and keep our ecosystem thriving as well. Because of this, the elk fence should be removed to properly protect and prioritize the Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 22985**

Please.

We must free the elk and protect Point Reyes for native wildlife — not for the livestock owners whose cattle are destroying its ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 22986**

Please.

As The National Park Service, it is your and my responsibility to protect our precious wildlife, not commercial cattle.

We must protect Point Reyes and the magnificent elk for whom it is home.

Thank you so much for taking this seriously.

**Correspondence ID: 22987**

I'm following this for the past 2 years I think.

Access to water is way overdue their right that we can't take away.

Give her their right and dignity back.

**Correspondence ID: 22988**

Dear NPS

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the fence that currently encloses the tule elk at Tomales Point within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I have recently learned about the formalized proposal to remove this 2-mile fence, as part of a larger plan for the 2,900-acre promontory, which aims to shift the balance away from long-held ranching interests in favor of native herds. I wholeheartedly support the initiative to remove this fence, particularly in light of the distressing situation faced by the elk population.

During the last period of drought, more than 50% of the tule elk enclosed within the fence perished from starvation and/or dehydration. It is disgraceful of our active role in the suffering of these magnificent creatures due to a lack of access to adequate forage and water. The surviving elk are now weakened not only by their struggle for survival but also due to insufficient minerals in the soil within the enclosed area.

The recent die-offs within the enclosed herd, which reduced its size from 445 in 2019 to 220 in 2021, are a direct and tragic consequence of the fencing. It is evident that the confinement has had severe consequences for the elk population, causing their numbers to dwindle and putting their health at risk.

Alternative B, which involves removing the fence, appears to be the most humane and ecologically responsible solution. This approach aligns with the principles of preserving natural resources and ensuring the well-being of native wildlife, which are at the core of the National Park Service's mission.

I urge you to move forward with Alternative B to remove the fence at Tomales Point and take steps to improve the habitat and conditions for the tule elk. It is crucial to consider the long-term health and sustainability of this native species within the Point Reyes National Seashore. This decision will not only benefit the elk but also contribute to the broader goals of conservation and the preservation of our natural heritage.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope that the National Park Service will prioritize the welfare of the tule elk over the taxpayer subsidized profits of wealthy ranching families, and make the necessary changes to ensure the survival and well-being of the iconic Tule Elk.

**Correspondence ID: 22989**

Dear Superintendent Kenkel,

I strongly support alternative B for the Tule Elk Management Plan.

As a passionate naturalist, I have devoted my career to educating others about science and nature. In 1997, I relocated to Marin County with the goal of teaching elementary-aged children about the wonders of the outdoors. Over the past 26 years, I have had the privilege of teaching people of all ages about the local flora, fauna, and conservation efforts. My primary teaching



location is Point Reyes National Seashore, where I have been leading classes for the Point Reyes National Seashore Association for the past 16 years. In addition to my role as a Science Teacher at Marin County Day School for elementary education, I also teach Hiking for the College of Marin's Community Education adult program. Furthermore, I am a co-founder of Marin Nature Adventures, an organization that offers nature-related activities for all ages.

It is time to free the Tule Elk at Tomales Point. For many years, they have endured obstacles including death due to the fence that confines them. The removal of the fence aligns with the National Park Service's mission and the purpose of Point Reyes National Seashore. The need for water infrastructure in undeveloped areas would be eliminated. And the use of lethal population control measures would no longer be necessary.

I have one more important request: with the fence removal, make sure that other management actions do not impede the free access of Tule Elk to the rest of the Point Reyes National Seashore.

Lastly, visitors would enjoy the park much more without the fence. We should have the opportunity to observe elk wandering freely through the natural beauty of Point Reyes as we explore.

Sincerely, Sharon Barnett

**Correspondence ID: 22990**

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Tule Elk, my opinion is to retain a fence separating the elk from cattle. The reasoning stems from both the citizens as well as cattle-ranchers' viewpoints. I understand that both cattle and elk need to have adequate space, not only for feeding, shelter, and raising their young; but, also for their health. In addition, I further propose relocating and improving the fence to manage the cattle instead of elk. If we consider why create a new fence, I would answer it by stating it takes all insights into account. Since cattle-ranchers lease their land, why should they have to pay for their own fence? Of course they have to maintain a fence but they should not have to pay to add something that is not outright owned by themselves. In my opinion, a fence should be created, maintained, and/or relocated to keep elk away from leased land. There has been scientific evidence shown that both elk and cattle can co-occur, but since cattle-ranchers pay their own money for their land, even if scientific evidence shows elks and cattle can "co-occur," cattle-ranchers should be able to decide what to with their leased land (the want to keep elk out of their land—provided their agreement(s) with the National Park Service). Again, since ranchers pay for the land, the Park Service should provide a fence that is sufficient enough to prevent elk from coming into their (paid for) land. Additionally, this would allow elk the ability to roam the entirety of the park and access areas they would not otherwise be able to with the current location of the fence. Again, I believe that it would benefit both ranchers as well as all wildlife within the park.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22991**

Please remove of the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. We have a crucial opportunity to help the elk roam free and live the lives they deserve. Thank you. They are dying of thirst and starving.

**Correspondence ID: 22992**

Close and revegetate all social/unofficial trails on Tomales Point and elsewhere in the park. Post signage, as appropriate, to inform visitors of the negative impacts of creating and using social trails.

**Correspondence ID: 22993**

We need to keep the dairy farms and ranches viable. They contribute too much to our communities to jeopardize them. Manage the elk and keep the ranches and farms.

**Correspondence ID: 22994**

The Tule elk herd that is suffering at Point Reyes in the Philip Burton Wilderness would be greatly benefited by removal of the fence enclosing them, the Alternative B in the current debate. These endemic (and imperiled) creatures need more adequate space in order to thrive; their health depends on it. Cattle do not belong in this Wilderness, and legally they have no right to be there. The proper course of action should be quite clear to those without their own selfish interests at stake.

Thank you, **Correspondence ID: 22995**

Dismantle the barbed wire fence that has no place, placing borders in wildlife habitat. It's causing more harm than good, remove the fence or I'll do it.

**Correspondence ID: 22996**

Please take down the fence across Tomales Point and allow the tule elk to move naturally.

It is very distressing to see caged animals die during drought periods.

**Correspondence ID: 22997**

Having grown up in Marin, Point Reyes National Seashore was and is a very important place to me. I spent a great deal of time hiking and backpacking through this gorgeous part of the world, and it is still my go-to place for a retreat into natural beauty.

I am strongly in favor of the National Park Service's proposed option B. The continued presence of large wild mammals is a big part of what makes PRNS so special, and this plan is the most respectful of the three towards the original wild inhabitants of the park, the elk. I am also excited to see improvements to guest facilities in Tomales Point. This area of the park is underutilized by visitors, while other areas can sometimes become overcrowded in ways that threaten the park's wildlife.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 22998**

Remove the fence that entrap the Tule Elk!

As a taxpayer, whose tax dollars go towards funding this wilderness area,

I do NOT want cattle grazing on this land to the detriment of wildlife.

Do NOT cave to the pressure of the ranching lobby! Remove the fence!

**Correspondence ID: 22999**

As a decades, long visitor to the park, I advocate for you to choose Alternative B \* (below). On a recent visit, I was reminded of the amazing, unique, natural, wild coastal place this is. Seeing

the tule elk out and about grazing and ranging around, was very heartening. I have always believed that this park is NOT appropriate for cattle. The private cattle operators have known for decades that their time there will be limited and need to be phased out and yet they continue to struggle to stay aided by others. The natural flora and fauna have been the original "culture" there for centuries. Let us not forget but rather honor this. The cattle operations a mere blip in time.

The beauty and sensitivity of the park is already threatened enough by climate change, fire...so we must remember this, as we phase out the cattle operations, and protect the Elk without fences

The National Park Service should choose Alternative B, called "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," which will remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free.

**Correspondence ID: 23000**

Please remove the 3 mile long fence from Tomales Point so that no more elk will die from lack of water and starvation. What a horrible death for these beautiful animals. As a taxpayer and animal lover, I absolutely do not want a government agency that my dollars support doing this.

Thank you and please make the responsible and compassionate decision.

Yolanda Miller

**Correspondence ID: 23001**

I am asking you to please remove the fence that prevents elks from moving about freely, thus ensuring their ability to find food as needed, so there will be no more starving Elks in the future.

Thank you!!

Anabelle Anderson

**Correspondence ID: 23002**

Please take down the fence that is harming the tule elk and get rid of the non-native cattle!

**Correspondence ID: 23006**

I urge you to remove the fence that prevents Tule Elk confined to Tomale Point from roaming and finding suitable area for grazing.

**Correspondence ID: 23009**

Dear NPS, I am so very grateful to see that you are likely to take down the elk fence at Pierce Point. This is truly in keeping with the mission of a national park and it gives me hope for these majestic tule elk. They have certainly been struggling with the drought for many years and giving them their freedom is the best

chance they have for long and healthy lives.

This brings me to my concern about their interactions with grazing cows and ranchers. I realize that this comment may not be in the scope of this investigation by the NPS, but in order to fulfill wholeheartedly the mission of a national park, it would behoove the NPS to remove all fencing as well as the dairy and ranching

businesses so not only the elk, but all the visitors who visit the park will have a real outdoor experience. The way it is now, so much of the park has been fenced off, degraded and

contaminated with the cows and their waste. The waters become toxic, which contributes to the poor health of our ocean and those wild animals

and plants that depend on it (i.e. seals and sea grasses, etc.) By removing fences and businesses, the NPS is breathing life back into this magnificent park so it can be restored to its original unique and touchstone character.

Sincerely, Lonna Richmond

**Correspondence ID: 23012**

Greetings, Superintendent Kenkel,

I am writing in support of Alternative B for the Tule Elk Management Plan.

Please, let's free the tule elk of Point Reyes National Seashore.

With gratitude,

Matthew Kramer

**Correspondence ID: 23013**

Please remove the fence and save these beautiful animals! They are suffering because of your lack of compassion and need water, just like we do! Please do the right thing!

**Correspondence ID: 23016**

September 25, 2023

Craig Kenkel

Superintendent

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes National Seashore

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Subject: Comments on Scoping for Tomales Point Area Plan

Dear Superintendent Kenkel:

We are writing on behalf of the Board of Directors and the 21,000-plus members and followers of the Public Lands Conservancy (PLC), a nonprofit organization, dedicated to the protection of public lands and waters for all Americans.

The need for this Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP) is apparent. For decades, visitation at peak times, especially holiday weekends and summer months, has been a constant problem at Tomales Point. Also, we agree that the management of tule elk has been a major issue for the park since reintroduction. Management of this keystone species needs to be fully addressed. We strongly support the careful future management of the herds on the Point and other areas of the park.

The PLC supports Alternative B: Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area (NPS Proposed Action). This is the only alternative that fully meets current law guiding the

management of National Park Service (NPS) areas, the specific legislation for Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS), and the Wilderness Act.

We believe this alternative fully meets the intent of the Seashore's enabling legislation that requires that the park "shall be administered by the Secretary without impairment of its natural values, in a manner which provides for such recreational, educational, historic preservation, interpretation, and scientific research opportunities as are consistent with, based upon, and supportive of the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment within the area."

As stated in the scoping document, the planning area is 85% wilderness by law (Public Law 94-544). We are concerned that current management is not consistent with the guidance and intent set by NPS wilderness policy, applicable legislation, and NPS Director's Orders. Because the park lacks an overall wilderness plan management for the Phil Burton Wilderness area, it has not met the intent of the Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577) or the guiding principles of the park's enabling legislation. We hope future planning at PRNS will rectify this situation and the TPAP can begin the process.

We offer the following specific items regarding the TPAP planning process:

The TPAP should define the wilderness character to be preserved in the area. Once established, a monitoring program should be developed in this plan that maintains the qualities of wilderness desired. The monitoring program would have indicators and standards and be scientifically based.

The tule elk should be adaptively managed as new information is obtained. The overall population number (a range) and other management actions should be developed using the best available science and future studies should be used to modify management direction.

We do not support additional parking, trails, or camping areas. The area is primarily designated wilderness and the intent is an area untrammelled by humans and a place to find solitude. If additional public amenities are proposed, a full impact analysis must be conducted to demonstrate that the wilderness qualities of the area are not lost. Over the last ten years, the beaches in the Tomales Point wilderness have seen increased visitor use. The plan should review current use and set management goals and use levels, especially overnight camping.

Sincerely, Tom Baty

President, Public Lands Conservancy

**Correspondence ID: 23018**

I urge the NPS to remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd.. Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Please do not allow the elk to starve.

Thank you, Mary Harville

**Correspondence ID: 23020**

I am an attorney in Washington State and I am a former chairperson of the Washington State

Bar Association's Animal Law Section. My comments are my own and do not represent the views of either the Bar Association or the Animal Law Section.

I am writing to comment on the Tomales Point Area Plan. Based on my research, I am convinced that the best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the correct choice. I do believe, however, some other changes to Alternative B must be considered.

I oppose Alternatives A and C because they will degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. It is clear that the existing structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

NPS should eliminate cattle grazing. Cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness pursuant to the original agreement. I can't understand why NPS has been working for private interests instead of advocating for the public and the environment. It is clear to me that many governmental agencies, including NPS, view their constituents as being private, for-profit businesses rather than the American people.

Herbicides should not be used in the wilderness area. Removing cattle and the fencing would permit a better distribution of Tule elk and would work to help stop the expansion of invasive plants.

Do not use human-planned fires to "eliminate" the risk of fires. There are better techniques available to lessen the risks of fires. Sadly, the frequent use of so-called "managed fires" (that is, fires that are intentionally set by people who are supposed to know what they are doing) have acted to encourage the growth of non-native invasive plants.

NPS has worked very hard to kill off as many Tule Elk as possible--and they have been quite successful. While starving the Tule Elk, the NPS has allowed cattle grazing on public lands. I am dismayed by the actions of the NPS regarding the Tule Elk and I want the NPS to take down the fence and stop allowing cattle grazing on these public lands. .

### **Correspondence ID: 23022**

The fate of native Tule elk, the smallest and rarest elk subspecies in North America, which are endemic to California. Unfortunately, Tule elk are nearly extinct across California and rapidly and needlessly dying at Point Reyes and within the Wilderness due to NPS mismanagement.

Alternative B is the best option, and is the NPS preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness are the right choice.

However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

Alternatives A and C must be eliminated as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk.

**Correspondence ID: 23023**

I support the freedom and sovereignty of the Tule Elk. Remember, these are not our lands. We've only just gotten here. The Tule Elk should not be fenced in, starved, culled, deprived of water. Tule elk are not cattle. They are native animals that need to move, graze, expand and contract on their own terms. Culled by a band of coyotes if weak and old, etc. We manage far too much. Leave some things alone. It's time to change. Let go of contracts, emotional, political, written in faded blood. Ranching communities need to get with the times. No if, ands, or buts. It's about all creatures, not just a small, "these are my resources" based continuation of same same. No double standards. Open up this tight place. Take out the knots. Snowy plovers....elk. Red-legged salamanders...elk. A big animal. Marin seems to be built on many things. Open spaces and tourism, hard years fought to protect the land from developers. Big ideas and ideals fought for, for many years. Get through that red tape, that handshake made between two people when no one was speaking for the elk people. Time to open that door into what we all crave, connection, respect. To really be Seen. Really "see" these elk people. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 23024**

I wholeheartedly support the plan to entirely remove the Pierce Point elk fence: it is long past time to undertake the critical step to improving elk management at Point Reyes National Seashore.

**Correspondence ID: 23026**

Please remove the fence so that the Elks can roam free at the Tomales Point elk road. In 2020 152 elks died because they couldn't graze outside of the fence. They died from starvation and lack of water. Thank you for your compassion for animals.

**Correspondence ID: 23027**

I support letting the tile elk roam freely

**Correspondence ID: 23028**

Stop the slow starvation of the Tule elk!!!!

**Correspondence ID: 23029**

Dear NPS,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Writing as a professional ecologist and conservationist who has enjoyed this part of coastal California for four decades, I'd like to offer my full throated support for your decision to remove the elk fence at Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

Doing so will provide important benefits for the elk, for the health of the Seashore ecosystem, for the visitors, and for the reputation of the Service's reputation of prioritizing the preservation and conservation of our National Parks and Seashores.

Thank you, James Gilardi, PhD (Ecology, UC Davis, 1997)

**Correspondence ID: 23031**

Regarding the Tule elk, I wish the Park to know that rewilding and caring for the PR National Park must be a priority.

Installing a wildlife corridor through the ranches is a must. If needed, any fences could be elk friendly/wildlife friendly.

A wildlife-friendly fence could be constructed to keep the cattle out of Tomales Point once the tall elk-proof fence is removed. Another, better, action would be to simply give the Tule elk unrestricted access from Tomales Point to Drake's Bay by removing the livestock entirely.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

**Correspondence ID: 23032**

As a visitor to Point Reyes National Seashore and someone who works in Ecological restoration, I would strongly encourage the park to adopt Alternative B for a free ranging Tule Elk herd. The near extinction of this species is a black spot of the state of California's history and it is an ongoing shame that this population of elk remains trapped, forced into preventable population crashes. I think it is also wrong that so much consideration be given to non-native cattle and not to our native Elk. NPS should more than consider excluding cattle, they should make it a priority. I also think implementing invasive species management and control of exotic plants would be another valuable step to the long-term preservation and stewardship of Point Reyes. I hope that one day we will have hundreds of thousands of Tule Elk in California and an important step in that direction is allowing these elk to range freely and reestablish themselves throughout the state.

**Correspondence ID: 23033**

Please remove the fence so the animals won't starve and die a painful death.

**Correspondence ID: 23034**

I fully support your proposal to take down the elk fence

**Correspondence ID: 23035**

Tule elk can freely roam the park and protect them from future starvation and dehydration.

they now number in the hundreds — a conservation success — but their current situation threatens their population once again.

Though the elk are protected by law, the National Park Service (NPS) is prioritizing the interests of commercial ranching operations — who lease a portion of this public land for grazing cows — over the well-being of the elk by keeping them confined behind a fence.

Prevented by the fence from traveling further in search of food and water, more than 150 elk died in 2020 alone during drought conditions.



The NPS has a responsibility to conserve and care for protected wild species but is instead prioritizing commercial animal agriculture interests over the needs of wildlife and public lands.

PLEASE TAKE THE FENCE OFF AND GIVE THESE ANIMALS A CHANCE TO SURVIVE!!!!

PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING AND HELP THEM!!

**Correspondence ID: 23036**

Please remove the fence

**Correspondence ID: 23044**

I support Option C and a managed elk population!

**Correspondence ID: 23049**

The fence must be taken down now to help the tule elk.

**Correspondence ID: 23050**

My husband and I were both born and raised in Marin. We have visited Point Reyes National Seashore all of our lives, including nearly annual field trips growing up while attending our public schools. My first job after graduating from Cal was working with the Division of Interpretation. We are very passionate about the park - its beauty, unusual natural history, and the variety of unique experiences that it provides so close to home. We also feel very strongly that the Park Service has a responsibility to preserve and protect the natural beauty of the park. The charter of the National Park Service is conservation of native species and ecosystem processes. The idea of reintroducing tule elk to the Seashore more than a century after extirpation was a bold idea, but one that just seemed like the right thing to do. However, in 1976 there were conflicts with historical uses of the park that did not necessarily align with the Park Service's main purpose. Now, 47 years later, there is an opportunity to fulfill the primary responsibility that comes with the reintroduction of this species, and that is to allow the tule elk to live unrestricted in the natural environment, hopefully with as little human interference as possible, hopefully to thrive despite the limitation of vegetation and water brought on by climate change. As with other species, there will be impacts on the population that will be due to natural causes. However, humans are responsible for climate change, and in that vein, it is not unreasonable if humans can help to mitigate circumstances for wildlife. It seems crazy that the Park Service would provide water for the elk to counter impacts of the drought, and then turn around and kill the elk as a means to control the population because the Park Service chose to confine the elk to a limited amount of acreage. The Park Service would do well to adopt the proposed Tomales Point Area Plan and consider fencing in livestock who still live in the park to minimize harmful interaction by conflicting species. We go back to the question of who really belongs in the Seashore, and we believe it is the native species.

**Correspondence ID: 23051**

Please remove the fence. The elk are badass and should roam free. Also, would be good if you brought back the grizzly bear. Thanks.

**Correspondence ID: 23053**

I strongly support alternative B for the Tule Elk Management Plan.

**Correspondence ID: 23054**

Good Afternoon,

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Please remember that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Sincerely, Alexander Williams

**Correspondence ID: 23055**

Please remove the fence that keeps the Tomales native elk herd from roaming free. The confinement is causing starvation amongst the herd. 152 elk died in 2020 alone. Please remember that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

With compassion for all,

**Correspondence ID: 23056**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Please do the right thing and remove the fence

Sincerely, Kristy Osuna

**Correspondence ID: 23059**

I believe the Park should protect the ranchers. The local meat and dairy they provide to Marin is important to our diet and well being. I also like to see the farms when out at Pt. Reyes. They represent "old California" - the way it looked before everything became so urban. Please do not remove the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 23061**

Please remove the fence to allow roaming of the elk.

**Correspondence ID: 23090**

A full time resident and homeowner in Inverness, CA, I believe Plan C is the best option available for Tomales Point and by extension the Point Reyes National Seashore. By maintaining the fence to protect elk and cows, longer ranch leases and a good carbon neutral and collaborative design model, the park can set an example to others, of preservation of natural resources similar to what they have in Cuyahoga Valley National Park in the US, in Great Britain National Parks, and Malawi. Both Cuyahoga and Great Britain's National Parks have Food and Farm programs.

The issues of Elk and Cows and Fence:

By maintaining the fence, the ranch cows could continue to keep the grass ecosystem healthy. Cows trim the grass with their mouths but don't eat the entire plant and roots like the elk do, so the grass regenerates. The elk prefer to eat the cow's organic grass and hay and do so in a way that removes the grass permanently. The elk contaminate the hay so the farms can't meet their organic certification requirements nor continue to provide high quality local organic food for

Marin County that keeps us healthy and our economy thriving. The grassland is a native habitat in itself worth protecting. If the ranchers were gone, the scrub would return, leading to a higher risk of wildfires. Not only will everyone in the area be in serious danger, we'll be at risk of losing fire insurance. Even before the Woodward fire, my family could find the only plan available to us, or the exorbitant CA fair plan.

All ruminants can carry Johne's disease. The Tule elk first introduced to the park brought Johne's disease, not the ranch cows. Under plan C, the park could monitor which elks have the disease as a part of the overpopulation management, and bring their numbers back to the original plan of 140 from the current 190-200 at Drake's Beach. Since the elk are pushing the boundaries of land available to them and there aren't enough predators, a solution would be to release more elk to the Philip Burton wilderness area of 1800 acres, managed by the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and the NPS. In the Philip Burton wilderness there are marshlands, an ideal elk habitat.

Ranches:

By keeping cows and elk separated by a well maintained fence and with longer 20 year ranch leases as per the Secretary of the Interior's directive in November 2012, the ranches will be solvent and able to survive. As it is, with the current 1-2 year leases, the ranches can't make the necessary repairs or improvements that they need to steward the land. We would lose access to generations of intimate knowledge of land. Many people would lose their residences and their livelihoods.

Collaboration:

The NPS Countryside Initiative program enabled The Cuyahoga Valley Food and Farms program to begin in 1999 in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio. In this National Park, the parks resources are protected as well as the rural heritage and working farms of the valley.

<https://www.nps.gov/cuva/learn/historyculture/countryside.htm>. There are working collaborative models across the world, for example in Great Britain National Parks.

[https://www.nationalparksengland.org.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0022/26590/Farming-for-the-Future-in-National-Parks-Oct-2013.pdf](https://www.nationalparksengland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0022/26590/Farming-for-the-Future-in-National-Parks-Oct-2013.pdf)

An organization in Malawi, where people are taught permaculture solutions <https://www.neverendingfood.org/> is another.

The NPS could enhance the Point Reyes National Seashore with the combined effort of more than one knowledgeable land steward; the ranchers with 3-6 generations of experience, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria revitalizing their original practices, and the NPS, who maintains the park for the preservation of nature and for visitors. A vital model can be created in PRNS for others.

The park visitors will continue to witness a beautiful and well maintained nature area while following plan C.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Please withhold my personally identifiable information from public view.

Ann Phelan

Inverness full time resident and homeowner

**Correspondence ID: 23095**

I think Alternative B: Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area is the best option in the case of the tule elk because it would remove the existing elk fence and it would consider adding a fence to exclude cattle from Tomales Point. This option would also retain historic, cultural landscape features unless they are incompatible with natural resources. Continue to partner with the Tribe for the preservation and protection of significant cultural resources. But this also improves facilities at the Pierce Ranch to function as a core location for visitor use in the Tomales Point area and it would bring more visitors through the historic site and ass a spur trail leading to an overlook of Tomales Bay on the eastern edge of the complex. In my opinion the tule elk were originally owners of the land before people came and took their land and the Tribes land. It is only right we give them their land back and fence off the cattle which are the invasive population in the area so the fence should be built around the cattle.

**Correspondence ID: 23105**

I support alternative B to remove the fence that has caused the endangered Tule Elk herd to limit its search for water and food. Many Tule Elk have died because this fence has prevented them from moving to find water and food and encourage the removal of all commercial cow grazing in Point Reyes National Park. We need to protect the park.

Thank you

Ronnie Perry

Joseph Tiner

**Correspondence ID: 23116**

PLEASE allow the Tule Elk to roam the entire Point Reyes Seashore. These majestic animals belong in our park and need the additional space for a healthy life and survival.

The cattle leases should have expired long ago. We do not need them to be continued further, the cattle are destroying the natural beauty of this park, polluting our waters and we are subsidizing the farmers at tax payer cost. If the cattle stay, then they absolutely MUST freely share the land with the elk.

Thank you for making the correct decision!

**Correspondence ID: 23133**

Get rid of the fence and free the elk. Get rid of the cows and save the park natural resources.

**Correspondence ID: 23150**

Please remove the elk fence and allow the elk to roam freely throughout the park.

**Correspondence ID: 23151**

I am urging the NPS to remove the fence which is harming the Tule elk population. I want to remind the agency that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 23153**

I would like to add my voice to those recommending Alternative B: Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area (NPS Proposed Action). This is really the only logical alternative.

**Correspondence ID: 23154**

Thank you for increasing your commitment to scientifically sound, ecologically beneficial policy and protocol!

As I'm sure you know, now more than ever in human history it is essential that those with decision-making power do everything possible to ensure the rebalancing of the biome for a healthier environmental future than the one we inherited. Please, PLEASE rise to the challenge to step up into greater integrity for the benefit of the wild lands and future generations of all species who depend on their preservation and vibrant restoration.

I stand with those urging you to:

Ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the 8-foot elk fence is removed;

Enhance and restore habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife within the planning area;

Develop fire management practices within the planning area to maintain healthy ecosystems and natural processes;

Inventory and restore native coastal prairies within the planning area;

Assess climate-related impacts on water resources and native vegetation within the planning area;

Increase public access, use and enjoyment via new trails, camping, and other activities that integrate the planning area into a parkwide trail network

Expand public education and interpretation of Native American culture and history in consultation with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and other descendants of Coast Miwok inhabitants;

Improve public education and interpretation about the Tomales Point elk and their role in the ecology of the Point Reyes peninsula.

Thank you so much!

Lauren Bihl

**Correspondence ID: 23157**

please remove the fence!!

**Correspondence ID: 23158**

Cattle ranching has no place in a national park, especially in Point Reyes National Seashore. The American public paid dairy- and beef-rancher families fair-market dollars starting 61 years ago this month to vacate the newly created 71,000 acre park. There was never any intention by the Seashore's founders or its legislation signed by President John Kennedy to allow these rancher families to corrupt the original intent of Point Reyes National Seashore, and stay to wreak havoc on ecosystems, wildlife, and habitats while claiming good stewardship.

It is well-known that these rancher families took the equivalent of more than \$400M in today's dollars from the American people and used it to expand their commercial ranching operations within and outside the Seashore. Their record of blatant hubris, privilege, deception, intimidation, and worse speaks for itself. Their history is filled with repeated instances of violation, cover-up, and runaround regarding the most fundamental public and wildlife health and safety standards, practices, regulations, and laws.

It's clear that National Park Service and Point Reyes National Seashore managers have continued subservience to a core group of about 25 ranchers rather than service to millions of Americans and the rare coastal lands, waters, habitats, wildlife that should be so obviously protected by existing federal and state legislation, law, regulation, policy, and mandate. The management's fear seems to originate in get-along-to-go-along in the local community, and to bend-and-break to state, regional, and national rancher and dairy-and beef-cattle lobbying pressures. As climate-heating effects manifest daily from backyards to ice caps to dry rivers and food-belts, National Park Service and Point Reyes National Seashore decision-makers seem bent on perpetuating an always-false American-rancher and -ranching myth. The impact and cost is plain to see across the Seashore, and across the world, despite rancher-families' spin-protestations to the contrary. We are not to believe our own eyes, ears, noses, but to believe some ill-rooted narrative cooked by self-interests.

The National Park Service should immediately begin the process of a five-year plan, at maximum length, to finally remove all rancher families and operations from Point Reyes National Seashore. And that these same rancher families should be wholly financially and practically responsible in that removal process for complete toxic, structural, and other cleanup of their leased properties. Let them finally use the American taxpayer monies they were paid at the beginning to vacate the Seashore after more than 60 years.

Short of that, my comment for this stand-alone and incomplete planning process is: The National Park Service should choose proposed action Alternative B to create a fully unconfined Tule Elk herd on Tomales Point.

Before and after the literally death-creating eight-foot-tall prison fence abomination is removed, Tule Elk and other wildlife should not be subject to any harm done by any means, especially at the hands of rancher families. There should be clearly defined, rigorously enforced, costly financial and legal penalties — including incarceration based on conviction of federal offenses — for anyone taking those actions against Tule Elk or any other wildlife within the Seashore.

The Point Reyes enabling legislation mandates “maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment” within Point Reyes National Seashore. Similarly, the Organic Act designates that national park lands “provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

Native cultural and sacred sites desecrated by these rancher families alone must be much more protected and restored, with comprehensive representation of local Native organizations, tribes, and individuals based on absolute best scientific and cultural practices. Rancher families should pay for all restoration and restitution expenses to renew protection and restoration of these sites.

For far too long, the National Park Service and its Point Reyes National Seashore local management unit's supervisors, erstwhile scientists, and other personnel have acted primarily in the interests of the cattle rancher families who have thumbed their noses at the American public, selfishly claiming priority when they are literally only new arrivals to this area. These rancher families have squandered their decades-long opportunities and finally forfeited all consideration for further lenience by our government and our globally warming world.

Where could be thriving beautiful native coastal prairies, pristine waters of all kinds, and abundant healthy wildlife and habitats, fully one-third of the Seashore exists as a barren, contrived, overworked, sickly dead zone of barbed wire, contaminated land and water, hazardous waste, shameful ranch worker housing, ranch core blight, and intimidating if not at-time violence-prone rancher families ready to bully local, regional, national, and global visitors off their merely leased allotments. Walk the fields, note the waters, smell the air — full of rancher-caused degradation and destruction. Beware of their ATVs rushing toward you to loudly confront you on publicly owned land.

The very least the National Park Service should do is choose proposed action Alternative B, with the intention and actions to enforce compliance by rancher families.

This should include mandatory regular testing of all ranchers' cattle for Johne's disease; immediate removal of any cattle testing positive for this lethal wasting disease; and toxic cleanup of all areas from where these cattle's Johne's disease could spread. This cattle testing, removal, and cleanup must be paid for by the rancher families without compensation from American taxpayers or others. There should be strict government enforcement of this testing, removal, and cleanup, with stiff financial and legal penalties for any offenses by ranchers or others holding cattle in the Seashore. The public should have clear and accessible means to report noncompliant rancher families who harm Tule Elk or other wildlife and habitats, and who do not follow Johne's disease testing, removal, and cleanup requirements. The legal penalties should include incarceration upon conviction of all applicable federal offenses.

Remove the Tule Elk fenced pen, and use this as another step to promptly, finally design and enforce a five-year plan to rid Point Reyes National Seashore of rancher families who were paid to leave yet connive to stay through 61 years since Seashore founding. Restore some basic faith in the National Park Service and Point Reyes National Seashore management. The American and world's people, and the Seashore itself, will support, remember, and be grateful.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 23160**

September 25, 2023

Dear National Park Service and Superintendent Kenkel,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Tomales Point Area Plan. My family is grateful that the National Park Service (NPS) has announced a preferred Alternative B proposed action. We support the Alternative B plan: Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

My husband and I live and work in Marin County and visit Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) every chance we get. We live down the road and consider this National Park just a greater extension of our backyard in a way.

This Seashore is where my husband proposed to me, on a beach not far from the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve. We actually had engagement photographs taken at Pierce Point Ranch among other beautiful locations in the Seashore. Just the other day we sat and had a picnic there at Pierce Point Ranch and then watched our young son investigate the barn and run around the retired ranch buildings. His curiosity peaked with the bugling of the Tule Elk nearby. We had to run and go see them as he "loves them" too. He has had some great experiences specifically in the presence of our beloved Tule Elk. Sometimes he brings his own stuffed animal "Mr. Tule" along for the journey. We are grateful for the breathtaking beauty that these special Tule Elk bring into our lives. Our growing family is already wandering in our footsteps, getting caught up in the same wonder and curiosity that we have experienced for many years now.

However, I must also mention that I have seen the pain and sorrow that my husband (Matthew Polvorosa Kline) has returned home with after uncovering and exposing this recent die off at the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve. This situation and experience has left a real scar on him as he is a deeply empathetic man with a real love for the wildlife he films and photographs. He still has trouble looking through some of the photographs, videos, and sharing some of the stories from the Reserve. This is a man that grew up wanting to be a Veterinarian, so I can only imagine that he felt helpless at times trying to do whatever he could to stop the pain and suffering of the Tule Elk we care for so much. When our son was born, he actually had to stop visiting the Reserve for a while because the negative energy, the sadness, and the suffering he witnessed and felt himself was too much to bring home.

I wanted to mention the above because I think the NPS should be aware of not just the positive beautiful experiences most, but also the deeply disturbing and negative experiences some of us are burdened with after visiting what is a National Park. I would ask that you further your understanding of what I write about here by visiting the website my husband set up to inform the public about some of what is going on in our Seashore, as well as what is going on with the Tule Elk - [www.MissionRewild.org](http://www.MissionRewild.org)

It is my hope and my family's hope, that no one else will have to see such atrocities again. Removing the horrible fence at the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve should have been done many years ago, when we knew better. Now, we all know better and now there is a real opportunity to bring some positivity to this situation. The fence must come down and the healing process must begin.

Again, thank you staff at the NPS for proposing this preferred plan. Thank you Superintendent Kenkel for your leadership and allowing this historic opportunity to shape the future of our Seashore for the better!

Regards,

Linda Kline

**Correspondence ID: 23161**

The Tule elk have suffered long enough. It is beyond comprehension how the National Park Service has allowed them to suffer and die. This area is a National Park. So manage it as a National Park and not as a cattle ranch.

Take down the fence and don't renew the leases for cattle grazing.

Sincerely, Jeanie Scott



**Correspondence ID: 23163**

I write in support of Alternative B of the National Park Services proposal to remove the elk fence. Please let the tule elk roam. The fences are an insult to everyone who moves through the park and life-threatening to the Elk. Please remove them!

Alternative B helps the Point Reyes National Seashore meet NPS's mission by protecting cultural and natural resources in the Tomales Point area.

In direct alignment with NPS's mission is the telling of the story of the Native Nations, their people, and their ways of life. Ranches are not our history. The Miwok are the history of this region and there are many lessons to be learned from them about land and resource protection. Their story connects people to place and provides a land ethic that complements the NPS's mission. Their story needs to be highlighted on interpretive boards and educational centers throughout the entire park.

In addition, please help increase visitor access to the park. The number of visitors to the park keeps rising and the trails, campgrounds, and Youth Hostels within the park need to expand to meet this growing need.

**Correspondence ID: 23164**

Is it really so complicated?

The Tule Elk fence and restricted compound are only symptoms.

The U.S. Federal Government, aka American Taxpayers, in the 1960s-70s paid the Point Reyes rancher families more than \$400 million in current dollars to vacate the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) established by Congress and signed into law by President John Kennedy in September 1962. Since then, the rancher families have done nothing but cry poor, misinform and mislead the public, and steer Department of Interior (DOI) and National Park Service (NPS) policy decisions to benefit one interest: their own.

Walk the land, see, feel, smell, touch, watch the organized ranchers' ongoing destruction of what is to be some of the most-protected natural habitat on Earth. Their rationales are disingenuous and fantastical. Not reality.

Fully one-third of what should be a national natural ecological treasure and respite from technological development and for-profit mayhem – a so-called pastoral zone – is in plain fact a monoculture dead-zone marked by obliterated coastal prairie and Native sacred sites, cattle-caused excrement- and urine-degraded lands and waters, fouled air, and threatened wildlife and their vast array of compromised habitats.

Rancher families selfishly and with near-complete disregard for all but their own financial interests abuse Seashore lands and waters without concern or mercy. Point Reyes National Seashore administrators do little to nothing to abide by not only federal and state legislation, laws, and regulations, but by their own mandates and guidelines to run a true national park unit. The national seashore looks more and more like a national ranch. It's despicable and sickening.

Here's a Plan, Option, Alternative: set and fully carry out, finally, a bona fide five-year plan to rid Point Reyes National Seashore of all beef, dairy, or other ranches and farms for good, in perpetuity. No bed and breakfasts, roadside farm stalls, overnight accommodations, commercial businesses of any kind within the 72,000 acres of the entire National Seashore. Just wild, native

coastal lands and waters with absolute world-class wildlife and habitat protection. For all the bending and contortions performed by DOI, NPS, and PRNS for rancher families, surely their massively misplaced priorities and efforts instead can go into what is the true mandate of a national park unit – protection and care of what should be a one-of-its-kind ecological preserve for the natural world and public reverence, enjoyment, research, study, and renewal.

Why can 25-some people hold the Seashore hostage? Stop appeasing paid-off rancher families who've taken hundreds of millions in today's dollars, expanded their wealth holdings in and beyond the Seashore, and continued proudly ravishing what could be a truly wondrous publicly owned place.

Finally get rid of the ranchers. Finally do the right thing. Finally stop the charade for political cover.

The Tule Elk fence and restricted compound are only symptoms.

For now, please choose Alternative B to remove the Tule Elk fence on Tomales Point. Then get immediately started on a bona fide five-year plan to at long last, after more than 60 years, rid Point Reyes National Seashore of the rancher befouling of what is to be our American nation's natural treasure.

Stop all the contortions to please a few handfuls of rancher families. What? So you can say hi on the street or not let yourselves get intimidated by local, regional, and national rancher lobbies?

Is it really so complicated?

Start doing the right thing by Point Reyes National Seashore, its visitors, its wildlife and habitats, and the climate-heating world.

**Correspondence ID: 23166**

Dear Craig Kenkel, as a concerned citizen and native Californian, I urge you to make the right choice: take the fence down at the Tule elk Preserve and select alternative B.

Sincerely, Jan Liband

**Correspondence ID: 23167**

The National Park Service should choose alternative plan B, remove the fences and stop cattle from grazing in the park. That is the surest way to give the elk a chance.

**Correspondence ID: 23168**

Please execute Alternative B, Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

Once the elk fence is removed steps should be taken to avoid any culling, hazing, or harassment of the elk for any reason.

**Correspondence ID: 23169**

No one organization has a right to monopolize uses of our public open space.

The majestic Tule Elk are an enhancement and deserve fair treatment.

I support Plan B.

**Correspondence ID: 23170**

I strongly support "ALTERNATIVE B" TO REMOVE THE FENCE AND FREE THE ELK.

AFTER ALL, THE NATIONAL PARKS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE AND THE WILDLIFE.

PLEASE TAKE DOWN THE FENCE. IT IS A HORRIBLE AFRONT TO VISITORS AND ELK.

**Correspondence ID: 23171**

After seeing lots and lots of targeted ads by Strauss Dairy on social media, I felt compelled to write a comment that I am strongly against further extension or expansion of cattle grazing leases in the Point Reyes National Park. I feel strongly that the Tule elk population should be allowed a greater access to the park's land because they are beautiful, they are large animals that move in herds which is beneficial to landscape, and they are much more compelling a sight on the land than a eroding cow run. These animals belong in this beautiful place, and they deserve to be prioritized. While Strauss makes incredible products and has a great local reputation, they are also greatly benefitting from low cost leases that we tax payers subsidize. The park service needs to dive in to land justice, and the expansion of the Tule elk seems like the beginnings of a Land Back action. I support it fully. Cattle = colonialism. They don't need to graze this national park as hard anymore. Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 23172**

Why would you let Elk die so cruel? How could be so mean!

Take the fence down!

**Correspondence ID: 23173**

This is a plea to remove the fence which is unnaturally containing the tule elk and which is ultimately responsible for causing their deaths.

**Correspondence ID: 23174**

The best option is Alternative B. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk.

Cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

**Correspondence ID: 23175**

Please allow the Tule Elk to be unconfined. It is not natural to confine them so that they starve.

**Correspondence ID: 23176**

Greetings:

As a resident and landowner in Olema for 45 years, I am strongly in favor of preserving the dairies and ranches in the Point Reyes National Park. The dairies and ranches have been an important part of our lives and culture of this area. I think that this is something that people from

out of our area, do not understand, and do not consider. My children and I benefited from knowing and interacting with the ranches and dairies. The dairy business is a very difficult enterprise, often marginally profitable, and requires a huge amount of work and investment to develop and maintain. These dairies provide our community and the larger area with significant amounts of quality organic dairy products. There should be fences to protect the ranch forage, and a policy that regulates the number of elk. The elk were introduced long after the ranches and dairies were established. The deal was that the ranches and dairies got to stay. I hope that the Park Service will continue with their leases.

Sincerely,

Anne Provost

**Correspondence ID: 23177**

Encouraging the Park Service to choose Alternative B.

Thrilled that this is finally a real choice and the Park can begin to again be what it was intended to be.

**Correspondence ID: 23178**

I support the removal of the elk fence and improved access to the Tomales Point area. It is time we start prioritizing the native elk and the protection of our natural resources instead of prioritizing private ranching on public lands that harm native species and pollute our local waters and wilderness.

**Correspondence ID: 23180**

I herewith urge you to remove the fencing that restricts the Tule Elk from roaming freely as they should.

It is unconscionable to have these beautiful animals, who are indigenous to Tomales Point Reyes, not be able to graze in their (NOT "our") territory!

I'm truly in disbelief that you would allow having them starve to death.

They were here first! We have no right to make the land they need to thrive inaccessible to them!

Thank you for your kind consideration. Please do the right thing,

Carola Detrick

**Correspondence ID: 23182**

I'm reprinting a letter written by my close friend after discussing this in depth: I strongly support alternative B for the Tule Elk Management Plan.

As a passionate naturalist, I have devoted my career to educating others about science and nature. In 1997, I relocated to Marin County with the goal of teaching elementary-aged children about the wonders of the outdoors. Over the past 26 years, I have had the privilege of teaching people of all ages about the local flora, fauna, and conservation efforts. My primary teaching location is Point Reyes National Seashore, where I have been leading classes for the Point Reyes National Seashore Association for the past 16 years. In addition to my role as a Science Teacher at Marin County Day School for elementary education, I also teach Hiking for the

College of Marin's Community Education adult program. Furthermore, I am a co-founder of Marin Nature Adventures, an organization that offers nature-related activities for all ages.

It is time to free the Tule Elk at Tomales Point. For many years, they have endured obstacles including death due to the fence that confines them. The removal of the fence aligns with the National Park Service's mission and the purpose of Point Reyes National Seashore. The need for water infrastructure in undeveloped areas would be eliminated. And the use of lethal population control measures would no longer be necessary.

I have one more important request: with the fence removal, make sure that other management actions do not impede the free access of Tule Elk to the rest of the Point Reyes National Seashore.

Lastly, visitors would enjoy the park much more without the fence. We should have the opportunity to observe elk wandering freely through the natural beauty of Point Reyes as we explore.

Sincerely, Sharon Barnett

**Correspondence ID: 23183**

Please consider removing the damn fence so these majestic animals can migrate naturally as they always have. Let's get something right for a change and help these beautiful mammals. Live and let live.

**Correspondence ID: 23184**

September 25, 2023

Craig Kenkel, Superintendent

Point Reyes National Seashore

1 Bear Valley Rd.

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Via National Park Service Planning, Environmental and Public Comment Website:  
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=131377>

Re: Point Reyes National Seashore Tomales Point Area Plan Public Scoping

Dear Superintendent Kenkel,

Since its founding in 1971, the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) has worked to protect the unique lands, waters, and biodiversity of coastal Marin County, California. We are deeply committed advocates for wildlife, public access, and responsible stewardship of public lands and waters in Marin County.

Based in Point Reyes Station, California, our members are inextricably connected to Point Reyes National Seashore. We are partners with Point Reyes National Seashore and the County of Marin Environmental Health Services in the collection and testing of beach water quality samples. Our work also includes consistently monitoring compliance with the 2021 General Management Plan Amendment. We welcome the National Park Service's thoughtful

consideration of public comment for the Tomales Point Area Plan prior to the agency's Environmental Assessment, and we submit the following comments.

EAC supports Alternative B: Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area. Alternative B most closely adheres to several fundamental principles for management of National Park resources. Alternative B is consistent with the (1) Point Reyes National Seashore Establishment Act, (2) Phillip Burton Wilderness Area, (3) science-based management requirements, and (4) interagency cooperation.

First, Alternative B is consistent with the Point Reyes National Seashore Establishment Act. The Act seeks to “save and preserve, for the purposes of public recreation, benefit, and inspiration, a portion of the diminishing seashore of the United States that remains undeveloped.” 16 U.S.C.A. § 459(c). This is reinforced with “the Organic Act and reaffirmed by the General Authorities Act... [which mandate that] managers must always seek ways to avoid, or to minimize to the greatest extent practicable, adverse impacts on park resources and values.” National Park Service, Management Policies § 1.4.3 at 10 (2006). Currently, the primary adverse impacts on the Tomales Point Tule Elk are caused by confinement behind the elk fence. Removal of the elk fence would reduce the need for water system infrastructure in undeveloped areas and not require active management of the elk population through lethal removal. The construction and maintenance of artificial water systems conflicts with the goal of minimizing human impacts on park resources and values. Further, active management of the Tule Elk population potentially involves an intrusive and continuous commitment of limited resources to diminish the natural character of Tomales Point. Removal of the fence is most compatible with the mission of the National Park Service and the purpose of the Point Reyes National Seashore.

Second, Alternative B is consistent with the Phillip Burton Wilderness Area. As designated by the Wilderness Act, the Area is to be managed “without impairment of its natural values... as are consistent with, based upon, and supportive of the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment within the area.” Public Law 94-544 § 4(a). “Wilderness” itself is defined within the Wilderness Act as “an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” 16 U.S.C.A. § 1131(c). In Tomales Point, it is questionable whether the maintenance of the elk fence has fulfilled the intent of the Wilderness Act. Management policies require that the “wilderness character is... preserved.” National Park Service, Management Policies § 6.3.1 at 80 (2006). The elk fence has arguably manipulated the Tule Elk population to their detriment and has compromised the character of the wilderness. The installation of artificial water systems as a result of confinement is also contrary to law and policy governing management of the wilderness areas. To remove the elk fence and restore Tule Elk's access to the rest of the Seashore habitat is to come into compliance with the Wilderness Act governing the Phillip Burton Wilderness Area.

Third, Alternative B is consistent with science-based management requirements. As System units within the National Park System, management of the Phillip Burton Wilderness Area and the Tule Elk Reserve must be “enhanced by the availability and utilization of a broad program of the highest quality science and information.” 54 U.S.C.A. §§ 100102; 100501; 100702. Further, it is required to “take such measures as are necessary to ensure the full and proper utilization of the results of scientific study for... management decisions.” 54 U.S.C.A. § 100706. This is also reflected in management policy through the “responsibility... to use science to improve wilderness management.” National Park Service, Management Policies § 6.3.6.1 at 82 (2006).

When deciding how to manage the elk in Tomales Point, there are ample scientific studies detailing the consequences of confinement behind the elk fence. In 1993, a scientific advisory committee recommended the “removal of the fence across Tomales Point” to achieve “the long-term goal... [of] the re-establishment of free-ranging elk throughout the seashore and associated public lands.” Dale R. McCullough et al., Final Report of the Scientific Advisory Panel on Control of Tule Elk on Point Reyes National Seashore at 30, 32-34 (1993); See also National Park Service, Point Reyes National Seashore Tomales Point Area Plan and Environmental Assessment Public Scoping Newsletter at 4 (2023). By 1998, the Tule Elk in Tomales Point faced dire circumstances due to overpopulation, the spread of Johnne's disease, and had the lowest genetic variation for their species in the state. National Park Service, Point Reyes National Seashore Tule Elk Management Plan and Environmental Assessment at 13-14, 38-41 (1998). An identified cause of these conditions was the “fencing of elk on the peninsula of Tomales Point.” Id. at 39. While the National Park Service decided to maintain the elk fence in 1998, it was recognized that “limitation to Tomales Point is a historical artifact of... reintroduction” and that “Tule [E]lk at Point Reyes are a component of the original native fauna and do not pose an immediate threat to life or property” so, if the Tule Elk “are to remain as part of the Seashore's fauna and ecological processes, they should eventually become free-ranging throughout most of the Seashore's natural zones.” Id. at 40-41. Twenty years later, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife determined the primary threat to the confined Tule Elk population in Tomales Point continues to be isolation created by the elk fence. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Elk Conservation and Management Plan at 51-52, 454 (2018). It should also be noted that the free ranging elk in the Point Reyes National Seashore did not suffer the significant population loss that the confined Elk in Tomales Point endured during 2007-2009 and 2012-2014 drought conditions. Id. at 464-463. Had the confined Tule Elk in Tomales Point been able to access other areas of the Seashore, it is unlikely that population collapse and other observed harms would have occurred.

These findings over the past three decades should be considered part of the “highest quality science and information” available for review for management decisions. Each of these studies were led and conducted by experts in their field. Furthermore, these experts conducted these studies for or on behalf of state and federal decision-makers regarding how to manage the Tule Elk population in Tomales Point. These studies have consistently identified and observed the harms caused by the Tomales Point elk fence on the Tule Elk population. When considering any management decision regarding the Tule Elk in Tomales Point, the National Park Service should adhere to policies that require findings from these studies to be utilized when deciding what action to take. 54 U.S.C.A. §§ 100702; 100706. Any decision which maintains the elk fence in its current form or otherwise confines the elk to Tomales Point would not adhere to science-based management requirements.

Fourth, Alternative B is consistent with interagency cooperation policies. Current management policies encourage the National Park Service to engage with non-federal agency partners when “carrying out wilderness preservation mandates” and to “achieve consistency in wilderness management objectives.” National Park Service, Management Policies §§ 6.3.2; 6.3.3 at 80-81 (2006). This kind of interagency cooperation is necessary for Point Reyes National Seashore as a whole, and specifically significant for the management of the Tule Elk in Tomales Point. Consistent with current management policy, it was previously recommended in 1993 that the National Park Service collaborate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the

management of the Tule Elk in Tomales Point. Dale R. McCullough et al., Final Report of the Scientific Advisory Panel on Control of Tule Elk on Point Reyes National Seashore at 34 (1993).

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife created a management plan for Tule Elk which includes recommendations on how to achieve specific goals for management of the Tule Elk at Tomales Point. Cal. Fish & G. Code § 3952; California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Elk Conservation and Management Plan at 30, 34-35, 38-39, 45, 52, 201, 451-481 (2018). A management goal of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is to “reduce the number of confined herds and the frequency for removing excess animals.” Id. at 28, 454-455. Alternative B is consistent with National Park Service management policy regarding interagency cooperation because it aligns well with the goals of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

In addition to the support for Alternative B, EAC also submits the following comments for consideration when developing the Tomales Point Area Plan. The below points should be fully analyzed in the Environmental Assessment (EA):

1. Prevent non-native animal and plant species from entering the wilderness area;
2. Ensure Tule Elk are not inhibited by other management actions that would impair their ability to freely access the rest of the Point Reyes National Seashore;
3. Enhance and restore habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife within the planning area;
4. Identify climate-related impacts on water resources and native vegetation within the planning area, including the possibility of future drought, increased fire risk, and sea level rise;
5. Identify the carrying capacity for visitors within the planning area during different times of the year, so that visitation impacts can be appropriately mitigated. For instance, overnight camping impacts should be closely reviewed for negative impacts to cultural, wildlife, and other natural resources. The EA should propose ways to mitigate current and any increased visitation;
6. Improve public education and interpretation about the Tomales Point elk and their role in the ecology of the Point Reyes peninsula.

Sincerely,

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs

Interim Executive Director

Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

cc: Melanie Gunn, Outreach Coordinator, Point Reyes National Seashore

Via Electronic Mail: [melanie\\_gunn@nps.gov](mailto:melanie_gunn@nps.gov)

**Correspondence ID: 23185**

Please find a way to protect the elk and allow them to roam so that they can find food and water and live healthy lives.

**Correspondence ID: 23186**

I would like to see Point Reyes stick to wild animals and NOT continue to lease to farms.



Please STOP the agricultural leases.

Please ALLOW Point Reyes' elk to roam free around the entire park!

Thank you!

**Correspondence ID: 23188**

Allow elk to roam free without fences!

Stop leasing to farms! Leave the national park land free and open for wild animals.

Stop to potential for bacteria from cows and other domesticated animals.

**Correspondence ID: 23189**

I have hiked at Pt Reyes National Seashore since I was a teen in the late 60's. I've seen the elk and elephant seals, which had been extirpated, return to Pt Reyes. I've seen the fallow deer exterminated since they were non-native. And now I've seen the elk left to starve behind the elk fence.

I've also milked cows by hand, bucked hay, and raised calves. I like cattle.

Visitors to Pt Reyes love to see the elk, they belong there and it's beyond my comprehension why the park service treats them so cruelly, keeping them in what amounts to a concentration camp. Like the fallow deer, the cattle are non-native, the elk should have priority in a national park. Of the three plans you offer, plan B is closest to what I want and expect.

**Correspondence ID: 23190**

This an important opportunity to deal with the cattle and make unrestricted access for Tule Elk. Protecting the incredible Tule Elk will allow the ecosystem there to benefit from their incredible land tending skills. The cattle and ranching continues to drain and pollute the water and land throughout Pt Reyes and shouldn't receive preference over a healthy ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 23192**

Hello Point Reyes,

I am a resident to Marin and a frequent visitor to Seashore.

I am in favor of Alternative B - please remove the Elk Fence.

I know that Ranching Leases are a separate issue but I am also strongly in favor of allowing leases to expire when an original ranching family no longer intends to continue ranching activities. This was the original agreement that NPS made with ranch families and it should be honored.

As ranches expire on the Tomales Point area, that land should be allowed to return to nature, not re-leased to the highest bidder.

Thanks so much for all your work in the Seashore.

-Kevin

**Correspondence ID: 23193**

Please remove the fence and stop starvation and dehydration of the Tule elk herd !

I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE B to remove the fence confining the herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Though the elk are protected by law, the National Park Service (NPS) is prioritizing the interests of commercial ranching operations — who lease a portion of this public land for grazing cows — over the well-being of the elk by keeping them confined behind a fence. Prevented by the fence from traveling further in search of food and water, more than 150 elk died in 2020 alone during drought conditions.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

**Correspondence ID: 23194**

To whom it may concern,

The National Park Service's primary objective is to “Preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System”. Supporting an unconfined Elk herd with Alternative B, is the only way to successfully achieve that goal in this instance. By impeding the population from roaming free you limit the ability of the ecosystem to self regulate and invasive species like the Siva Radish go unchecked. It also means the Tule Elk at higher risk of pathogenic threat by limiting genetic diversity when they remain confined. This risk to the Tule Elk is compounded by the fact that natural resources like water that are vital to the elk's survival are limited behind the fence which is immoral, costly to maintain and lacks consideration for the individual animals welfare as well as the wellbeing for the species as a whole.

In the past the National Park Service had great success supporting the natural ecosystem. We see this with the reintroduction of the wolves in Yellowstone National Park where it helped improve ecological diversity across the board. It is of great hope that the National Park Services continues this tradition of supporting the natural ecosystem in Point Reyes National Seashore's by removing the fence and letting the Tule Elk roam free unimpeded by private interest. A move that will allow for “the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations”.

**Correspondence ID: 23195**

Please execute ALTERNATIVE C, MAINTAIN ELK FENCE AND MONITOR Elk Herd.

- Thank you, National Park Service, for listening to the overwhelming voice of the public to Maintain the elk fence along the current borders. Fences are appropriate in leased areas to keep elk separate from the cattle on your leased properties.

- Cattle & Dairy Ranch operations are historic to PRNS and require the NPS to provide collaborative management and guidance through trained staff and consultants to be prime examples of this sustainable, organic food-shed for Marin County.

**Correspondence ID: 23197**

I am writing to speak for the Tule elk, which are nearly extinct, due to poor NPS management at Tomales Point in the Phillip Burton Wilderness within Point Reyes National Seashore in Northern California.

The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. It's a good option -- and I appreciate that you've proposed it as your preferred option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice.

Alternatives A and C should be opposed -- because they degrade the Wilderness and endanger the rare Tule elk.

But I think some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered.

Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

Please eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore at all - per the original agreement. I really cannot understand why cattle have continued to be allowed to graze at all.

Please don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of the Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments!

**Correspondence ID: 23198**

Dear NPS,

I request that you select Alternative Plan B to remove fencing and allow native tule elk access to water and forage for the Tomales Point Area Plan at Point Reyes National Seashore. I believe that wildlife should be the priority for our national park.

**Correspondence ID: 23199**

Please execute ALTERNATIVE C, MAINTAIN ELK FENCE AND MONITOR Elk Herd.

· Thank you, National Park Service, for listening to the overwhelming voice of the public to Maintain the elk fence along the current borders. Fences are appropriate in leased areas to keep elk separate from the cattle on your leased properties.

· Cattle & Dairy Ranch operations are historic to PRNS and require the NPS to provide collaborative management and guidance through trained staff and consultants to be prime examples of this sustainable, organic food-shed for Marin County.

**Correspondence ID: 23200**

Choose Alternative B. Let the Tule elk roam freely. Eliminate cattle grazing in this area. I have visited the area, Point Reyes, love it and love seeing the elk living there! Thanks,

Marc Koslen

**Correspondence ID: 23201**

Please remove the fence preventing the Tomales Elk herd from grazing

Thank you for your attention

**Correspondence ID: 23203**

Tomales Point Area Plan

c/o Superintendent

Point Reyes National Seashore

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Craig,

I am writing to strongly support proposed Alternative C, as outlined in the TPAP Public Scoping Newsletter. Quoting from the Straus Family Creamery/Albert Straus statement:

“Alternative C best supports a thriving PRNS that meets the intended outcomes for all NPS-defined goals for the established zoning areas of PRNS. In summary, Alternative C will best protect the environmental and cultural and historic resources in land areas adjacent to Tomales Point and it will ensure a well-managed and thriving Tule Elk herd. Furthermore, Alternative C will help preserve critical Park resources, improve visitor experiences to Tomales Point and continue critically important partnership with Native Tribe ecological and traditional management and preservation activities within this area. Alternative C could be further improved to advance the maintenance of environmental and cultural elements of Tomales Point and the rest of PRNS. Active management of the Tule Elk herd supports the environmental maintenance of the TPAP planning area”.

Thank you for doing your (and the park's) part in maintaining a critical mass of farmers in our region. We CAN farm in harmony with nature.

Sincerely, Sue Conley

co-founder, Cowgirl Creamery

Point Reyes Station

**Correspondence ID: 23204**

IT IS HORRIBLE THAT THE ELK ARE BEING KILLED

**Correspondence ID: 23205**

Dear NPS,

I support the proposed Alternative B.

Please remove the elk fence that holds captive the largest herd of Tule elk in the world.

These elk may take some time as they understand they are no longer held captive, but they deserve the chance to roam free and live as they were meant to live. Able to forage for fresh food and water in their native range.

I understand that the park leases around 30% of our public land to commercial ranches. Please develop within your plan a way to prevent the cows from encroaching onto the wilderness area, and minimizing damage from cattle. Perhaps it is time to rescind the leases to the commercial cattle industry, despite their long history in the seashore.

If the ranches are to continue operating within the seashore, please add to your management plan specific ways in which their practices will be monitored to ensure maximum protection of natural resources, including within the wilderness areas. If cattle are found to eliminate manure within the wilderness area, or graze on the native plants, or if the invasive grass that is currently

planted for cattle feed within the seashore spreads to the wilderness area, please create a plan to mitigate this.

Please ensure that as the fence is removed, to monitor and prevent any harassment to the elk as they do what they are meant to do: roam freely. If the roam onto leased cattle operations, please ensure that the elk are prioritized and not the cattle. Hazing and harassment of the elk will not support their ability to roam freely.

I know this is a long shot, but any introduction of native predators would be a huge support to the elk population and allow the elk to act more naturally. Without top predators, the elk don't have the checks and balances they and the ecosystem need.

The elk, who have co-evolved with the native grasses and prairies could be of great importance to restore other viable prairie areas within the seashore.

Thank you for proposing a plan that finally frees these beautiful Tule elk and gives them a better chance to survive.

I strongly support the movement forward to remove the fence.

Thank you, Diana Oppenheim

**Correspondence ID: 23206**

Please remove the fence that confines the Tomales Point elk herd. The elk should be allowed to live the life they deserve. The cattle grazing wastes massive amounts of water, spreads invasive species and disease, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, and decimates ecosystems. Please get rid of the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 23218**

Thank you for an opportunity to comment on the National Park Service (NPS) proposed management action for the Tomales Point portion of Point Reyes National Seashore.

It is not clear how the NPS expects elk at Tomales Point to respond to removal of all artificial watering sites and the fence along the southern boundary of the elk range. A NPS supported study showed that the elk at Tomales Point exist in 4 discrete social units with distinct home ranges (M. Cobb. 2010, Spatial Ecology and Population Dynamics of Tule Elk (*Cervus elaphus nannodes*) at Point Reyes National Seashore, California, Dissertation, University of California, Berkeley). Does the NPS expect that these social units and home ranges will break down and elk at Tomales Point move to other parts of the Seashore once the proposed management actions are implemented? If so, on what basis?

Additionally, some of the artificial watering sites at Tomales Point have been in place for decades if not more than a century, including earthen dams at White Gulch and immediately south of the site of the Upper Pierce Point ranch. How does NPS expect wildlife, including elk, to respond to removal of such sites?

Is there a likelihood that domestic livestock and pets will move on to Tomales Point should the existing fence along the Tomales Point Area southern boundary be removed as proposed? If so, how will NPS manage these trespass animals?

**Correspondence ID: 23223**

I support the alternative B plan: Unconfined Elk.

**Correspondence ID: 23229**

We urge the NPS to remove the fence. The cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

**Correspondence ID: 23236**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I want to thank the NPS for supporting a "proposed action" to remove the elk fence of the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve. This is "Alternative B" of three alternatives the NPS is required to consider and free the Tule elk to access the much larger, entire park. I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms Rene Ruston

**Correspondence ID: 23254**

Let the Tule elk roam free - since YNP is still so busy corralling, quarantining, harassing and killing off their iconic bison. At least protect SOME species!

**Correspondence ID: 23257**

Dear NPS, I urge you to implement plan B, and remove the fence that confine the Tule elk heard and allow them

to graze and roam freely as nature intended. And that they have access to grass and water.

**Correspondence ID: 23270**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

As a longtime docent at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, CA, I welcome many Americans from around the country. They come because they are inspired by the life and legend of our nation's most famous conservationist and "Father of our National Park System." They care deeply about their wild heritage.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs. Linda Waldroup

**Correspondence ID: 23275**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mr. David Beech

**Correspondence ID: 23297**

Overall as a climate change specialist and advocate I am deeply concerned that

if the Park's plan to remove the fence at the Tule Elk preserve goes through, dairy ranches in the Seashore will be forced to close in the face of increased competition for forage..

Dairies and ranches are well known for their effective carbon farming practices in the pastoral zone. The Point Reyes National Seashore could become the first carbon-neutral national park in the country, demonstrating how preserving family farms contributes to social, economic and ecological sustainability at a local, regional and even national level These results would be of broad import.

Seashore ranches represent 17% of all ranching in the county. Seashore dairies constitute 30% of the organic dairies in Marin County. As Albert Straus has written in the Point Reyes Light, "the loss of these dairies will be devastating to our community."

.In a time of climate crisis including huge pressures on agriculture it is beholden to the Park to retain the balance that protects agriculture in the Point Reyes National Seashore.

I favor your option A.

**Correspondence ID: 23308**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

We love our National Parks but have long held that confining Tule Elk behind those fences was disturbing and harmful to their welfare. With great relief at this proposal, we support Alternative B” and look forward to our next trip to the Park to see these elk free to roam, as they should.

I support the National Park Service's preferred “Alternative B” for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing (“culling”) of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal “management” of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Dr. Liz Cook

**Correspondence ID: 23316**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred “Alternative B” for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing (“culling”) of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal “management” of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

Remove all cattle from Point Reyes National Seashore - as was initially intended. Take down the elk fence, but leave up some cattle fences to keep the elk from going into central Marin. No culling/killing the Elk.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Joan Weiner



**Correspondence ID: 23318**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I have been incredibly disappointed with the way Tule Elk have been treated vs the greedy dairy farmers... it epitomizes human selfishness. I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms Julie Lynn

**Correspondence ID: 23322**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Protect WILD LIFE first and foremost before protecting industries that profit from abusing cows and calves!

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Veda Stram

**Correspondence ID: 23335**

Dear National Park Service,

We almost drove Tule Elk to extinction. It's almost a fluke that they exist at all to this day. What right do we have to drive a species to extinction? With all my heart, I implore you to remove the fence and allow the Elk access to water and feed resources as needed. I cannot bear the sight of elk that died, trapped in mud or groups of them dead from lack of water. Please do the right thing and set them free.

I agree with your preferred "Alternative B" to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point inside Point Reyes National Seashore. — which has confined the elk (for 45 years, since 1978) only to benefit private cattle ranches.

In addition, I want all these private cattle ranches removed from our public park. Their thousands of cows produce millions of gallons of manure and urine every year, contaminating the park's streams and poisoning elk, fish and all wild animals — and humans too! Commercial cattle operations pollute and have no business being in this or any national park.

Once the elk fence is removed, elk must be protected from greater exposure to manure-borne cattle diseases common in these commercial dairy and beef operations.

Finally, ranchers must be monitored and heavily fined if they haze, harass, or harm any elk or wild animals in the park, ever.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 23336**

Please remove the fence

**Correspondence ID: 23339**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

I am glad we are moving forward, and not backwards, in saving our wildlife and our planet. Thank you again. Every life is worth saving

Sincerely, Robin Riddle van Geest

**Correspondence ID: 23345**

Please remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd to give them the opportunity to roam free and live the lives they deserve.

I would also like to remind you that cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Irene Friedland

**Correspondence ID: 23346**

Comment on Tomales Point Area Plan:

I write in support of the National Park Service's (NPS) preferred alternative to remove the Elk fence at Pierce Point. But I do not support adding cattle fencing at the point. I strongly support using funds currently allocated to subsidize these ranches to employ existing workers on the ranches in a multi-year process to remove all commercial dairy and beef operations in the Seashore and restore the pastoral zone (as was done successfully at Hart Mountain , Santa Rosa Island and the Giacomini Wetlands ) to its natural state. The work should be designed to improve habitat for wildlife and native plants while also improving and promoting public access by removing all cattle, buildings that lack historic or public use value and the nearly 400 miles of fencing that support these commercial operations.

There are a number of reasons I support removing the ranches which I believe are in violation of the Organic Act and the park's enabling legislation, as they impair scenery, the welfare of wildlife including endangered species, the indigenous history that dates back thousands of years and they pollute the air, water, and erode the landscape in such a manner that their operations are degrading the Seashore for current and future generations. These impacts are detailed in the NPS's FEIS and more fully in the ongoing litigation against the NPS's recent directive to expand the scope of commercial activities in the Seashore.

I am perhaps best qualified to write about one aspect NPS has cited as a reason for removing the elk fence: "unanticipated changes resulting from climate change." I have over 32 years of senior level experience in the disaster response field and have directed numerous mental health programs serving both adult and child survivors of disasters. Over the last 10 years, I have focused on how climate change is and will impact disaster response—particularly as it relates to vulnerable communities.

I believe that the management of our national parks and seashores are at a critical juncture and that due to current and future climate change-driven impacts, the NPS role in the Global Healthy Parks, Healthy People Movement needs to be elevated to a priority second only to its primary mandate:

[NPS] fundamental purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for their enjoyment in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

The research I cite describes why adhering to NPS's primary mandate is critical for this secondary mission: maximizing the potential of national parks to build visitor mental health resilience in response to a warming planet.

As the NPS's own description of this program states, our parks can play a significant role in improving visitors physical and mental health. Although much is still to be learned about the mental health implications of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, (pandemics and climate change share a common driver and both will become more frequent as direct consequences of how human populations are dramatically altering our planet's ecosystems) we do know that parks played an important role in improving and building resilience to myriad mental health issues including those arising from fear, isolation, illness or death of loved ones, loss of employment, economic impacts, substance abuse, and long periods of confinement. Parks were one of the few places that allowed people (who were masked and distancing) to safely experience time out of their homes.

In a white paper I am drafting that will follow this comment in the coming weeks, I describe a study by researchers at Stanford who used brain imaging technology to assess the degree to which mental health benefits accrued by spending time in nature are correlated less to the time you spend in nature and more to the quality of the nature you experience. Greater biodiversity equals greater benefit. While green spaces in general have the capacity to improve mental health, our national parks which are supposed to be managed with the foremost priority of national resource protection, offer a preeminent opportunity for visitors to enjoy such benefits.

I will also refer to two studies that develop models for calculating the considerable economic benefits that accrue to both individuals, and society writ large, from improved mental health related to visits to national parks. The studies provide insight into the tremendous economic value our parks provide, significantly beyond the economic value derived from the tourist dollars they generate. The holistic approach the authors devised to calculate these economic benefits involved myriad factors that reveal not only economic benefits but also the potential hidden costs of mental health implications from a warming planet. On this point, I could find no specific studies only expert opinion that these costs exist and will grow with a warming planet.

According to many top climate scientists, the pace of climate change is accelerating faster than many anticipated. The planet is already locked into a 1.5 degree increase and IPCC Reports have warned that there is a finite window of time to avert more extreme increases and the consequences that will incur.

Mental health conditions already affect a billion people and cost trillions of dollars a year. Heatwaves are increasing rates of suicide, extreme weather such as floods and wildfires are leaving victims traumatized, and loss of food security, homes and livelihoods are resulting in stress and depression. Anxiety about the future is also harming people's mental health, especially youth.

Studies on the costs associated with climate change have primarily focused on hard costs such as rebuilding infrastructure. Impaired productivity, substance abuse, crime, depression, anxiety, divorce, growing poverty, homelessness, institutionalization, medical care, educational decline, rising inequality—these are just a few of the many hidden costs governments and households will have to manage as the planet warms. When you apply a holistic approach to estimating the economic costs its clear the costs will be staggering .

According to the World Health Organization (WHO)

The mental health impacts of climate change are unequally distributed with certain groups disproportionately affected depending on factors such as socioeconomic status, gender and age. However, it is clear that climate change affects many of the social determinants that are already leading to massive mental health burdens globally. A 2021 WHO survey of 95 countries found that only 9 have thus far included mental health and psychosocial support in their national health and climate change plans.

A failure to invest in community and integrated national systems that strengthen mental health and emotional resilience, risks creating a vicious cycle whereby people are less able to cope with and adapt to the impacts of climate change and thereby become increasingly vulnerable and less resilient when faced with further negative impacts.

Our National Parks should be at the forefront of utilizing nature, as one element of an integrated health approach, designed to promote both physical—but in particular mental health-resilience to the disasters we are already experiencing and for ones that follow.

The critical juncture I referenced refers to whether the park will continue to be directed by politics or evidence-based science that supports its primary mandate and serves the common good?

The record is clear that when the NPS finally received Congressional Appropriations to purchase the ranches in the early 70s on behalf of the American people, the terms of sale were under the same finite terms as negotiated with the numerous homeowners who held title to properties within the Seashore's boundaries. Taxpayers paid fair market value for this land and the ranchers were granted a Reservation of Use (ROU), as were homeowners who sold their property, that contained a timeline at the expiration of which ranchers and homeowners agreed to vacate the Seashore.

Through dairy and cattle Industry lobbying (supported by the then PRNS Superintendent Sansing), and years later, the influence of Senator Dianne Feinstein, the ranchers succeeded in renegotiating (without a public process) terms that granted them short-term leases to continue their operations. The record demonstrates Senator Feinstein intervening on numerous occasions in support of her stated objective of maintaining ranching and other commercial operations in the Seashore in perpetuity.

As a member, at times Chair and ranking minority member, of the Senate Appropriations Committee for the Department of the Interior, Senator Feinstein clearly held tremendous influence over the Interior Department's (and by extension the NPS's) budgets and policy. On March 18, 2016 Senator Feinstein In her official capacity and on Senate stationary noting her role on the Interior Appropriations Committee wrote a letter to the of Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell that reiterated a number of falsehoods and half truths about ranching in the park, requested almost verbatim that the NPS comply with a wish list of expanded commercial operations in the park the ranchers had demanded in a 2012 manifesto to NPS and closed with this line:

“There is no better place for man to contemplate his origins, the factors that sustain him, and the threats that may destroy him, than at the edge of the sea.” I am now more convinced than ever that this national treasure and its lessons should be preserved for our children.”

That last line recalls the infamous meeting Senator Feinstein held with a group of school children who earnestly pleaded with her to sign the Green New Deal to combat climate change only to be brutally rebuked by the billionaire Senator who told them “I've been doing this for 30 years and you come in here and tell me it's your way or the highway.”

<https://duckduckgo.com/?q=Feinstein+children+climate+change&t=newext&atb=v288-1&iax=videos&ia=videos&iai=https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu-VzZ45Mwl>

Senator Feinstein's ill-informed letter supporting continued dairy and beef ranching and expanded activities that cause environmental harms (as detailed in the NPS's own FEIS) are significant contributors to methane pollution which according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the most urgent Greenhouse Gas (GHG) to reduce. That these privately held commercial operations should occur in a National Park, on what are supposed to be our most protected of lands-- is a tragic example of the politicization of our national parks and the dangers our children face from unaware or unscrupulous politicians.

Another political ally supporting ranching in the park is the district's Congressional Representative, Jared Huffman.

Congressman Huffman has proclaimed “Addressing climate change is the greatest imperative of our time. The stakes are enormous for our environment, our economy, and our planet.” Yet, he also wrote in a letter to then NPS director Jon Jarvis:

I am also gratified to see you re-affirm the Secretary's commitment that “ranching operations have a long and important history on the Point Reyes peninsula and will be continued at Point Reyes National Seashore” (Secretary's 29 November 2012 memorandum to you re Drakes Bay Oyster Company). That commitment is in accord with Congressional intent that agriculture is a compatible activity in, and should continue as a permanent part of, the Point Reyes National Seashore.

While longer-term lease/permits provide the ranchers with greater legal certainty, I believe we can and should do even more to ensure the continuing economic viability of ranches in the Seashore. In recent years, ranchers have requested—and to its credit, the Seashore administration has generally granted—permissions to diversify their agricultural pursuits.

Climate experts and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change agree that

Half of global human-caused emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas roughly 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide, comes from agriculture, namely livestock and rice cultivation. Up to 75 percent of nitrous oxide emissions — almost 300 times the warming potential of carbon dioxide — comes from nitrogen fertilizer. Of the 1.9 billion acres in the 48 contiguous states, 654 million acres are used as pasture land for livestock, 538 million acres are forested, and 391.5 million acres are used to grow crops. But of that cropland, only one-fifth is used for the food we directly eat. One-third of US cropland is allocated to growing feed for livestock, like corn and soy.

The PRNS contribution to greenhouse gases were addressed in the NPS's FEIS. They are:

Activities associated with ranching would continue to emit criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases associated with cattle grazing, manure management on dairies, fugitive dust, and mobile source emissions.

The GHG emissions from livestock under Alternative B (which the NPS approved) would represent approximately 21% of agricultural sector emissions in Marin County and 5.7% of the total county emissions.

Figure 17: Emissions from ranching in Point Reyes National Seashore.

Ranching in this National Seashore generates the equivalent of 24 thousand metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>/year, six-and-a-half times the amount generated by all the car traffic of the over two million annual visitors.

The ranchers continuing assertion that what they do is sustainable and that they are good stewards of the land is neither supported by science (the NPS own FEIS) nor the actions of the ranchers who it has been uncovered broke their leases on numerous occasions with activities such as harboring a large-scale garbage dump, not preventing cattle from grazing on lands inhabited by endangered species, dumping raw sewage from worker housing directly into the ground, bulldozing riparian habitat—without one of them losing their lease for these violations.

Despite these impacts and activities Congressman Huffman and Senator Feinstein joined forces with some of the most extreme anti-public lands foes in Congress to draft and sponsor legislation (which did not pass) that would have codified ranching in the park. In one hearing Representative Rob Bishop of Utah a co-sponsor of the Bill asserts “yes” when asked whether sausage could be made from the park’s Tule Elk by Garrett Graves of Louisiana. Graves, with one of the worst environmental records in Congress, then went on to congratulate Huffman saying he was proud of him for authoring a bill

allowing a national park to be managed in a way that is complimentary to commercial activities. It relocates a species when they potentially conflict with a commercial operation. It’s somewhat uncharacteristic. I am proud of you Mr. Huffman.

What specifically prompted Senator Feinstein and Congressman Huffman to push Interior and NPS in ways that violate longstanding laws governing the management of a National Park is unclear. Certainly there was considerable lobbying by special interest groups that support ranching and some vying for expanding commercial use of public lands. But for an insider’s perspective it is revealing to read and hear the comments of Jon Jarvis who was the Director of the National Park Service during some of Senator Feinstein’s most blatant interventions.

In the Point Reyes situation, a senior Democratic senator, Dianne Feinstein, called me repeatedly, her husband called me, basically requesting that I fire [Point Reyes Superintendent—Don Neubacher—who Jarvis did remove] so that the oyster farmer could continue. So, you pick your battles.”

In an op-ed in The Seattle Times Jarvis wrote:

The National Park Service cannot possibly preserve, unimpaired, the natural and cultural areas of the nation’s park system while being overruled, second-guessed, threatened, and/or ignored by political appointees who control its every decision, personnel and budget request. Our book’s conclusion: “It is high time for a fundamental change in how the NPS is allowed to steward our American national park system, by moving it out of the highly conflicted, and over-politicized Department of the Interior, and making it an independent agency by an act of Congress — perhaps structured like the Smithsonian Institution.”

The evidence that Point Reyes has been micromanaged by the Department of the Interior is irrefutable. (I witnessed it myself during my two-year tenure as Executive Director of the Point Reyes National Seashore Association.) The copies of Feinstein's memo to Secretary Jewell and the NPS response, are replete with activities that on their face appear noncompliant with NPS's core mandate governing the management of National Parks.

Ranchers and their allies may claim that the health benefits described earlier in this comment can occur concurrently with their activities. But the science suggests that the denuded landscapes, erosion, pollution and commercial activities degrade the benefits.

First there is the question of access. With nearly 1/3 of the park fenced and utilized for commercial dairy and cattle ranching, access to the public is significantly curtailed from accessing this area of the park. If the ranches, cows and fencing were removed, new trails built, adequate parking and restrooms provided where appropriate the numbers of visitors could rise significantly (An analysis of such an eventuality is contained within the FEIS.

If alternative F, which calls for the elimination of ranching and limited management of Tule elk, were to be selected, an implementation plan would be developed to provide additional detail about expanded visitor opportunities. At that time, the visitor capacity would also be updated.

The EIS cites numerous impediments to visitor access relating to ranching:

This analysis area includes the north district of Golden Gate managed as a part of Point Reyes. This analysis area is also mostly ranching land; therefore, the amount of visitor use that can be accommodated is directly proportional to the types of visitor access that can be provided on ranching lands.

Second is the impact of the pollution and degradation of the park. As discussed earlier there is research that the "brooding effect" from these conditions diminishes mental health benefits.

Researchers at Stanford have determined that the degree to which health benefits, especially mental health benefits, accrue is correlated less to the time you spend in nature and more to the quality of the nature you experience. Greater biodiversity equals greater benefit.

Experiencing nature not only reduces stress but also improves our cognitive ability. Gregory Bratman from Stanford University and his colleagues enlisted 60 participants who were randomly divided into two groups: The first group took a 50-minute "nature" walk surrounded by trees and vegetation, and the second group took an "urban" walk along a high-traffic roadway. The nature walkers showed cognitive benefits including an increase in working memory performance, "decreased anxiety, rumination, and negative effect, and preservation of positive effect."

In a subsequent study, Bratman investigated the neurological mechanisms affected by being in nature by measuring the part of the brain (subgenual prefrontal cortex) that is activated by



brooding. Our tendency to brood, referred to by cognitive scientists as “morbid rumination,” often makes us focus on the negative aspects of our lives and can lead to anxiety and depression. Bratman and his colleagues found that the participants who walked in the quieter, wooded portion of the campus had lower activity in the brooding portion of their brains than those who walked near the busy roadway.

The psychological benefits of being in nature are also affected by the biodiversity of the natural environment. As cities design urban green spaces, incorporating diverse vegetation and wildlife improves urban dwellers' health and well-being. A study in Sheffield, UK, surveyed the effects of different habitat types such as amenity planting, mown grassland, unmown grassland, scrub and woodland and monitored the butterfly and bird species in these areas. Participants showed an increase in psychological well-being in habitats with greater species diversity.

As researcher Richard Fuller and his colleagues point out, “The degree of psychological benefit was positively related to species richness of plants and to a lesser extent of birds, both taxa where perceived richness corresponded with sampled richness.”

Additionally, “Our results indicate that simply providing green space overlooks the fact that green spaces can vary dramatically in their contribution to human health and biodiversity provision. Consideration of the quality of that space can ensure that it serves the multiple purposes of enhancing biodiversity, providing ecosystem services, creating opportunities for contact with nature and enhancing psychological well-being.” Fuller's study suggests that the biodiversity in a habitat affects our well-being—the more species diversity, the greater the positive impact on our health.

This research is consistent with my own experience of introducing hundreds of people to the Point Reyes National Seashore over the 35 years I have lived here. Invariably, when I run through a list of sights we might see (unless I am talking to a serious birder) and where in the park they would like to visit, Tule Elk and Elephant seals rank first then Chimney Rock's wildflowers in the spring, whales, seals, coyotes, bobcats foxes and large raptors such as bald Eagles, Ospreys and Peregrine Falcons. As we drive through the pastoral zone, or smell, hear or see something unpleasant related to ranching most ask about how and why ranches are allowed in the park? When juxtaposed with the excitement they express at seeing any of their preferred sightings, the ranches and cows, I now know, have triggered the brooding portions of their brains due to this discordant note from what they expected in a national seashore.

Third is the fact that Point Reyes has, with notable exceptions related to children attending the park's Clem Miller Environmental Education Center, done a poor job reaching out to communities of color and underserved communities. While the mental health benefits of visiting Point Reyes are not dependent on skin color or social status, there is overwhelming evidence in disaster response (and from mortality rates due to the pandemic) that these communities should receive special focus as they are inevitably the ones who experience the worst outcomes in and after a disaster.

Ironically, In the late 1960s and early 1970s the legacy of environmental humanism instilled by Secretary of the Interior Stuart Udall met progressive thinkers in the San Francisco Bay Area and within the NPS. A focus on equity, underserved communities and people of color became clearly articulated within the goals of the new Seashore. The NPS expended considerable resources to hire consultants and conduct extensive outreach to marginalized communities throughout the Bay Area.

The historian John Hart in his history of PRNS San Francisco's Wilderness Next Door describes the effort:

planners set out to draw the interest of people who would not ordinarily have been Seashore-watchers--but for whom, in rhetoric at least, the Seashore had been created. Chief among them were inner city people and their organizations--Blacks, Chinese, Japanese, Chicanos.

With Congressional Appropriations finally allowing the original map of the Point Reyes national Seashore to be fulfilled, and a 1980 amendment to its enabling legislation requiring that the Seashore be free in perpetuity, PRNS, an easy day trip for millions of Bay Area residents, was seen as an opportunity to provide access to a first class wildlife park for communities that could not afford the travel, entrance fees, lodging, and other associated costs required to visit more iconic national parks like Yosemite and Yellowstone.

But in just a few short years that vision was shortchanged by the lobbying of ranchers and their supporters who fought the terms of the buyout they had recently agreed to and been compensated for.

Rather than expand the tent as envisioned in the early 1970s, the park has merely muddled along. For instance, the NPS has placed significant emphasis on moving away from focusing only on "white history" in the parks.

At PRNS, they have failed the NPS policy designed to promote racial and social inclusion by not relaying an accurate history, and by segregated the park in a way that violates not only the spirit, but the very composition of the park. The park is essentially divided by wilderness areas and commercial ranches. The Seashore has allocated approximately 1.5 acres to a demonstration village for indigenous Coast Miwok while a handful of ranching families, all of them of white-European descent, many of whom bought other ranches outside the Seashore with the proceeds from the sale of their ranches inside the Seashore, have been allocated at subsidized rates 28,000 acres, one third of the Seashore on which to continue and significantly expand, their commercial operations.

The ranchers have been granted historical status for their over 150-year presence on the peninsula. The indigenous Coast Miwok, with a presence of approximately 20,000 years, have not. No race has a longer presence or more tragic aspect to their history at Point Reyes than the Indigenous Coast Miwok. They lived on these and surrounding lands for thousands of years until during a relatively brief period from 1817-1846 their land was essentially stolen from them. The indigenous Tule Elk were killed off and Indigenous Coast Miwok were forcibly removed from their aboriginal lands by the Missions, Mexican landholders and other California settlers.

Many were sent as conscripted laborers to work on ranches or to the mission in San Rafael. Many died from diseases associated with the Spanish Missions and the ranches, and some were killed at the hands of European settlers and state-sponsored militias. Those that survived suffered terrible discrimination from laws that allowed their children to be taken from them and "reeducated" and allowed whites to charge them with a crime and then conscript their labor.

NPS has published and sells historical narratives of the peninsula available at its Visitor Center that predominantly focus on the benefits of ranching and the white European immigrants who held the leases to these lands. The narratives ignore the environmental costs as well as the historical social context which saw numerous races working on these ranches.

These books barely mention indigenous history, let alone the decades-long genocide suffered by indigenous Americans in California as well as the innumerable indignities they endured under laws designed to subjugate, and in some cases exterminate, them. Nor do they describe the significant state-sponsored discrimination suffered by other communities of color including blacks and Marin's significant Chinese population—many of whom worked on ranches. The Shafter family that owned the ranches for much of the 19th and early 20th century-imposed deed restrictions, excluding all but white Christians from not only owning property on its lands, but even visiting without being accompanied by a landowner.

In failing to provide an accurate history of the land on which the Seashore now sits, the NPS is bucking against the tide of official NPS policy expressed by NPS Directors such as David Vela:

The National Seashore Service commits to lead change and work against racism. Specifically, we will work together in building strategies and tools that effectively engage all communities so that we become better allies for inclusion, equity, and equality. We commit to doing a better job of listening and building a genuinely more inclusive environment both within the agency and with external communities.

In 2017, President Barack Obama addressed the importance of accurately relaying the history of our Seashores and public lands via a presidential memorandum to NPS and other public land agencies called “Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Our National Seashores, National Forests, and Other Public Lands and Waters.” The memo encourages Seashore stewards to advocate for a more inclusive and complete story of America, advocates including diverse voices in the decision-making process for new public lands and waters, and recommends increasing the number of outreach programs dedicated to providing better access for diverse communities.

These recommendations aim to correct more than a century of land management policies that have long ignored people of color. Anti-racism in our national Seashores means telling the stories of everyone who contributed to the historic character of the land. In doing so, not only can all visitors be made to feel welcome, they may even be inspired to help preserve and protect our lands

“We try to get people to have meaningful experiences in our Seashores so that they will remain culturally relevant for a population that [is becoming] more ethnically diverse,” says Alan Spears, senior director of cultural resources at the National Seashores Conservation Association. “We do that by rolling up our sleeves and creating new sites and exhibits that show the American people a history that they are a part of.”

Many of the elements related to this movement involve social justice issues related to access and how to be more welcoming to communities of color and underserved communities. In addition to the above referenced history issues that impact access, a number of longstanding societal discriminatory practices such as locating heavy industry in communities of color and in underserved communities, the afore-mentioned restrictive covenants, to cite just two, have led to economic and health disparities that—as Covid death rates so appallingly demonstrated—disproportionately impact underserved communities and people of color.

While national Seashores are not a panacea for addressing such disparity, there is overwhelming data (some of this can be found on the NPS Healthy Seashores, Healthy People web site) to support the case that people who visit national Seashores can derive significant

physical and mental health benefits . It is a sad irony that at PRNS, efforts to better serve these communities has not followed a more linear progression.

Now, some 40 years later, PRNS finds itself at another inflection point. Global warming has contributed to the most disastrous decade of fire in California history, the state has just emerged from its worst drought in 2000 years with an unprecedented amount of snow in the Sierras. Smoke from fires thousands of miles away has merged with smoke from nearby fires creating unhealthy air quality, parts of the state have again set record high temperatures and seasonal rainfall from a rare hurricane has doused "Burning Man." It's a pattern of extreme weather that climate scientists have long predicted, but it has arrived at a global scale much sooner than many predicted. There is overwhelming consensus among scientists and disaster response professionals that as the planet continues to warm the scale, frequency and complexity of climate-related disasters will increase.

The implications of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has global implications that impact all economic strata of society. But as with most disasters, it has and will have the greatest impact on vulnerable populations: the elderly, the underserved, people of color whose communities have experienced higher death rates, greater economic impacts and whose preexisting health conditions are likely to exceed levels seen in more affluent and white communities. NPS's Healthy Parks/Healthy People website describes data suggesting that people who visit parks are less likely to suffer from obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, CPD, (some of the same co-morbidities that led to death from Covid-19) stress and a range of mental health conditions and have longer life expectancies.

While it may not be possible to say how many lives might have been saved had the disparity in visitation from

**Correspondence ID: 23347**

This is a national issue, not just Point Reyes, as it sets an example of our nation's priorities. Are we going to firmly defend our national heritage, or are we going to make a few more hamburgers possible for the rancher's customers? The answer is clear. DEFEND POINT REYES TULE ELK and NOW.

**Correspondence ID: 23348**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks. I'll say that again because I truly feel strongly about this: Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs. Amy Bergmann

**Correspondence ID: 23350**

I strongly support alternative B for the Tule Elk management plan.

**Correspondence ID: 23356**

Dear NPS,

I urge you to implement Alternative B and remove the 8 foot fence allowing the Tule elk to roam and graze freely. I urge you to eliminate grazing of cattle in the areas elk are at. To also eliminate herbicide use, allow natural fires, and remove water structures. Unfortunately for some, the way things used to be done have to change. Whether it be in the logging industry or the fishing industry or the ranching industry. We are not in the 1800's anymore and things cannot be done like our forefathers have done. I respectfully urge you to act on these changes. Sincerely, Cynthis Petrich

**Correspondence ID: 23361**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. These elk have been brought back from the brink more than once- I support fence removal. I want live stock out of our National Parks and I want the fence removed. Period. The public lands of this country are here to preserve and protect our wild life including elk and our federally protected wild mustangs. This land is to preserve wild life for future generations !

please hear our plea - take down the fence .

Sincerely, Ms. pauline St Denis

**Correspondence ID: 23372**

Please remove the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd. The native tule elk are dying of starvation and a lack of water -- 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

Cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

Raising animals for meat is depleting the state's water supply. Please protect the elk, not Big Agriculture.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 23374**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Hello,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Humane decisions and actions regarding animal welfare are ALWAYS the correct ones.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Dr. Barbara Magin

**Correspondence ID: 23376**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

To quote Gandhi "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated". We ARE a great nation but we are failing miserably at protecting our wildlife.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks!

The National Park Service is supposed to be protecting our wildlife and not the interests of greedy ranchers.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Virginia Roberts

**Correspondence ID: 23378**

James A. Coda

September 25, 2023

Superintendent Craig Kenkel

Point Reyes National Seashore

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Re: Scoping Comments on Your Proposed Tomales Point Area Plan

Dear Superintendent Kenkel:

#### INTRODUCTION

I am responding to your undated "Public Scoping Newsletter" (PSN). In it you state that you are developing a land management plan for Tomales Point.

[T]he Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP) . . . will provide updated management for the preservation of park resources, indications of the type and intensity of allowed development, and guidance for visitor use and capacities at Tomales Point, in addition to the management of tule elk in this region of [the] park.

PSN at 1.

You ask that we "share [our] thoughts on the information presented in your PSN, including the proposed action and alternatives, potential issues with park resources, and any other ideas or concerns [we] feel are relevant and important to this process." Ibid.

I am pleased to see by the block quote above that you are going to be preparing a GMP or amendment to the 1980 GMP as opposed to your previous idea of just updating the 1998 Elk Management Plan. I am also pleased to learn that your proposed action, Alternative B, is to remove the elk fence and free the elk from 45 years of confinement. I wholeheartedly support Alternative B. I note that since you identified removing the fence as the proposed action you have also decided to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) instead of an environmental impact statement (EIS). If you do ultimately decide to choose the fence removal alternative (Alternative B), and not another alternative to keep the elk captive, an EA seems legally sufficient. Furthermore, as I assume you know, the California Department of Fish & Wildlife's Elk Conservation and Management Plan of 2018 provides that all tule elk now captive (including Tomales Point) should be managed in a free-roaming state to the maximum extent possible. Retaining the fence would be in conflict with that management policy. The state plan also provides that steps must be taken to improve the habitat of captive elk pending their release.

Also, confining the elk, as is now occurring and would continue to occur under Alternatives A and C, violates the Wilderness Act. Finally, given the problems with Alternatives A and C, you need more feasible alternatives. More on all of that below.

#### COMMENTS ON PUBLIC SCOPING NEWSLETTER

The PSN states on page 1 that “[i]n furtherance of its government-to-government relationship with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (Tribe), the NPS will continue to collaborate with the Tribe to incorporate Tribal views and traditional ecological knowledge into the management of Tomales Point.” I support that sentiment, generally.

However, you must keep in mind that Congress has delegated to the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service the legal authority and responsibility for managing the units of the national park system and that authority cannot be redelegated outside NPS. Everything you do must be in compliance with all laws applicable to the National Park System, including, especially, the Organic Act and the Seashore legislation which both provide and require the protection of natural resources as the highest management priority. Any Tribal views or traditional ecological knowledge the Tribe wishes to be applied to the Seashore must be reviewed and determined by you to be consistent with those laws and must be adopted by you as the product of NPS's careful consideration and decision making. Such determinations must be made in writing at the time they are made and must be a matter of public record.

#### Tomales Point: History and Management

The PSN states on page 3 that “[i]n 1980, the NPS prepared a General Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore to provide guidance on the future management of the Seashore, including the Tomales Point area.” I have read the 1980 GMP several times over the years, including just now in writing these comments. It says nothing about how Tomales Point should be managed in the future, let alone how (and where) the newly arrived elk at Tomales Point should be managed in the future. There was only one mention of elk in the Seashore at all which was, simply:

Restoration of historic natural conditions (such as reestablishment of Tule elk) will continue to be implemented when such actions will not seriously diminish scenic and recreational values.

1980 GMP, page 96.

Not only does this tiny snippet of text about the elk in Point Reyes National Seashore involve no discussion and decision about the appropriateness of keeping the elk captive at Tomales Point, it also shows NPS planners had no idea that protecting and restoring natural conditions/natural resources was and still is the highest management priority in all units of the national park system under the 1916 NPS Organic Act and that scenic and recreational values, and all other values, are legally subservient to the protection and restoration of natural resources. For more on this point, see page 8 below.

The 1980 GMP said very little that was specific as to any area of the Seashore. The vast majority of things covered in that GMP were specific to GGNRA. Only if there were such a decision in the 1980 GMP to keep the elk at Tomales Point under captive conditions would the 1998 Elk Management Plan have been appropriate under NPS planning policy. That is beyond question in reading NPS planning policy.



The PSN goes on to state as follows:

The current planning effort will update the 1980 General Management Plan (GMP) for the Tomales Point area as an amendment to the 1980 GMP. The new plan will address the statutory elements required for a GMP.”

PSN, at 3.

At the beginning of this planning process PRNS talked of updating the 1998 Elk Management Plan and then going up the planning pyramid and, in a result-oriented fashion, changing the 1980 GMP to be consistent with a lower-level implementation plan which an updated 1998 Elk Management Plan would be. My previous letter of April 27, 2022, in response to your request for pre-scoping comments, dealt primarily with this point. That letter is incorporated herein by reference.

What is a GMP? A GMP “is a broad umbrella document that sets the long-term goals for the park.” [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/MP\\_2006.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/MP_2006.pdf), at 22. (Emphasis Added.)

Thank you for correcting this mistake and putting this planning process on the correct GMP upper-most level planning path. However, since the 1980 GMP did not consider or decide in any way how the Tomales Point area should be managed, let alone that the elk at Tomales Point should be kept locked up there, you should treat this as a new GMP, not as an amended GMP. The difference may seem minor to you, but it is important.

EA or EIS

Of course, now that we are on the correct course of dealing with a GMP, GMPs normally require an EIS as you did for the ranching area. In your initial scoping request in 2022, you stated that you anticipated doing an EIS. You have changed your thinking and are now going to do an EA. You have also changed from not stating what your alternatives would be in 2022 to saying you now propose removing the fence and managing Tomales Point as a national park unit is supposed to be managed with the first priority being the protection of natural resources, including the elk. The protection of natural resources is the highest priority in units of the national park system. *Bicycle Trails Council of Marin v. Babbitt*, 82 F.3d 1445, 1453 (9th Cir. 1996).

A GMP, and any amendment to a GMP, normally requires an EIS. That is because GMPs and amendments thereto normally have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment under NEPA's language. NPS's NEPA Handbook provides as follows:

A. EISs for general management plans

It is standard NPS practice and policy to prepare an EIS with your park's GMP . . . The implementing legislation for NPS, unlike that for other land and resource management agencies, requires conservation of park resources . . . Another important reason parks should prepare GMP EISs is that they are used to narrow the range of future choices. In other words, parks often use the GMP NEPA document to “tier” (see section 7.4) to more site-specific projects that implement some part of the GMP.

NPS DO-12 Handbook at 85 (Emphasis added.)

<https://www.nps.gov/goga/learn/management/upload/-1939-NPS-2001-DO-12-Handbook.pdf>

“[M]ore site-specific projects that implement some part of the GMP” in the above quote refers to implementation plans under NPS's planning policies.

Implementation Plans — These plans provide project-specific details needed to implement an action [from the GMP] in an area of a park and explain how the action(s) helps achieve long-term goals [of the GMP].

[https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/MP\\_2006.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/MP_2006.pdf), at 23.

Implementation plans, such as the 1998 Elk Management [Implementation] Plan, carry out in detail the more general decisions as to long-term goals made in their earlier, higher level, GMP. However, there was nothing in the 1980 GMP that decided that the elk should be confined to Tomales Point which would have triggered the need for a later implementation plan like the 1998 Elk Management Plan. Thus, there was no basis for the 1998 Elk Management Plan.

If you were proposing either your Alternative A or C, as opposed to Alternative B, an EIS would be required. But when you specify that the proposed action is to remove the elk fence and manage Tomales Point in a natural way that all units of the national park system are required to be managed, that raises the question of whether an EIS is necessary. I concur in your apparent belief that an EIS would not be necessary for Alternative B. More on this under my Alternatives discussion below.

#### Purpose and Need

Under Purpose and Need on page 5 are the following two statements:

Key components of the proposed plan include tule elk management, wilderness management, visitor use at Pierce [Point] Ranch and co-stewardship with the Tribe.

\*\*\*

The NPS has a General Agreement with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria that has established a partnership between the Tribe and the NPS for natural and cultural resource protection and stewardship, use of traditional ecological knowledge, education, research, revitalization of community and tradition, and the overall stewardship of Seashore lands and places.

(Emphasis and bolding added.)

Again, as on page 1 of the PSN, the PSN makes statements as to the role of Graton Rancheria regarding management of the Seashore which are troubling. My comments on page 1 above regarding the Tribe are incorporated herein by reference. I am all in favor of the Tribe and other Native Americans having a special role in the protection and management of Native American history, culture and artifacts, not to mention, of course, a general role, like all others, in commenting on other issues regarding park management or in volunteering assistance to PRNS in terms of things like the water tanks and troughs. But to the extent the Seashore appears to be delegating to the Tribe a management role that is independent of PRNS management and decision-making, that would be outside PRNS's authority to allow. That is not to say the Tribe can't propose something to PRNS that PRNS agrees with and implements after determining it is consistent with the laws and policies PRNS administers and is subject to (e.g., NEPA).

Alternative A: No Acton.

Also on page 5 is a discussion of the first alternative, Alternative A, the no action alternative. The PSN describes this alternative as follows:

This alternative, as required by NEPA, would continue the current management of Tomales Point and would not update zoning or land management guidance. The Tomales Point tule elk population would be managed as a confined herd, consistent with the State's original requirements for reintroduction and the 1998 tule elk management plan. The elk fence would remain at its current location and be maintained. Supplemental water infrastructure would remain in place and would be operated as needed.

PSN at 5. (Emphasis and bolding added.)

There are at least three reasons why PRNS cannot choose this alternative.

First, regardless of whether retaining the fence would be consistent with any alleged State requirement back in 1978 to have an elk-proof fence at Tomales Point, it is not consistent with the State's position today, which is what matters. The California Department of Fish & Wildlife's "Elk Conservation and Management Plan December 2018," rejects the idea of confined herds (there were three confined herds when the 2018 plan was prepared, including Tomales Point). Furthermore, the State's 2018 Plan requires some measures to provide increased forage for the three captive herds pending their release from captivity. PRNS claims NPS management policies prohibit it from providing forage for elk and/or other wildlife in times of drought or otherwise, but PRNS has never shown where in NPS's policies is a prohibition from providing forage to wildlife when they lack adequate forage and water, and they are being held captive, like animals in a zoo. The current PRNS policy of confining the Tomales Point herd and not doing anything to provide them with adequate habitat or forage is now clearly contrary to these new State policies. <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=162912&inline> at 451-464.

As the Cal F&W plan states, "[t]he management goals for the confined herds, [including Tomales Point] are to: 1) reduce the number of confined herds . . . and 2) enhance habitat within enclosures [of the confined herds]." Ibid, at 454.

With respect to that first goal of reducing the number of those three confined herds, Cal F&W goes on to state:

[A]rtificial conditions associated with their confinement are undesirable in the long term. The Department should shift objectives to emphasize managing tule elk in a free-roaming state to the maximum extent possible, as specified in the Management Plan for the Conservation of Tule Elk (Tule Elk Interagency Task Force 1985)."

Id. (Emphasis added.)

With respect to that second goal, Cal F&G's Plan states:

Habitat conditions within enclosures should be enhanced to provide a healthy environment for elk . . . Enhance elk habitats by at least 5% by 2028 . . . Work with NPS to identify/establish specific vegetation management thresholds for Tomales Point. Expected completion: 2021.

Id., at 456. (Emphasis added and red font in original.)

Tule elk are resident wildlife. As such, the State of California has primary jurisdiction over them and, thus, the plan applies, as a matter of policy, to the captive elk at Tomales Point. 43 C.F.R. Part 24. The EA should address all of this, including the status of discussions with Cal F&W regarding releasing the elk and enhancing their habitat until they are released. For example, please discuss whether the task of working with Cal F&W to “identify/establish specific vegetation management thresholds for Tomales Point,” as identified in the last quote above from the State Plan, has been completed.

Second, if PRNS were to ultimately choose this alternative of no action it would require a finding that an EIS is needed. A FONSI would not be justifiable. GMPs normally require EISs as discussed above. The only reason it can be argued that an EIS is not needed for Alternative B is because, unlike Alternatives A and C, it has virtually no significant negative impacts on the environment. It is an environmental correction of a very bad natural resource management policy that has had significant negative impacts to the Tomales Point environment for over 40 years and, if chosen, would continue to do so.

Third, keeping the elk locked up in a wilderness area also violates the Wilderness Act. The Wilderness Act defines Wilderness as follows:

(c) A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

16 U.S.C. §1131. (Emphasis added.)

The Act defines “wilderness” in part as “an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man.” NPS defines the word untrammelled as follows: “Essentially unhindered and free from the intentional actions of modern human control or manipulation.” NPS Reference Manual #41. [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/wilderness/upload/NPS-W-Defs\\_508.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/wilderness/upload/NPS-W-Defs_508.pdf)

While the fence itself is located just outside the wilderness boundary, it has tremendous effect on the “earth and its community of life” inside the fence. Elk, deer, and other wildlife cannot move freely, as they would do naturally. This also leads to overgrazing of the habitat (“earth”). The elk and other wildlife inside the fence are also not “unhindered and free” because of the fence and the fence exists due to “the intentional actions of modern human control or manipulation.”

The definition goes on to state that a wilderness is an area that is “protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions.” A fence built to hold wildlife captive in an area is not preserving “natural conditions.” Wildlife can't move or migrate as they would in nature and habitat suffers.

Does the area behind the fence, including the elk and other wildlife, “generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially

unnoticeable”? No. The elk and other wildlife held in by the fence are being affected primarily by the fence (“man’s work”), not the “forces of nature.” The habitat is also affected by the fence, especially when elk and deer are forced to overgraze, especially during droughts. If nature controlled, elk and other wildlife would be free to move outside the fence for food, water and breeding.

Alternative B. Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Point Ranch Core Area (NPS Proposed Action)

#### Preservation of Park Resources

Alternative B begins on page 6 and has three subheadings. The first subheading is preservation of park resources. It has eight bullet points.

The first bullet point states: “Remove existing elk fence. Consider adding a fence to exclude cattle from Tomales Point.”

I strongly support the Alternative B and this bullet point. Please specify that any cattle exclusion fencing would be of wildlife-friendly design.

The second bullet states: “Discontinue provision of supplemental water and minerals for tule elk. Remove all existing, non-historic supplementary water systems.”

Please specify that this would not include removal of the old stock ponds.

Also, there should be some discussion as to how quickly the water tanks and troughs should be removed. While the south elk herd is probably familiar with the elk fence, the other three herds are likely not familiar with it. The four herds have been captive for almost 45 years. It will take time for all herds but the south herd to learn that in times of drought moving far enough south will provide them with greater possibilities for water and forage.

The bullet point under Alternative C to enhance the availability of naturally occurring water at the springs and seeps at Tomales Point should be adopted here as well. Given that the elk at Tomales Point have always been held captive at Tomales Point since their ancestors were brought there 45 years ago, it will take a long time before numbers eventually come into equilibrium with the habitat in the northern portion of Tomales Point. The EA should discuss how to best compensate for the fact that some of these elk, especially those at the far north end of the peninsula, may never leave there even if it would be in their best interests to leave.

Finally, please discuss whether relocating some of these elk from the northern half of the peninsula to Limantour/Drakes Beach and vice versa may be worthwhile. Relocating for genetic benefits was discussed, as I recall, in the 1998 Elk Management Plan.

The third bullet states: “Retain historic, cultural landscape features, unless they are incompatible with natural resources.” (Emphasis added.)

It’s nice to finally see PRNS write that preservation of natural resources is the highest management priority in units of the national park system under the Organic Act, not to mention the Seashore legislation. The courts have already said that as to the Organic Act. *Bicycle Trails Council of Marin v. Babbitt*, 82 F.3d 1445, 1453 (9th Cir. 1996).

And, as the Seashore legislation states:

(a) Protection, restoration, and preservation of natural environment

[T]he property . . . shall be administered by the Secretary without impairment of its natural values, in a manner which provides for such recreational, educational, historic preservation, interpretation, and scientific research opportunities as are consistent with, based upon, and supportive of the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment.

16 U.S.C. § 459c-6. (Emphasis added.)

As stated in the quote, recreation, historic preservation, etc., must be “consistent with, based upon, and supportive of the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment.”

#### Alternative C: Maintain Elk Fence and Actively Manage Elk Population

The last alternative, Alternative C, is discussed on page 7. It would “include the same management recommendations as the NPS proposed action (Alternative B) with [certain] differences” as described in five bullet points.

The first bullet point states that the elk fence would not be removed. This sounds more like Alternative A, the no action alternative, than Alternative B, which calls for removing the fence.

The second bullet point provides that excess elk numbers would be shot instead of dying during droughts due to lack of adequate rainfall and forage. Such an action would require a permit from Cal F&W. 43 C.F.R. § 24.4 (5) (ii).

Like Alternative A, this alternative, if chosen, would be inconsistent with the State's 2018 Elk Conservation and Management Plan for the reasons given in my discussion under Alternative A. It would also require an EIS, not an EA, for the same reasons I discussed under Alternative A. My discussions regarding Alternative A as to the State's 2018 Elk Plan and NEPA are incorporated herein by reference. Finally, keeping them locked up is a violation of the Wilderness Act as explained under Alternative A above which is incorporated herein by reference.

The third bullet point calls for removing non-historic supplementary water systems but calls for enhancing the availability of naturally occurring water at the springs and seeps. This is something that should be done under Alternative B as well because while elk in the south herd may move southward to some degree in the relatively near future after the elk fence is removed, the degree to which the other three herds will migrate at all is entirely unknown.

#### More alternatives

In my view, there are so many things wrong with Alternatives A and C that you need to come up with more alternatives to meet NEPA requirements. One possible alternative would be to improve the natural springs and seeps like you mention in Alternative C, plus add relocating some of these elk from the northern half of the peninsula to Limantour/Drakes Beach and vice versa. Relocating for genetic benefits was discussed, as I recall, in the 1998 Elk Management Plan.

#### CONCLUSION

I am pleased to say that I can support this latest administrative action by the Seashore, assuming the proposed action is chosen. Adopting Alternative B is the only alternative that

supports not doing an EIS. It is also the only alternative that is consistent with Cal F&W's Elk Conservation and Management Plan of 2018 and the Wilderness Act.

Sincerely, s/James A. Coda

**Correspondence ID: 23382**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Please continue to give the Tule Elk easy access to water in their natural environment. I am writing to support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Giovanna Capone

**Correspondence ID: 23386**

I am writing today to provide my comments on the NPS proposal for the management of Tule Elk on the Point Reyes National Seashore.

I had previously written in the preliminary scoping period to provide my thoughts regarding the need to improve the management of Elk on these public lands. Of course, my comments spoke of the need to diminish the influence of livestock interests which are being given far too much leniency and latitude on their behavior in these parklands.

I was happy to see that the NPS proposal has improved the management situation, but more can and must be done to benefit the Tule Elk population living in the Park.

Please consider and make changes to the final decision on the following points:

1.) The best option is Alternative B, which is the NPS preferred option. I support Alternative B to be implemented. Removal of structures in the designated Wilderness is entirely appropriate (and far overdue in my opinion). Removal of the fence just outside of the Wilderness boundary is also the right thing to do. Alternatives A and C must be opposed because they both would degrade the quality and character of the designated Wilderness and would endanger the continued viability of the Park's rare Tule Elk population.

However, I believe that there are some important changes to Alternative B that should be incorporated into the final Record of Decision. Please consider these changes, as outlined in the following four points.

A.) Remove all water structures unlawfully built in the designated Wilderness. Of course, this removal must be done legally, in other words, it can only be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

B.) Eliminate private grazing of livestock on parklands. Livestock should no longer be allowed in Point Reyes N.S. or the designated Wilderness therein. This is simply the realization of the original agreements made with the establishment of the National Seashore.

C.) Do not allow the use of herbicides in the designated Wilderness. The use of herbicides is an unnatural process that violates the Wilderness Act.

D.) Let the NPS policy allow natural fires to burn and thereby shape the wilderness landscape. This is preferable to using unnatural managed fire to create artificial conditions. This will also improve the situation with unwanted non-native invasive plants.

Please modify Alternative B as outlined above and make this modified Alternative B the final ROD.

**Correspondence ID: 23390**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Look forward to NPS listening and acting on the public's wishes. Time for change.

Sincerely, Sal Fish

**Correspondence ID: 23398**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the current state of the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve within Point Reyes National Seashore. Specifically, I wish to voice my opposition to the presence of a fence that poses a significant threat to the welfare of the park's largest herd of Tule elk. It is my strong belief that fences and the confinement of animals have no rightful place within the boundaries of our national park units.

In light of the above, I urge the National Park Service to adopt the more favorable "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve. This alternative entails the removal of the fence, which



would, in turn, liberate the park's substantial Tule elk population. I firmly believe that the coexistence of these majestic animals with fencing restrictions is incompatible with the essence and purpose of our national parks.

Furthermore, I implore the National Park Service to officially revoke the existing regulation outlined in the General Management Plan. This regulation sanctions the killing, or "culling," of elk in the other two herds. This becomes a particularly critical issue when considering the potential for intermingling between herds following the removal of the fence. My stance is resolute – I stand against any form of lethal "management" of our nation's wild animals within the protected confines of our national parks.

Lastly, I would like to draw attention to a pressing concern that directly affects the health and well-being of the Tule elk at Point Reyes National Seashore. The presence of private cattle operations in the vicinity poses a grave threat to the elk population. These operations expose the elk to harmful fecal bacteria present in soil, streams, and ponds, as well as manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. It is worth noting that a 1979 study cited by the NPS revealed that half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. The continued coexistence of private cattle operations within our national parks is, in my opinion, incompatible with the overarching mission and purpose of these protected natural spaces.

In closing, I extend my gratitude to the National Park Service for its commitment to soliciting and considering public input on this vital issue. The protection and preservation of our national parks and their inhabitants are a shared responsibility that requires our collective vigilance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely, Milan Lazich

**Correspondence ID: 23399**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to REMOVE THE FENCE and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk.

Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially RESCIND the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until PRIVATE CATTLE OPERATIONS ARE REMOVED because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease.

The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

This should have been done years ago. It is long past time to do the right thing.

Thank you, Sincerely, Ms. Mary Hirose

**Correspondence ID: 23421**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. There is very little as important to me than to see the wildlife in our parks being treated fairly and safely because they have a very important place in the history of our country as they help to make our world beautiful and we must respect nature as much as possible. It is urgently important that the fence be removed and for your kind consideration, I sincerely thank you

Sincerely, Mrs Constance C Mogull

**Correspondence ID: 23456**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Please take down the fences and give these Elk a chance for life.

We all need freedom.

FREE THE TULE ELK!!!!!!!

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Kimberly Wyke

**Correspondence ID: 23460**

Please adopt option B. Remove the fence to make food and water available to the Tule Elk. They are the native residents of the park; NOT the cattle and the ranchers !!

Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 23491**

As a long time resident of the north bay I approve of the dismantling of the fence that holds our Tule elk. Point Reyes is for the enjoyment of The American people to experience the wonder of the landscape, the fence harms natural resources for the benefit of a small minority of ranchers.

**Correspondence ID: 23493**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I have met the elks at the Grand Canyon. They used to hang out at the free water wells near the public parking lots. We would pump the water for them to drink, then fill our own coolers out in the desert.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Jill Auld

**Correspondence ID: 23496**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

It is very clear here about what the humane and logical thing to do is. I cannot for the life of me understand why this situation exists so I am AGAIN contacting you about it.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and

manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Jean Trapani

**Correspondence ID: 23503**

I assisted with rare plant monitoring at Point Reyes for many years and observed many transgressions by ranchers. Here are my comments:

Please execute Alternative B, Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

Thank you, National Park Service, for finally listening to the overwhelming voice of the public and removing the elk fence from Point Reyes. Fences are inappropriate in wilderness, and cattle should not be prioritized over wild animals.

Cattle operations are no longer appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ceased to honor the true charter of our Seashore, stated in the Point Reyes Enabling Legislation as "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment within the area," and in the Organic Act of 1916 as to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

**Correspondence ID: 23511**

Do the right thing!

**Correspondence ID: 23526**

Our family thanks the NPS for the proposal to remove the deadly fence that cause the horrible deaths of many Tule Elk. They deserve to live free to roam the park and not be restrained from fresh water and appropriate feeding areas. Please don't support the ranchers who want to use public land to raise cattle and make money and eventually will ruin the beauty of the park!

Thank you for thinking of the Tule Elk!

Sincerely, the Kerzner's; Audrey & Eric

**Correspondence ID: 23532**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Please return to the Park Service mission of preservation, not private ranching. As a former GS-7 park ranger when the service was true, witnessing the various actions to eliminate native elk to favor private elite ranchers was appalling.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, kathleen barrett

**Correspondence ID: 23544**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

Our wildlife should be free to roam on their land.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Cerelda De Heus

**Correspondence ID: 23557**

The wildlife (elks) were there first. It's time to stop catering to the cattle farmers. Please remove the fence that prevents the elk from doing what they were created to do. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 23559**

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to choose Alternative B, called "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area" with the goal of freeing the Tule Elk and protect the Point Reyes habitat for all species that depend on Point Reyes. It is unconscionable to prevent sentient beings to die of thirst and starvation with an intact fence. If elk are freed they should be allowed to roam free and not be victim to culling or hazing--why remove the fence if the elk will still be killed by other heinous means? The interests of private cattle operations should not be elevated above the health of an entire ecosystem. We humans are eliminating millions of species. Private cattle operations should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and

historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion.

**Correspondence ID: 23561**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our tax payer supported national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

Cattle operators should not be using public supported lands for their personal income operations! They should pay for their own land and raise their cattle there.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Janet Enoch

**Correspondence ID: 23563**

Having read the various proposals, I favor Alternative C. I feel the herd numbers should be limited to maintain the health of the elk. And I favor the continuation of ranching, which fencing would enable.

Thank you, Jeri Jacobson

**Correspondence ID: 23571**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. Remove fence now and leave this poor animals alone !!

**Correspondence ID: 23573**

Please do not remove the fence containing the elk herds. West Marin needs to retain and support the dairy ranches. So much of the area's history, economy and community culture are based on having sustainable dairy ranches in the park.

**Correspondence ID: 23576**

8,439.71 travel miles but mostly 5,232 travel miles to Singapore.

2,342 travel miles to Hawaii.

That's the distance California dairy products have been found in stores, because these island states and countries don't have the infrastructure or resources to have their own. Even more

surprising: NY state, which boasts one of the largest dairy producing states in the country, is importing more dairy products than it used to because the dairy communities are dwindling. Americans will continue to use dairy products and dairy communities are in jeopardy everywhere. One person just said, "just go farm somewhere else." Let's examine this more closely.

The Bay Area is not an island country/state and we don't have to be. Currently, the Bay Area can boast that it can get local dairy products from less than 100 miles away. The park hosts 5 of the 18 remaining dairies (approximately 28%) left in Marin County .

The Bay Area is perceived as a model food system to strive for. Not to be dramatic, but the park system has a huge decision to make: by closing down the few precious dairy farms in the park, you are effectively crushing the infrastructure of the few remaining dairies in the region. Veterinarians, equipment shops, mechanics and all businesses that work with our local dairies will be affected as well. We need the park to honor the spirit of this park when it was established and continue to work with the remaining farmers.

Please take the time to understand how vital these small farms are, how challenging it is to run these farms and appreciate what role they play in our community at large. As a more global community, we have the opportunity to show how we can be part of many solutions that we so desperately need.

I also want to support Alternate C which allows the Park to maintain the Elk Fence and actively manage its population. In a time of extremes, moderation is so vital and alternate C does just that.

Thank you.

Miriam Straus

**Correspondence ID: 23585**

September 25, 2023

National Park Service

Point Reyes National Seashore

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Submitted via website: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=131377>

Re: Tomales Point Area Plan - Public Scoping Comment Period

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Project Coyote and our California supporters, we urge the National Park Service (NPS) to support the protection of Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) resources and wildlife, which we believe is best articulated in Alternative B of the Tomales Point Area Plan. This Alternative would not only remove the controversial and ecologically indefensible Tule elk fence, allowing for critically important movement of this imperiled species, but it would also address

management of other significant cultural and natural resources in the Tomales Point Area, including habitat restoration and trail improvements.

Project Coyote is a national non-profit organization based in Marin County, California. We have more than 60,000 supporters, activists, advisors, volunteers and staff working together to promote compassionate conservation and coexistence between people and wildlife through education, science, and advocacy. Our supporters include nationally and internationally recognized scientists, educators, ranchers, political leaders and everyday citizens who strive to change laws and policies to protect native carnivores from abuse and mismanagement, advocating for human-wildlife coexistence instead of killing. We seek to change negative attitudes toward wolves, bobcats, mountain lions, coyotes and other misunderstood predators by replacing ignorance and fear with understanding, respect and appreciation. Thousands of our members and supporters live and work in California, and many are regular visitors to Point Reyes, a federally designated protected area, where they partake in hiking, camping, birdwatching, photography, wildlife observation and study, kayaking, and beach-going.

As you develop the Tomales Point Area Plan, we ask that you consider the following and evaluate opportunities and strategies to:

1. Ensure cattle do not enter the wilderness area once the 8-foot elk fence is removed;
2. Enhance and restore habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife within the planning area;
3. Develop fire management practices within the planning area to maintain healthy ecosystems and natural processes;
4. Inventory and restore native coastal prairies within the planning area;
5. Assess climate-related impacts on water resources and native vegetation within the planning area;
6. Increase public access, use and enjoyment via new trails, camping, and other activities that integrate the planning area into a parkwide trail network;
7. Expand public education and interpretation of Native American culture and history in consultation with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and other descendants of Coast Miwok inhabitants;
8. Improve public education and interpretation about the Tomales Point elk and their role in the ecology of the Point Reyes peninsula.

The Tule elk have suffered greatly for decades trapped behind this fence. As reported by your own agency, hundreds have died due to lack of water and proper forage. Further protections for the elk should be administered, including removing all cattle in Point Reyes National Seashore. Tule elk can contract diseases from manure from these domestic animals.

The law requires that the NPS seek to implement the most protection and least detrimental consequences to the environment (including wildlife, water and soil) in its management and oversight of the PRNS. Alternative B is the single best option to accomplish this mandate.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Respectfully submitted,



Camilla H. Fox

Sarah Killingsworth

Project Coyote Founder & Executive Director Advisory Board Member

(415) 945-3232

cfox@projectcoyote.org

**Correspondence ID: 23586**

I am in favor of alternative C. I do not support policies that will lead to shutting down ranching and farming. What ever happened to the farm to table movement and sourcing our food locally.

**Correspondence ID: 23589**

I'm writing to urge that alternative "B" be implemented, having the fence at Tomales Point be entirely removed. It is not necessary, and indeed is detrimental to the elk and the entire ecosystem. The elk are important to me because they are beings in their own right, but also they are a part of my ancestors' cultural belief system. My great-grandfather had spiritual ties to the elk, and these ties need to be honored today for his descendants. Aside from that, the biology course I took at Mount San Antonio College, Humans and the Environment, including the lab, informs my view that this fence ought to be removed especially so the ecosystem can be restored, and other wildlife will not be harmed. California, its people and its wildlife, are facing many challenges at the moment with heat, drought, wildfire, storms, etc. Why not make things a little better if you can, and you can, with the removal of this fence that is harming natural resources?

Thank you for reading my views, and have nice day.

**Correspondence ID: 23591**

Take care of them as you would your own beloved domesticated pet. We are here on this planet to help heal and nurture. If you have what it takes as a kind hearted human you will do so.

Thank you.

- Tessa

**Correspondence ID: 23599**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks, including wild horses & burros.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including John's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that

found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. K.L. Eckhardt

**Correspondence ID: 23600**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

We need to make wildlife a priority--NOT cattle.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Lora Meisner

**Correspondence ID: 23603**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

Humans are causing millions of species to reach extinction. Taking down a fence is the least we can do in this situation for at least this one species.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Sally Phillips

**Correspondence ID: 23604**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I strongly support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue and look forward to seeing you take the necessary steps to protect these and other magnificent wild creatures at Point Reyes National Seashore!

Sincerely, Ms. Alexandra Phelan

**Correspondence ID: 23612**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I am grateful to the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

I absolutely support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Ms. Janet Williams

**Correspondence ID: 23620**

My family have been going to Point Reyes for decades, and have always thought it incongruous and odd to have dairy cattle out there on National Seashore land. There are lots of other places for cattle. There are, however, VERY FEW places for elk. Please change policy and preserve their habitat!

**Correspondence ID: 23623**

Craig Kenkel

Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore

National Park Service

September 25, 2023

Re: Tomales Point Area Plan Comment

Dear Mr. Kenkel,

We are writing on behalf of our clients Jack Gescheidt, Laura Chariton, and the Animal Legal Defense Fund in response to your letter dated August 25, 2023, requesting comments to inform the planning effort for the Tomales Point Area. Please visit the following link for a formatted, pdf version of the below comments: <https://perma.cc/HRY2-EPYV>

1. Introduction.

We strongly encourage the National Park Service (NPS) to implement its proposed action plan, the Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP) public scoping newsletter Alternative "B," with certain modifications. NPS must remove the Tomales Point elk fence, which prevents the Tule elk from gaining access to water and forage south of Tomales Point and has led to the suffering and death of hundreds of elk in recent years. Taking no action or culling the elk (identified by NPS as "Alternative A" and "Alternative C," respectively) are both unacceptable alternatives that would utterly fail to conserve this invaluable native Tule elk population.

At the outset, we wish to lodge a complaint about the timing and manner in which NPS is receiving comments. This is a matter of great public significance; however, the process has been fashioned to prevent the public from submitting evidentiary support, including supportive documents and images. Future public comment processes, including the process by which the public will be asked to comment on the EA, must be modified to allow for submission of pdf documents and images. Furthermore, the comment period opened at the end of summer, just before Labor Day, which is one of the most heavily vacated times of the year. NPS then refused to extend the comment period to allow more time for comments.

NPS has stated in the public scoping newsletter that "this planning is separate from the recent General Management Plan Amendment, which addressed leased lands for ranching in the Seashore and the management of elk on those lands." We are writing, in part, to clarify that the scope of issues for this proposal must include the impact of cows on the Tule elk once the Tomales Point population of elk migrates south of the elk fence. As a legal matter, under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the scope of issues for this proposed action plan cannot be limited solely to Tomales Point and the area north of the fence. [1] NPS must recognize that, without the fence, the Tomales Point Tule elk will move about the Point

Reyes National Seashore, including the area south of the fence, and thus the scope of issues should not be limited to their area of confinement before the fence removal.

Per the proposed Alternative B, NPS will “[c]onsider adding a fence to exclude cattle from Tomales Point.” To be effective, the TPAP must include a definitive plan for removing cattle operations. Non-native cows harm native species, including Tule elk, through pollution, disease, and resource competition. Ranches pollute the land, streams, lagoons, bays and ocean with cow manure and urine and manure-borne diseases, including Johne's disease. Such agricultural operations limit the public's access to the National Park. Ranches fence off 28,000 acres—one third of the entire park—from the public and indigenous wildlife.

Additionally, per the proposed Alternative B, NPS will “[d]iscontinue provision of supplemental water and minerals for tule elk” and “[r]emove all existing, non-historic supplementary water systems.” We encourage NPS to reconsider, as the supplemental water program should remain in place for at least the next two summer-autumn seasons of 2023 and 2024. The Tomales Point elk have formed four sub-herds of fenced-in elk—the North herd, the Plateau herd, the White Gulch herd, and the South herd. It will take time for the northern-most sub-herds to migrate out of the previously fenced area, and supplemental water is still necessary for elk during this transition. Per consultation with wildlife ecologist Dr. Judd Howell, the elk will need time to relocate to alternative habitats. [2] Climate change will also continue to affect the region. Water tank removal may cause elk to experience dehydration in the short- and long-term, as California continues to face drought and other extreme weather conditions.

Since 2015, NPS has recognized the need for supplemental water. [3] In 2015, NPS acknowledged that “observations by park staff have confirmed that all but one of the remaining functional water basins . . . have gone completely dry for extended periods over the last two years” and there was a need to develop “a contingency plan for the delivery of supplemental water to the Tomales Point Elk in the event that drought conditions persist or become worse in the future.” [3] Despite this, NPS did not actually provide supplemental water until 2021. [4] Thus, the TPAP must include the provision of supplemental water at least through autumn 2024.

Finally, we encourage NPS to establish a plan to prevent illegal poaching and hazing of Tule elk, implement non-invasive methods to monitor the elk, and make corresponding amendments to the General Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore.

2. The Tule elk have suffered due to their confinement. Removing the elk fence is an important first step towards alleviating their suffering and returning them to a natural environment.

In 1978, NPS erected an eight-foot-tall fence around the Tomales Point peninsula to isolate the reintroduced elk from nearby ranches. The fence traverses the entire width of Tomales Point, preventing the elk from accessing any food or water south of the fence. In 1998, NPS issued its Tule Elk Management Plan, which was intended to govern the management of the elk for no more than ten years—i.e., until 2008. This plan remains in place today, 23 years later.

Since 1986, NPS has been on notice that the elk were likely to experience “die-offs or nutritionally related problems” during “periods of drought.” [5] In 1993, the Park Service's own Scientific Advisory Panel noted that a passive management plan for the Tule elk population would harm the Tule elk due to decreased forage, stating, “[w]e can reliably predict that if such a strategy is employed the Tule elk will seasonably be malnourished and appear less 'healthy,' and that dead and dying animals will become more evident.” [6]

Foreseeably, the Scientific Advisory Panel's prediction came to fruition: the inability of elk to access food or water outside of the fenced area has had dire consequences. Starvation and dehydration are killing the Tomales Point Tule elk in large numbers. Between 2012 and 2015, the Tule elk population crashed from 540 elk to 283, a loss of 257 elk. [7]

By 2019, the herd's population had grown to 445, but in 2020, 152 elk died, and the population crashed to 293 elk. [7] During the summer of 2020, visitors to the seashore witnessed emaciated, dying, and dead elk who lacked access to water. [8] Subsequent necropsies confirmed that these elk had died of starvation or dehydration. [9] In contrast, the population of free-ranging herds remained relatively stable during 2020, showing that these declines were avoidable consequences of unnatural confinement. Once again, in 2021, 25% of the remaining elk (72 elk) died due to a lack of food and water. It is "wasteful, unethical, and inhumane" to starve the Tule elk to death. [10] Removing the fence will allow the herd to stabilize and reduce unnecessary elk suffering.

Genetic diversity within the elk herds was already a concern when the 1998 Elk Management Plan was published, and the problem has only gotten worse. Genetic isolation is a predictor of population extinction, as "[t]he survival of small, isolated populations depends on incorporating active genetic management into conservation strategies." [11] This is a major concern, since all Point Reyes Tule elk are descendants of the ten original elk brought to the Reserve in 1978.

As early as 1998, NPS has acknowledged that reductions in population size result in "genetic bottlenecks" that threaten the diversity of the herds and the herds' long-term survival. [12] The 1998 plan "recommended periodically introducing a few Tule elk from elsewhere to the herd at the Reserve to enhance its genetic diversity." [12] However, this has never happened. Removing the fence would free the Tule elk and allow them to interact with free-ranging elk herds, encouraging genetic diversity.

3. The TPAP must definitively phase out cows from commercial agricultural operations, which have a negative environmental impact and do not belong in a national park. Pollution and poor management result in the risk of disease transmission, destruction of wildlife, and harm to historical sites and culture.

Cattle ranches are a major threat to the Tule elk. The Tule elk are a native species, and the cows are non-native: protecting the elk must be a priority for the NPS. In 2010, a dissertation produced in cooperation with the Park Service explained that "[g]iven the predicted future abundances of elk and the close proximity of current elk range with ranches, conflicts between elk and local ranchers are likely to occur within the next ten years at [Point] Reyes." [13] It therefore "strongly encouraged" Park Service managers at Point Reyes "to develop a proactive plan to address this issue." [13] Thirteen years later, it is more vital than ever that NPS address this issue in the TPAP.

The proactive plan should be to remove destructive commercial ranches from the park. Commercial ranches are environmentally destructive for-profit operations that place egregious costs on the Tule elk, Southern Pomo, and the public. Environmental groups and the California Coastal Commission have each criticized the ranches for violating the Clean Water Act, allowing "raw sewage leaks," elevating human and bovine fecal matter in water samples, and allowing cows to trample native plants, among other issues. [14] Cow manure has severely impaired surface water quality in the Drakes Estero Watershed and Drakes Bay Watershed. [15]

In considering the need to remove cows from the Point Reyes National Seashore, NPS should respect the view expressed by the Coast Miwok Tribal Council of Marin opposing the “systematic killing of Tule elk,” and opposing ranching leases as causing “continued desecration of native sites” that prioritizes commercial agriculture over “the original Native people, lands, and wildlife of Point Reyes National Seashore.” [16]

So long as cows are allowed in Point Reyes National Seashore, ranchers must be responsible for fencing in their own cows and controlling the spread of Johne's disease. Johne's disease is a gastrointestinal bacterial infection that spreads through fecal matter and is “chronic, contagious, and usually fatal.” [17] Typically, symptoms will not appear until months or years after infection, making it difficult to identify infected animals and stop the spread of the disease. “For every obvious case of Johne's disease (Stage IV) among dairy cattle on the farm, 15 to 25 other animals are likely infected.” [17]

While Johne's occurs most frequently in domestic agricultural herds, the disease has been documented in Tule elk at Tomales Point Elk Reserve. Beginning in 2015, elk were collected from the Drakes Beach and Limantour herds and taken to the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory at UC Davis for full necropsy and higher sensitivity Johne's testing. A small number of bull elk from the Drakes Beach herd tested positive for the bacterium that causes Johne's disease. [18] Johne's disease poses a serious danger to Tule elk if the ranchers do not fence their cattle and humanely take the steps necessary to control and prevent the spread of the disease. [19]

The ranches at the park are for-profit commercial operations. [20] Given the costs that the ranches impose upon the environment, local wildlife, Coast Miwok people, and national park visitors, the ranchers should account for the externalities and pay the costs of fencing their cows, as necessary, after the removal of the elk fence.

To protect elk from disease, the TPAP must definitively and specifically address the separation of cows and elk populations. Such modifications prioritize the welfare of the Tule elk and prevent further harm to wildlife while also safeguarding the public's enjoyment of public lands and individuals' aesthetic interests therein. [21]

4. The TPAP must establish a plan to avoid conflict and the killing of elk.

Illegal poaching and hunting of adult males can have devastating consequences for Tule elk herds. [22] NPS must monitor illegal poaching and harassment. As elk will have greater access to ranch lands, NPS must impose severe financial penalties for rancher elk hazing, attacks, and shooting, both lethal and non-lethal. NPS should monitor ranches with the use of radio, satellites, and/or cameras. We discourage the use of invasive monitoring techniques on the elk; frequent population counts are both non-invasive and produce useful information about herd health. Moreover, when violations of law are detected, NPS must ensure that penalties for illegal poaching, harassment, and hazing of elk are adequate to deter conduct such as by terminating leases and pursuing law enforcement actions.

5. NPS should build protections for Tule elk directly into the General Management Plan.

“Tule Elk are a symbol for conservation efforts in California over the last century. Tule Elk are also considered an important Focal or Umbrella Species as Tule Elk range and ecological niche covers such a large area of California's landscape. Protecting the landscape for large, free

roaming species (like Tule Elk) enhances the conservation and protection efforts of so many other species of California.” [23] NPS must consider this when amending the General Management Plan (GMP).

In 1980, the Park Service issued a GMP for the Seashore that established general management objectives for the park. The GMP provides that “[r]estoration of historical natural conditions (such as reestablishment of Tule elk) will continue to be implemented when such actions will not seriously diminish scenic and recreational values.” [24] In September 2021, the Park Service issued an amendment to the 1980 GMP that expressly excluded the fenced elk population at Tomales Point.

The 2021 GMP Amendment indicates that “aggressive hazing” with beanbag shots and “lethal removal” are a part of the Park’s plan for elk management and protection of ranchers’ interests outside of Tomales Point. [25] Natural wildlife in a National Park should not be harassed, harmed, or killed, especially not to promote commercial agriculture. Thus, when NPS removes the fence, the Tomales Point elk and broader Tule elk populations should not be subject to this amendment or to any hazing or culling, and these management policies should be revised to prioritize environmental stewardship over ranching interests.

The National Parks and Recreation Act requires the Park Service to revise GMPs for all park units, including the Seashore, “in a timely manner.” [26] NPS has unreasonably delayed revising the GMP for Tomales Point for over forty years. NPS must now comply with its legal duty to revise the GMP by issuing a TPAP that amends the GMP as it relates to the Tomales Point population of Tule elk. Such a revision should provide protections for the elk population as they inevitably migrate South of the former fence location – including by prohibiting the use of any hazing or culling of the migrating elk.

The TPAP must further address how NPS plans to monitor the Tomales Point elk as they migrate South of their former locations. Will the Tomales Point elk continue to be monitored as a separate herd with the South, North, Plateau, and White Gulch sub-herds even when they potentially intermix with the two currently free-ranging Drakes Beach and Limantour herds? How will the offspring of the Tomales Point herd and non-Tomales Point herds be classified? The Tomales Point herd should not be assimilated into the other herds’ population thresholds/carrying capacities as a thinly veiled excuse to cull elk and prioritize the interests of ranchers. NPS should describe how it will accommodate the influx of Tomales Point elk into the rest of Point Reyes National Seashore, protecting and preserving this native species, which necessarily involves amendment to the GMP.

## 6. Conclusion

The plans identified by NPS as “Alternative A” and “Alternative C” are both unacceptable options; Alternative “B” is the most appropriate, with further modifications indicated herein. Fencing in the Tomales Point Tule elk has resulted in numerous problems for the elk and has ultimately caused the inhumane suffering and death of confined wild animals. Continued fencing will only allow these problems to persist, due to recurring droughts and climate change. Removing the fence would address unstable population drops, starvation, genetic isolation, disease, and unnecessary suffering, while restoring some of the historical and cultural identity of the area as it existed before the commercial ranching operations took over. While NPS has attempted to manage potential conflicts between elk and ranches, the ultimate solution is to remove the ranches and remove cows from Point Reyes National Seashore. Commercial



industry that harms wildlife and the environment, damages historical sites, and promotes disease has no place in a national park. Finally, NPS must take affirmative measures to provide supplemental water and protect the elk from dehydration at least through August 2024.

In considering the public comments on this scoping newsletter, NPS should also reference previous comments submitted by the Harvard Law School Animal Law & Policy Clinic to NPS on May 9, 2022, as well as plaintiffs' briefing, declarations, and exhibits associated with *Gescheidt et al v. Haaland et al*, Docket No. 4:21-cv-04734 (N.D. Cal.) (case for which NPS is a party), including those cited within the above comments. NPS should also reference the countless comments submitted as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the General Management Plan amendment process in 2019, which reference the negative impact that cows from ranches have upon the Tule elk. [27] Because NPS has prevented submission of attachments, we expect these documents to form part of the administrative record for this proceeding and such documents, including the declarations and exhibits cited herein, and a representative sample of comments from the Draft EIS, can be found at <https://perma.cc/Y8GX-KSBC>. Should NPS require submission of copies of these documents in a different manner, please contact Rebecca Garverman at [rgarverman@law.harvard.edu](mailto:rgarverman@law.harvard.edu) with the preferred manner of submission.

Sincerely, Hallie Aylesworth

Research Assistant | Harvard Animal Law & Policy Clinic

[haylesworth.jd24@hlsclinics.org](mailto:haylesworth.jd24@hlsclinics.org)

R. Elliott DeRiso

Student Clinician | Harvard Animal Law & Policy Clinic

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Christian Suarez

Animal Legal Defense Fund

[csuarez@aldf.org](mailto:csuarez@aldf.org)

[1] See 40 CFR § 1509.1, “[a]gencies shall use an early and open process to determine the scope of issues . . . .” (NEPA implementing regulations).

[2] E-mail from Judd Howell, PhD., to Animal L. and Pol’y Clinic, Harvard L. Sch. (Sept. 20, 2023, 12:32 EST) (Attachment A, <https://perma.cc/Y8GX-KSBC>).

[3] Exhibit 11, *Gescheidt v. Haaland*, No. 4:21-cv-04734-HSG (N.D. Cal. June 24, 2021).

[4] Unprecedented Drought Prompts Point Reyes National Seashore to Provide Supplemental Water for Tule Elk at Tomales Point, National Park Service (June 11, 2021),

<https://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/news/newsreleases-20210611-water-for-tomales-point-tule-elk.htm>.

[5] Peter John Patrick Gogan, *Ecology of the Tule Elk Range, Point Reyes National Seashore* 321 (1986) (Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Berkeley).

[6] Dale R. McCullough, et al., *Report of the Scientific Advisory Panel on Control of Tule Elk on Point Reyes National Seashore* 5–6 (1993).

[7] *Tule Elk at Tomales Point FAQ*, National Park Service, (Aug. 14, 2023), [https://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/nature/tule\\_elk\\_tomales\\_point\\_faq.htm](https://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/nature/tule_elk_tomales_point_faq.htm).

[8] *Gescheidt Decl. Ex. C*, at ¶¶ 4, 6, *Gescheidt v. Haaland*, No. 4:21-cv-04734-HSG (N.D. Cal. June 24, 2021); *Chariton Decl. Ex. D*, at ¶¶ 5–6, *Gescheidt v. Haaland*, No. 4:21-cv-04734-HSG (N.D. Cal. June 24, 2021).

[9] *Howell Decl. Ex. G*, at ¶ 5, *Gescheidt v. Haaland*, No. 4:21-cv-04734-HSG (N.D. Cal. June 24, 2021); *Allen Decl. Ex. F*, at ¶ 5, *Gescheidt v. Haaland*, No. 4:21-cv-04734-HSG (N.D. Cal. June 24, 2021).

[10] Reginald H. Barrett et al., *Re: Science and Management of Tule Elk at Point Reyes National Seashore* 1 (2021).

[11] Katherine Ralls et al., *Call for a Paradigm Shift in the Genetic Management of Fragmented Populations*, 11 *Conservation Letters* 1, 2 (2018).

[12] *Point Reyes National Seashore Tule Elk Management Plan and Assessment*, 1998, at 39.

[13] McCrea Andrew Cobb, *Spatial Ecology and Population Dynamics of Tule Elk (Cervus elaphus nannodes) at Point Reyes National Seashore, California* (2010) (Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Berkeley).

[14] Rita Beamish, *Can Cattle and Tule Elk Co-Exist at Point Reyes National Seashore?*, *National Parks Traveler* (June 2022), <https://www.nationalparkstraveler.org/2022/06/can-cattle-and-tule-elk-co-exist-point-reyes-national-seashore>.

[15] Douglas W. Lovell, *Report: Surface Water Monitoring Conducted October 2021 through January 2022: Investigation of Cattle Waste Impacts on Surface Water Quality*, ii (2022).

[16] *Letter from Coast Miwok Tribal Council of Marin to Deb Haaland, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior* (June 3, 2021). NPS should also respect its 2021 GMP agreement with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria which recognizes the Tule elk's "cultural significance to the Tribe" and commits to collaborative management "to include tribal views and traditional ecological knowledge."

[17] *Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Johne's Disease*, United States Department of Agriculture (May 30, 2023), <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/nvap/NVAP-Reference-Guide/Control-and-Eradication/Johne's-Disease#:~:text=Johne's disease is a contagious,avium subsp.>

[18] *Johne's Disease FAQs*, National Park Service, (May 28, 2020) [https://www.nps.gov/pore/getinvolved/planning\\_tule\\_elk\\_johne\\_s\\_disease\\_faq.htm#:~:text=John e's disease, or paratuberculosis, is,many months to years later.](https://www.nps.gov/pore/getinvolved/planning_tule_elk_johne_s_disease_faq.htm#:~:text=John e's disease, or paratuberculosis, is,many months to years later.)

[19] Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Johne's Disease, United States Department of Agriculture (May 30, 2023),

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/nvap/NVAP-Reference-Guide/Control-and-Eradication/Johne-Disease#:~:text=Johne's disease is a contagious,avium subsp.>

[20] Curtis Seufert et al., Cleaning up the Mess: The Problem of Point Reyes National Seashore, The University of British Columbia: Open Case Studies (last visited Sept. 15, 2023), <https://cases.open.ubc.ca/cleaning-up-the-mess-the-problem-of-point-reyes-national-seashore/>.

[21] See, e.g., Thomas Decl. Ex. E, at ¶ 8, *Gescheidt v. Haaland*, No. 4:21-cv-04734-HSG (N.D. Cal. Nov. 24, 2021) (“Witnessing these scenes of death and unimaginable torturous last hours for the Tule elk have had a profound and sad impact on me. I no longer even like visiting Tomales Point.”).

[22] Robert Gammon, The Tule Elk Hunt of 2010, *East Bay Express* (Nov. 3, 2010), <https://eastbayexpress.com/the-tule-elk-hunt-of-2010-1/>.

[23] Julie Philips, A Citizen's Guide to the Tule Elk of California, California Nature Center (2013), [https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/protecting\\_Point\\_Reyes\\_elk/pdfs/TuleElkBrochure.pdf](https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/protecting_Point_Reyes_elk/pdfs/TuleElkBrochure.pdf).

[24] NPS, General Management Plan Point Reyes National Seashore/California 13 (1980).

[25] Record of Decision, 09/13/2021 at 36-37.

[26] 54 USC § 100502.

[27] General Management Plan Amendment: Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Public Comments, National Park Service (July 18, 2021), [https://www.nps.gov/pore/getinvolved/planning\\_gmp\\_amendment\\_deis\\_public\\_comments.htm](https://www.nps.gov/pore/getinvolved/planning_gmp_amendment_deis_public_comments.htm).

**Correspondence ID: 23629**

I support Alt B

Ensure cattle do not enter wilderness area

restore the wilderness area

**Correspondence ID: 23632**

I have personally spent time walking at Tomales Point

and the Thule Elk accompanied our walk. They are magnificent

majestic animals and they deserve to live in their habitat where

humans are not hindering their environment to the

point of extinction. This is a rare mammal and only

lives in northern CA. Please, please, please, don't allow

another beautiful species die off for the sake of cattle grazing

greed! Please remove the fence and let us continue to enjoy the elk and the

natural wonder they bring to the Marin community! Please let them roam!

Thank you for reading this comment.

**Correspondence ID: 23636**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

PLEASE Free the Tule Elk at Tomales Point once and for all. The Park Service should prioritize the well-being of wildlife and finally remove the cattle operations from our National Park.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Linda Sudduth

**Correspondence ID: 23637**

This is a contribution to the Pubic Scoping Newsletter on the Tomales Point Area Plan that is open for public comment until September 25, 2023. The plan is a long overdue update to the last plan of 25 years ago.

Alternative A: No Action

As has been repeatedly pointed out under NEPA, "No Action" of course doesn't literally mean no action, but includes continuing ongoing management actions. This should be made clearer in the document. The 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan, which is the current plan in place, states under "Mission 1. Adaptively manage elk as a natural component of the dynamic ecosystem of Point Reyes" that "No static management scenario can survive long enough to create a successful strategy" (1998 Plan, page 37). Indeed, the Seashore's response to the 2014 and 2021 droughts show an adaptive management approach.

Recommendation: Ensure that the No Action alternative is not seen/described as a static alternative. It would not alter the ongoing confinement of elk to Tomales Point, but would continue to manage the herd using the best scientific adaptive management practices.

Alternative B: Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area (NPS Proposed Action)

This is highly supported as the preferred alternative for numerous reasons.

First, Tule elk historically are thought to have numbered some 500,000 individuals (McCullough, D. "The Tule Elk," 1969). The Seashore accepted the original elk herd as part of a statewide effort to increase elk numbers for long-term survival and to expand genetic diversity. Genetic diversity is no small consideration given that Tule elk went through a bottleneck of being reduced to a remanent herd of some 2-28 survivors in the nineteenth century. Greater numbers of elk on the Seashore can only contribute to that goal, which in the face of climate change and loss of habitat statewide will only increase the benefit of larger populations.

Second, the 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan states as "Goal #3: Provide for free-ranging tule elk herd in Point Reyes by 2005" (1998 Plan, page 40). The Tomales Point elk fence was meant to be a short-term method of segregating elk from cattle, with the expectation of the eventual removal of the cattle as the land became a natural landscape. It runs counter to NPS policies and overall ecosystem management science to confine an elk herd when adjacent habitat is available and protected.

Thirdly, in the 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan, "Alternative B: Eliminate Restricted Range through Management Decisions," (1998 Plan, page 51-52) describes many of the same actions as the proposed action herein, especially removal of the elk fence. This alternative in 1998 had substantial support, but was seen as a bit too risky in potential conflicts with ranchers and the public. The proposed action was considered a safer, intermediary step towards eventual free-ranging elk.

Recommendation: Adopt Alternative B as the NPS Proposed Action. Consider stressing the objectives of a healthy, resilient, genetically diverse population of rare Tule Elk.

Alternative C: Maintain Elk Fence and Actively Manage Elk Population

I would not support this as a Proposed Action. It's flawed in two important aspects. These are the two problematic statements:

- Retain and continue to maintain the elk fence.

The elk fence was never intended as a permanent feature to contain the elk population on Tomales Point. The continuing progress towards eliminating cattle ranching through property purchases and time-limited ranching has always been driven by a vision to create a natural environment and wilderness at Point Reyes. Another 25-year existence of the elk fence would put it on the path to being in place for three-quarters of a century. Clearly, the examples at other parks of long-term fencing pertain almost entirely of excluding non-natives from impacting natural habitats, not confinement of what should be wild populations.

- Control the elk population through lethal removal to a pre-defined threshold to prevent dramatic swings in population levels resulting from year-to-year water availability.

The problem of elk overpopulation regulation within a confined area has been an ongoing problem at the Seashore. National Parks have had significant public support since their very beginning. One large element of support for National Parks had to do with the original mission of protecting birds and mammals from hunting and commercial exploitation. While Wildlife Biologists have little problem with lethal removal as a means of population control, the public often sees it as a violation of the protection the animals are meant to receive. Congressional hearings on Yellowstone's lethal removal of elk (1967) were a forerunner to the controversy that dominated public discourse during the 1980s (Playing God in Yellowstone, 1987, Alston Chase)

before the introduction of wolves. During public comments in 1998 on the PORE Elk Management Plan, letters were received splattered with red ink to protest any plans for lethal removal of elk. I doubt that public sentiment has changed much such that time.

Recommendations:

- 1) Support the Rejection of this Alternative as the Proposed Action.
- 2) Consider modifying statement on lethal control with additional control methods, such as transfers to State, Federal, or Tribal entities; and/or Contraception and Sterilizations.

Overall, I am very supportive of the approach outlining at this stage of the planning process. One recommendation overall would be to clearly state that eventually the Seashore's management plans that affect elk must holistically address the entire Seashore, and not separate sub-populations of elk. With Removal of the Tomales Point Elk fence, the seashore will, in effect, create a Seashore-wide elk herd in need of a comprehensive management system.

Jonathan Bayless

Regional Wildlife Biologist, Retired

Pacific West Regional Office

National Park Service

**Correspondence ID: 23640**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. PUT A FENCE AROUND YOURSELVES AND YOURE FAMILY AN SEE HOW THE HELL YOU LIKE IT..STOP KILLING AN TORTURING ANIMALS ,GROW UP

Sincerely, Mr. Dewayne Williams

**Correspondence ID: 23643**

First: We are grateful for the reported proposed policy change and are cautiously optimistic that the National Park Service (NPS) will support, "Alternative B," to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS).

This action would assuage the collective angst, anger and outrage over NPS's allowing PRNS to be taken over by private, for-profit ranchers. Finally, the magnificent Tule Elk will be freed from their "prison."

The corruption was bad enough, but the cruel confinement, treatment, and killing of those elk was over the edge—not just with animal welfare advocates, but with hundreds of thousands more who simply recognized the wrongs being committed and knew that if it can happen in one place, it can happen in any others—including theirs.

Second: All cattle operations must be removed as well.

(A) No National Park should be keeping citizens out of any areas, but that is especially true with a National Park as unique and awesome as PRNS is.

(B) Potable water in this area is already a somewhat precious (if not scarce) commodity, yet water contamination from cattle ranching creates unacceptable egregious impacts that simply cannot be allowed to continue.

Third: The public should not be subsidizing any ranching operations, and this is most critical on land that the public wishes to visit and/or hike/recreate and view wildlife. Livestock operations have never belonged in this or any other national park that belongs to the public and is as popular as PRNS.

Fourth: The red-meat (beef, etc.) market in the United States is falling, along with the dairy industry. Where there are sales, it's often in foreign countries. So USA citizens are witnessing the squandering of our public park lands in order to benefit profiteering brokers by selling to foreign entities.

No need to ask, "What's wrong with this picture?" because the answer is a strong, "EVERYTHING."

We support, appreciate, and urge the NPS to do what's right: Proceed with the preferred "Alternative B" to take down the fences, and end any type of livestock ranching in PRNS. We thank the NPS also for allowing the public to weigh in on this important policy change.

Sincerely, Marilyn Jasper, Chair

Public Interest Coalition

**Correspondence ID: 23649**

I am against the removal of the elk fence and in full support of Alternative C. Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 23650**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence on Tomales Point which will allow the native Tule elk their much needed access to water.

**Correspondence ID: 23653**

I am opposed to removing the elk fences in Point Reyes National Seashore. I am disappointed with the Park Service's lack of support and attention to the ranches, their homes and their security. In point of fact, the elk should never have been moved here in the first place. Although this is a national park, it is limited in size to accommodate the elk population. A grave mistake was made in decision-making.

**Correspondence ID: 23655**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Thank you. Please take the fence down.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Nancy Meehan

**Correspondence ID: 23656**

Please remove the farms and the fences and restore the land to the natural state. The limited lease period for ranching has long since expired, it should be subject to the original terms.

The land belongs to the citizens of the country, not a few privileged individuals.

Free the elk to roam in this habitat as they should.

**Correspondence ID: 23658**

option C - balance between the elk and cattle - continue to allow ranching, actively manage the elk to help actively manage the land on the point.

**Correspondence ID: 23660**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Thank you for a decision which is (1) common sense,(2) environmentally sound, and (3) HUMANE!

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that



found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. CHRISTIE WAGNER

**Correspondence ID: 23662**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. I await, excited, for this significant change to come.

Sincerely, Mx. Rique Ramirez

**Correspondence ID: 23665**

Making certain that the elk can freely roam the park and protect them from future starvation and dehydration is essential.

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the Tule elk herd and urge the removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore to protect the park.

Thank you for your attention to the plight of these innocent animals.

**Correspondence ID: 23669**

I support Alternative B, removing the fence and allowing the captive elk to roam free. Continuing to keep one population separate without adequate resources is nothing more than a death sentence, and the horrific way these animals die flies in the face of the National Park Service's statutory charge "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein" (<https://www.doi.gov/ocl/nps-organic-act>).

As an American taxpayer, I strenuously object to the use of my tax dollars for torturing and killing defenseless animals on public land. Although it is traumatizing to read the news articles about this disgusting practice, my heart really goes out to the local people who frequent Point Reyes and witness this atrocity. Please stop the killing and fulfill the duties entrusted to you by the American public (<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1103/whb.htm>).

Furthermore, I encourage the National Park Service (NPS) to maintain up-to-date tule elk population information online. Specifically, the graph currently posted ([https://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/nature/upload/graph\\_tule\\_elk\\_population\\_tomales\\_point\\_1978-2020.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/nature/upload/graph_tule_elk_population_tomales_point_1978-2020.pdf)) needs to be updated to include 2021 and 2022, and to reflect the different tule elk populations at Point Reyes (i.e., free-ranging vs. captive).

The population of tule elk behind the fence has been decimated in recent years due to droughts caused by climate change. The NPS needs to be honest about the detrimental effects of captivity by adding a reserve population graph to its reserve website ([https://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/nature/tule\\_elk.htm](https://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/nature/tule_elk.htm)). In addition, the inaccurate, glowing online report about a tule elk population rebound that could impact the human population needs to be removed (<https://www.nps.gov/rlc/pacificcoast/tule-elk.htm>).

I look forward to reading your responses to my concerns and seeing updated information posted online.

**Correspondence ID: 23673**

On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and our over 1.6 million members and supporters, I write to express strong support for NPS' proposed action (Alternative B). As we stated when the planning process was announced, "This is wonderful news for our native tule elk that grace the grasslands of this beloved national seashore. We applaud the National Park Service for taking this important step. As a result, the seashore and its wildlife can adapt in the face of climate change. We urge the agency to continue working to create balance at the Seashore, which continues to be plagued by polluting ranching operations." We look forward to working to ensure timely completion of this plan.

Sincerely, Neal Desai

Senior Program Director, Pacific Region

National Parks Conservation Association

**Correspondence ID: 23674**

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

**Correspondence ID: 23676**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

I also want to thank the park for a dramatic policy shift and support the agency's proposed action to remove the elk fence of the Tomales Point Tule Elk reserve. After all they are part of the park. So again I support alternative B. Free the Tule elk and let them have the entire park.

Sincerely, Mrs. Rebecca Falk

**Correspondence ID: 23678**

These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land.

REMOVE THE FENCE, PLEASE!

**Correspondence ID: 23682**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

We are writing to support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units, especially areas designated as wilderness!

We oppose allowing killing of elk to prevent intermingling of herds - wouldn't that 'mingling' be better for genetic diversity? We oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs. Ted Guzzi

**Correspondence ID: 23683**

I would like to recommend NOT taking down the elk fence. The elk and dairy ranchers should have equal stake in existing in the area. My understanding is that the elk population was supposed to be managed and kept to a certain number but that this was never done so the herd now exceeds the capacity of the fenced-in land. Maybe it's time to cull the herd.

One of the goals of state/national parks is to educate people. I would like to see the dairy ranches, or at least one, be open to the public on certain days to educate people about West Marin dairy farming and more generally about where their food comes from. For example, there's ongoing research about adding seaweed to cow feed, which greatly reduces their production of methane--what better place to discuss this than ranches near the sea. (I'm serious.) This educational component could be developed by a group outside of the dairy ranchers, but would be available for viewing at one or more of the ranches.

And while it may not matter to park enthusiasts, California has lost a lot of organic dairy farms during the drought (the price of hay skyrocketed), and losing these farms will be an incredible blow locally and more broadly across the state.

**Correspondence ID: 23684**

Please REMOVE THE ELK FENCE and finally free the Tule Elk at Tomales Point. Once the elk fence is removed, the elk should be allowed to roam freely, and steps should be taken to avoid any culling, hazing, or harassment of the elk for any reason.

Cattle operations are no longer appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ceased to honor the true charter of our Seashore. It is past time to prioritize the well-being of wildlife and finally remove the cattle operations from our National Park.

Thank you for doing the work needed to make our National Seashore a more healthy, sustainable and beautiful wild place and to protect these precious lands for future generations of local wildlife and human visitors.

**Correspondence ID: 23706**

As a resident of California I support alternative B which is the proposal to remove the elk fence at point Reyes national seashore. Please let the tule Elk herds that live there roam free and have access to adequate forage and water that are necessary for their survival. These elk face the danger of extinction if they keeping fenced in that 2900 acre Tule Elk Reserve. Hundreds of them have already suffered and died during recent droughts. This is egregious and cannot continue. This needs to change now before these magnificent animals all become extinct. I join others and asking you to remove the fence. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 23709**

Regarding proposals for the Tule elk in Pt. Reyes in the Tomales Point area Plan -

I support your preferred Alternate B - The other alternates, A and C would degrade the wilderness and endanger the elk.

In addition, please specify that removal of structures in the wilderness (and the fence just outside the wilderness) use non-motorized means, which should not be difficult. And please do not allow the use of herbicides - letting elk graze freely should help deal with non-native species of vegetation.

Ultimately cattle grazing should be eliminated entirely - the cattle carry diseases, and are not appropriate in National Parks. Especially since the ranches there are getting bargain rates to trample our public lands.

Thank you, **Correspondence ID: 23710**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk. I oppose its lethal "management" .

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I would like to thank the National Park Service for its work and for considering public comment on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mark Mack

**Correspondence ID: 23714**

1. Implement plan B. Take down the fence.
2. Stop all killing or culling of the Elk.
3. Get the cattle out of the park. Livestock has no business grazing on Public Lands.
4. Clean up theater so it can support native wildlife.

**Correspondence ID: 23718**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence that is restricting the Tule elk herd. The fence artificially limits the population's movement and negatively impacts the area they are currently confined to. Additionally, it is long overdue for commercial cow grazing to cease. The cattle have a negative impact on the local ecology and are hastening erosion in the Point Reyes National Seashore. Protecting this landmark is the responsibility of the National Park Service, and continuing with the status quo runs in opposition to this responsibility.

**Correspondence ID: 23720**

I strongly support Alternative B, "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area." I used the park regularly as a guest and as a professional naturalist contracted to teach within the NPS boundaries. Myself and other naturalists would rather be observing elk than cows. Please support all efforts to allow managed elk access to all areas of the NPS. These wild animal should be allowed to roam freely. The founding principles of the NPS require prioritization of natural resource enhancement over management of cow herds by those leasing lands in the NPS. Please advance some form of compensation or other management option to ranchers to offset them in order to allow elk to roam on all lands with NPS management.

**Correspondence ID: 23721**

Please discontinue leasing our public lands to beef & dairy ranchers operating at Point Reyes National Seashore. The ranches contaminate the water with excrement from cattle.

Additionally, a three-mile fence prevents elk from accessing fresh water and they are dying. I have commented on the website for public comments and hope you will remove this fence promptly.

Please protect our wildlife and end leases to ranchers using Point Reyes who were paid off years ago to relocate with generous compensation from taxpayers. All of them established ranches elsewhere but they've been allowed to keep their leases in Point Reyes National Seashore Park at very favorable rates.

Meanwhile, our rare Tule Elk, an endemic native species, have declined significantly. The largest remaining herd is at Point Reyes Nat'l Seashore Park. There are an estimated 500 Tule Elk trapped and suffering horribly without access to water and dying.

Please make the compassionate decision to help the elk and other wildlife at Point Reyes Nat'l Seashore. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 23722**

Please choose Alternative B to best serve the wilderness and native biome but include these amendments as well. Removing unlawful water structures and fences, and having this done with as little motorized interference as possible to minimize the impact on the surroundings. Preventing the use of herbicides because the effects on non-targeted plants is catastrophic and long-lasting. Disallowing cattle grazing, which puts great strain on the native ecosystem. Please allow natural fires to burn the landscape and shape its future instead of manager-ignited fires which tend to favor invasive species.

Please avoid Alternatives A and C as they will degrade the wilderness and further endanger the already rare Tule Elk.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 23723**

To: National Park Service

From: Carl Kohler, PO Box 150175 San Rafael, CA 94915

re Tule Elk, Pt. Reyes National Seashore

I strongly support "Alternative B" to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point, Point Reyes National Seashore.

This cruel, anti-wildlife fence has been an abomination for years, and I'm glad it's finally being got rid of.

And when it's gone, how about removing the PRIVATE, commercial cattle ranches from what are, after all, PUBLIC lands? Why are these ranches there at all, in a national park, other than as freebies to someone or other, given the levels of environmental degradation & pollution that inevitably and unavoidably occur in the presence of cattle ranches?

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**Correspondence ID: 23731**

My husband (Steve Ingebritsen) and I have enjoyed hiking at Tomales Point and observing the tule elk there for almost forty years. We urge you to remove the fence that currently traps them on the peninsula, preventing them from obtaining water in drought conditions. Removing that artificial barrier will help restore the natural environment and alleviate inhumane treatment of the elk.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely, Barbara Gaal

**Correspondence ID: 23732**

- 1) The fence surrounding the Tule Elk should be removed. The elk are a national treasure and should be protected, not subjected to a genocide for private interests.
- 2) Removal of the fence will enable other animals such as bobcats, foxes, deer, etc to have free range in their habitats.
- 3) This is public land, and it should not be used for private profit.
- 4) The National Park Service is the absolute highest level of protection of public lands.
- 5) All the private leases have expired and should not be continued on public lands.
- 6) The United States government should assist the private farmers in relocation to non public lands.

**Correspondence ID: 23734**

Please remove the three miles fence preventing Tule Elk, a protected species & endemic to California, access to fresh water.

The Elk are now dying due to lack of resources since cattle are permitted to graze the land instead.

Please know that the cattle & dairy ranches decimate ecosystems, contaminate the water supply with fecal bacteria, spread invasive species and disease, and waste massive amounts of water.

Instead, end leases to these ranchers who have previously been paid with taxpayer funds to relocate and have but unfairly are allowed to keep leasing National Park lands at Point Reyes National Seashore Park.

Thank you for your consideration to keeping our native Tule Elk alive.

**Correspondence ID: 23735**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I SUPPORT the National Park Service's "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore.

I SUPPORT REMOVING the fence and freeing the park's largest herd of Tule elk.

THANK YOU for this dramatic policy shift to give Tule elk access to the much larger, entire park.

ALSO, please RESCIND current regulations in the General Management Plan that allow killing (“culling”) of elk in the other two herds which may co-mingle with the large herd after the fence is removed.

There is NO NEED for and I OPPOSE LETHAL “management” of wild animals in national parks.

Finally, CATTLE operations expose our national elk to DISEASE.

REMOVE PRIVATE cattle operations from OUR AMERICAN NATIONAL PARKS.

Sincerely, Dr. Sadie Schrader

**Correspondence ID: 23737**

I am a long time West Mariner and just read Theresa Harlan's comments and am fully behind and approve of what she is suggesting for the elk and Pierce Point, which is a special and sacred place.

If the plan is implemented as she has suggested there will be a greater outcome that is more valuable than the current situation.

While I am also a strong supporter of ranching, having relatives who were long time ranchers in Sonoma County, I am also aligned with the native indigenous perspective. The ranches can relocate more easily than the elk and the tribes. We need ranches and ranching families in our future, and having a restored ecosystem that is in balance with all is important for the survival of the planet and the highest outcome we could hope for to support our local treasures, the tribes and the elk.

Please work with the ranchers and the tribes to achieve Theresa's vision.

Aho!

- Donell Peters

**Correspondence ID: 23738**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I'm writing to express my strong support for NPS's preferred “Alternative B” for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. I believe that confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, I support officially rescinding the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing (“culling”) of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal “management” of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations, live the oyster farming that was disallowed years ago, have no business in our national parks.



I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Douglas Burnham

**Correspondence ID: 23742**

Hello.

Thanks for reading my comments on this.

You folks fully understand that keeping the tule elk fenced in kills them, particularly in drought years, and instead of expanding the size of their habitat and allowing them to continue to increase in numbers, you are considering allowing them to continue to die because they don't have adequate food and water sources.

Please choose Alternative B - Unconfined Elk Herd.

Our wildlife - our heritage - deserves our full respect and we owe them appropriate action on our part.

Sincerely, Beverly Lawrence

**Correspondence ID: 23744**

The Park has an obligation to the ranchers who unselfishly gave up the property rights to their historic, family ranches to help form the incredible Pt Reyes National Seashore. The Park must begin to farm and control the growth of the Tule Elk population which is now threatening the existence of the organic dairies. Without the backing of the Park, the elk will continue to threaten the ranches with both competition for range and the spread of untreated illness.

Support the ranchers who have spent their lives as stewards of the land. Control the elk population, do not expand their range, help the dairies survive in a very difficult economic times.

Pt Reyes is an amazing, unique mix of agriculture and public land. Let's make it work.

**Correspondence ID: 23745**

It appears that the National Park Service finally has proposed some management at the Tomales Point area of the Point Reyes National Seashore which may actually take into account that it is the Tule elk that "the rarest elk subspecies" in North America -- and conversely recognize that grazing cows are common in California and many other locales in America.

Though establishing the Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore was still one of the best environmental moves by President John F. Kennedy, but it did allow decades worth of cow grazing even on formal "Nat'l Seashore" land. However, there was a set date, and we have now passed that date in time, and thus finally we can get to the spirit of the Kennedy Adm. protection to protect imperiled wildlife for a change as well as provide a relaxing playground for bustling urban workers of the San Francisco Bay Areas -- as well as tourists, etc.

I emphatically call upon you to get to healing this land under your care, and the only alternative that could fulfill this wish is to choose ALTERNATIVE B. Thanks for making this your preferred alternative under the NEPA process. It is certainly wise to remove structures from within the designated wilderness, as well as to remove the fence right outside that Phillip Burton Wilderness There are ways to improve the pretty good offered alternative of B.

To improve Alternative B, be sure that the water structures unlawfully built within the Wilderness are removed using non-motorized modes of removal and transport. Be sure to clearly call for the total elimination of cattle grazing both within the Phillip Burton Wilderness as well as within the Point Reyes Nat'l Seashore in general.

Remember one advantage to the elimination of cattle grazing on "Seashore" land in the area is that eliminating cattle grazing as well as the fence which has been depriving rare elk of their basic livelihood will result in better distribution of Tule elk and will result in less invasive species. A reduction in invasive species hopefully will may be one hint to help convince land managers to not use toxic herbicides. Another way to reduce invasive vegetation species prevalence within the Seashore is to allow natural fires to burn -- seeing that invasive plant species are spread more in land manager-sparked fires in the area.

Please do not cave in to pressure by the grazing industry to continue their business-as-usual of widespread grazing in the Tomales Point region of the Seashore. It was a sad compromise to allow fairly concentrated cattle grazing for so long, but since the date has passed it is time to manage this jewel for habitat and recreation, rather than for cattle and recreation (one could contend has been the focus in recent decades until this new leaf for the NPS in the Tomales Point area recently was turned over).

Be sure to focus on health of the Tule elk on the Seashore, and boot out the cattle as soon as possible! If cattle grazing continues, there should be opportunities to recover "reparations" from some of these cattle-related profits to be used to hopefully improve some habitat for Tule elk elsewhere within the Tomales Point Area Plan and the Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore more generally.

Be sure to reject the very damaging alternatives known as A and C. Please improve Alt. B, and run with that one -- hopefully in wisdom and balance.

**Correspondence ID: 23746**

Tear down the fence.

**Correspondence ID: 23747**

It is time to live up to the original agreement and end cattle grazing at Point Reyes. Removal of unlawful water structures should be done without motor vehicles. Free roaming Tule Elk would lessen the need for herbicides in the National Seashore. The fences MUST come down. They are not compatible with wilderness and have no place in a National Seashore.

**Correspondence ID: 23754**

Hi,

I think the current arrangement is fine. We always enjoy seeing the Dairies on our way to Pt. Reyes, it's a very unique relationship with the Park.

Mark

**Correspondence ID: 23756**

Without a healthy population of elk predators, how will the Tule elk population be kept in check? Please resolve this issue before taking down the fences. If the answer is to cull them, then you will upset both the activists groups sueing you, and the ranchers to whom you had promised to keep the Tule elk off pastoral land. You will be sued from both ends of the spectrum.

**Correspondence ID: 23757**

I request that you select Plan B to remove fencing and allow native tule elk access to water and forage for the Tomales Point Area Plan at Point Reyes National Seashore. I believe that wildlife should be the priority for our national park. Please include wildlife friendly replacement fencing when you remove the elk fence to stop cattle from intruding on wildlife forage lands: 20 inch from ground non barbed wire and no barbed wire on top wire - only on middle wire.

Sincerely, Patricia Carey

**Correspondence ID: 23760**

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore. This is a national park. Wild, native animals belong here, not non-native, private animals. This is public land, held in trust for the public. It's a public resource. And the Tule elk are a public value. Fences have no place in national park, especially when the fences confine wild, native animals.

Furthermore, the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing of elk in the other two herds, should herds intermingle when the fence is removed, must be rescinded. I strongly oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks. In fact, I oppose most "management" of wildlife.

Ultimately, all private cattle operations must be removed from the Seashore if it is to be a healthy, thriving ecosystem for all wildlife, including the Tule elk. It must be stated that cattle feces – at 40 lbs. per "bowel movement" - deposits tons of bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, where manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease, thrive and spread. A 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease, a fact noted by the NPS. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks. Continuing to allow private interests to degrade our lands, our wildlife, our waters must stop.

Ideally, I want to see all private, for-profit ranches and their animals out of the national parks and off our public lands.

Thank you for considering my input.

**Correspondence ID: 23761**

I support Alternative B. We need to do everything we can to protect Tule elk and other wildlife. To that end, we should stop using any herbicides in the wilderness and allow natural fires to take their course. Nature knows the way!

**Correspondence ID: 23763**

Please save our Tule Elk at Point Reyes Point Reyes National Seashore by (1) allowing them access to fresh, clean water by removing a three-mile fence confining them to Tomales Point and (2) ending leases to the cattle/dairy ranchers which is the reason for the fence denying Tule Elk resources at nearby seashore land.

The ranchers have already been paid more than adequately by taxpayers to end their leases and transfer their operations. After this occurred, ranchers still remained leasing public lands at Point Reyes where our largest herd of Tule Elk live.

Tule Elk were hunted to near-extinction in the 1800's and due to citizens' outcry, this native species was protected and remains a special part of California's heritage. As the Park Services' website notes, Tule Elk are the most specialized elk in North America.

Already two types of elk are extinct, the Eastern Elk and the Merriam's Elk. Please protect the Tule Elk at Point Reyes currently in danger and end leases.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 23765**

Gentlemen,

Please remove the elk fence to protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore the ecosystem. It is harmful to trap the native elk in unnatural confinement. Please choose Alternative B, called "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," which will remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free. Private cattle operations aren't appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. Thank you for allowing the general public to make comments about this important ecological project.

**Correspondence ID: 23767**

1 vote for Alternative B

**Correspondence ID: 23769**

These are my comments on the Tomales Point Area Plan.

I strongly believe that the Tule Elk should be allowed the freedom to roam throughout the entire park property, meaning that I want the Elk to be unconfined and the existing Elk fence removed.

I also strongly believe that the Elk should be allowed free range throughout the entire park without regard to ranching or cattle. If there is a conflict between Elk and cattle (or any other livestock), the Elk should given priority with any necessary restrictions or reductions being placed on the cattle. Just as the previous populations of Axis and Fallow deer; cattle and other non-native populations should be culled or removed from the park property as needed to ensure the health and populations of the Tule Elk and other native species.

I believe that when Elk populations are at sustainable levels, areas of the park should be closed off to allow the indigenous natives of historically local tribes, bands, or groups to hunt Elk by traditional methods.

Thank you, George Loftin

**Correspondence ID: 23773**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

These parks belong to wild animals as much as they belong to all of us. By all means, STOP the culling of elk. This is not a sound or sensible approach approach.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

Please, remove all private cattle out of our national parks. The NPS has enough data to support this move.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Aletha Harlow

**Correspondence ID: 23774**

Dear Park Service:

I am a long time resident of Inverness and have appreciated the park as an example of the co-existence of both agriculture and parkland, We need the agricultural sector for this area to be a viable community that supports all the businesses and activities of West Marin. Every agricultural loss results in a "death spiral" for many sectors of our community.

What we do NOT need or want is an impossible "WILDERNESS" area just 20 miles from cities and large urban areas. By removing the elk fences farming/agriculture becomes impossible. The PR Seashore is NOT A ZOO-it is a working parkland and should remain so.

Most of the people who are advocating for removal of the elk fences do NOT live here but yell from afar and have no idea how valuable the agricultural community is for everyone!

I am 100% AGAINST the removal of the elk fences!!

Christine CORDARO

**Correspondence ID: 23775**

Hello All,

My name is Jesse Kuhn. I am the founder of Marin Roots Farm, a small scale organic farm located in north-west Marin County, open continuously since 2003. A past member of Marin Organic, vendor at the Point Reyes Farmers Market, native of West Marin, vendor at the year-round AIM Civic Center farmers market and Saturday Ferry Building farmers market. I have farmed on multiple plots within Marin County over the past couple of decades, and have interacted a lot with the edges bordering wild spaces in Marin since 1974.

Prior to that I worked as a seasonal trail crew foreman for the Point Reyes National Seashore, during the 1990's, and built parts of the fence that separates the Tule Elk herd at the point.

I strongly support the proposed Alternative C, as outlined in the TPAP Public Scoping Newsletter. Alternative C best supports a thriving PRNS that meets the intended outcomes for all NPS-defined goals for the established zoning areas of PRNS. Alternative C will best protect the environmental and cultural and historic resources in land areas adjacent to Tomales Point

and it will ensure a well-managed and thriving Tule Elk herd. Furthermore, Alternative C will help preserve critical park resources, improve visitor experiences at Tomales Point and continue critically important partnerships with Native Tribe ecological and traditional management and preservation activities within this area.

Sincerely, Jesse Kuhn

**Correspondence ID: 23776**

Hello, I am writing about the elk in the Tomales Point area. There are a lot of important technical things that I could write about, but am not going to.

I am simply going to ask you to be a human being and consider making this a nice place for the animals who live there.

Humans have destroyed much of our once-beautiful world and for some unknown reason, continue to do so, in the midst of massive overwhelming evidence to stop.

So please. Do the right thing here. There is a good plan in place. Please use it.

**Correspondence ID: 23781**

I support alternative B with removal of the 8 foot fence on Tomales Point.

**Correspondence ID: 23784**

I fully support your proposed action to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore. In which the park's largest herd of Tule Elk can once again roam free. I would also like to see all cattle operations removed too.

I strongly feel that fences and confined animals have no place in national park units, that animals deserve to thrive in ALL natural surroundings and space.

I also desperately urge for you to please officially revoke the current regulation in the General Management Plan - allowing killing/culling of elk in the other two herds, since herds may mix with each other when the fence has been cleared. I strongly oppose all lethal 'management' of any wild animal in our national parks.

Seashore's Tule elk cannot be completely safe until private cattle operations are removed. Due to the fact they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, ponds, and streams, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself recount a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. The health, safety and wellbeing of the Tule Elk is priority though in order to achieve this successfully, no private cattle operations can be run on our national parks. These animals lives are in jeopardy if cattle operations are still active.

However I feel private cattle operations have no place in our national parks anyway as their grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water.

This fence has stood tall since 1978 and I think it is long overdue that these confining barriers finally come down. These beautiful and majestic animals deserve their freedom. This 'reserve' has been their home for quite some time now though the herd has and is suffering due to being confined as they are.

Over 224 elk died from thirst and hunger in the last 2 years due to California's drought. It's past time to free the Tule elk from confinement and remove the fence forever. Please allow them to be free to roam and flourish, as all wild animals should in all national parks.

Please help make history today and give these rare animals a fresh start at life. Allow them to discover a whole new world, expand socially, experience numerous amazing things! And so much more! This can be an incredible journey for them and it is all waiting behind that fence. I desperately plea that you can make this possible on behalf of all Tule Elk.

I sincerely thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this extremely important issue.

**Correspondence ID: 23834**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Point Reyes is a valuable place for wildlife and should be managed to best protect them. I support removing the fence on Tomales Point to free the Tule elk, providing water troughs for the elk until they have established other drinking sources, ending all farming in the Park, tolerating predators that are already there or migrate in, and, implementing only nonlethal methods of wildlife management.

When I visited Point Reyes in 2017 to see the wildlife, I was shocked to find working dairy farms there, but I was even more stunned when later the Park actually allowed the Tule elk they'd trapped behind a fence on Tomales point to die of thirst for the sake of protecting the farms' grazing land. That this was allowed to happen is evidence that the interests of the ranches are in direct opposition with what the park truly needs to prioritize: protecting its wildlife.

Because ever fewer places remain where wild animals can avoid conflict with our species, they desperately need places like Point Reyes, with its valuable habitat, to be off-limits to the human activities that most threaten them elsewhere, and wildlife pay an especially steep price for animal agriculture. Each year, in this country alone, hundreds of thousands of wild animals are exterminated to protect ranchers interests. Even more die as a consequence of ecosystems being decimated by grazing, growing feed crops, and manure polluting waterways. It's a tragedy that around the world, animals enjoying their rightful places in nature, are being supplanted by: exploited, confined, domestic animals living unnatural lives cut short for slaughter. I urge Point Reyes Seashore to do everything it can to protect the wildlife in its National Park.

Sincerely, Ms Kathryn Lezenby

**Correspondence ID: 23876**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

You may add my voice to all those who support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. TRACY JORDAN

**Correspondence ID: 23924**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

It's not a perfect world but it would be a little closer if the USA would honor conservation morals and ethics as policies, for a change.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Sherry Tarantino

**Correspondence ID: 23975**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.



I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. Take the dam fence down, so the elk don't starve to death again.

Sincerely, Jennifer Ahlstrom

**Correspondence ID: 23988**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. I want to thank you and advance for even the proposal and the thought process to help the elk. They are instrumental and are fireman as they are for the freedom of animals. I vote yes for this important issue!

Sincerely, Miss Laura Gruenebaum

**Correspondence ID: 23994**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I more than support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to

REMOVE the FENCE! free the park's largest herd of Tule elk.

Nothing should take this long too many Alka died unnecessarily because of negligence and anyone acting on this it is a shame!!!

Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. This ONE HAS PULLED ON MY HEART for TOO LONG!!!!!!

Sincerely, Ms Kathleen Kirkpatrick

**Correspondence ID: 24016**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

Please remove the fence and in addition, please prohibit cattle operations in that area.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Laura Halko

**Correspondence ID: 24028**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. Sincerely, Maria Jordan Carbonell

Sincerely, Ms. Maria Jordan Carbonell

**Correspondence ID: 24029**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Absolutely! The elk are decimated as it is- why kill more? Makes no sense!! Remove the stupid range cattle which have no business being allowed to roam across national lands. They stomp vegetation and compete with wildlife for food and water.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Louise Laukhuff

**Correspondence ID: 24052**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I SUPPORT the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING!!!!!!

Sincerely, Mrs Luann Peterson

**Correspondence ID: 24069**

Tule Elk are protected by The Public Trust Doctrine. According to The Public Trust Doctrine, Tule Elk and all wildlife are protected on both public and private lands for present and future generations as an integral component of the native landscape. All citizens have a moral and ethical responsibility to protect all native species including Tule Elk.

Please honor The Public Trust Doctrine by allowing Tule Elk access to critical food and water they need to live. This requires removing the three-mile fence currently restricting their access.

Tule Elk are the rarest subspecies found only in California and special to our history. Moreover, they are critical to a healthy ecosystem.

As a visitor to Point Reyes National Seashore, it is a joy to view the remnant herd thanks to decades of conservation efforts. Please, let us avoid further setbacks by ending leases to ranchers and resume protection efforts as called on by The Public Trust Doctrine.

Thank you for allowing public comments.

**Correspondence ID: 24083**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks. Humans have done and do enough damage to our ecosystem.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks. Please limit agriculture and farming-the massive 'factories' and unnatural breeding are wasteful and cruel and unhealthy. Please set high standards and hold people for accountable.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms Sue Kenney

**Correspondence ID: 24087**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Get rid of the polluting ranchers

please. What an ecological mess the NPS and cattle ranchers have created!!

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mark Matyazic

**Correspondence ID: 24101**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

ALL of these Killing operations Must be Removed!

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Trisha Ford

**Correspondence ID: 24103**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk.

Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

It's time to discontinue cattle-ranching and grazing (special interest use for profit) on park land and restore the area for the public and the tule elk which are a native species.

We enjoy the Tule Elk and request all culling of all herds be stopped.

Sincerely, Mrs. Angela Uriarte

**Correspondence ID: 24115**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Hello, I would like to make public my strong support of the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, PLEASE officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs. Cyndi Palmer

**Correspondence ID: 24118**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

As a previous visitor to Point Reyes NS, and wildlife enthusiast, I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Debra Ellers

**Correspondence ID: 24128**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have NO business in our national parks...zero, zip, nada...ever!

Same goes for the Wild Mustangs. Their land is THEIR land! BLM needs to go....immediately.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Jennifer Rondeau

**Correspondence ID: 24150**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. Please free the elk!! Cattle ranchers need to be done exploiting animals and killing our earth!!!

Sincerely, Ms. Kelly Kilishek

**Correspondence ID: 24168**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

National Parks stand for freedom, open-air, and opportunity for all (both human and animal kind) to use what mother earth provided. They stand for beauty that only nature in a original form, without man-made structures or businesses, could provide. Keep the sanctity of this alive and provide wildlife with the opportunity to live freely.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Megan Kelly

**Correspondence ID: 24172**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I want to coexist with our fellow mortals, I want to share and respect this earth with them. It is the right thing to do, not deliberately harming another is the mantra we should all follow.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs. Sue Costoff

**Correspondence ID: 24175**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,



I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk.\*\* Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.\*\*

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed.\*\*\* I OPPOSE ALL lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

REMOVE ALL those cattle.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until \*\*\*private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease.\*\* The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Elaine Proffitt

**Correspondence ID: 24177**

Dear NPS,

Please stand firm on Alternative B, your proposal to remove the elk fence at Tomales Point.

My belief that you are on the right course here grows out of personal acquaintance with the people who established Point Reyes National Seashore, and first-hand knowledge of their original vision for what this park should be. Removal of the fence that has contributed to two recent major die-offs in the elk reserve will be an important step in reversing a drift away from the founding principles of the park.

My father, David Brower, the first executive director of the Sierra Club, was one of the park's founding fathers. He lobbied for the park and published a Sierra Club book of advocacy for it, *Island in Time: the Point Reyes Peninsula*. Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, the prime driver of the park, wrote the foreword. My father represented the environmental movement in the Oval Office when JFK signed the park into law in 1962. Four of the fourteen men in the signing photos have the book under their arms.

When my siblings and I were kids, my father took us on scouting expeditions in the future park. We were eyewitnesses to the attempts of developers to preempt the park with a fait accompli. They had bulldozed a grid of streets at Limantour, "Drakes View Estates" and other sites, with street signs in place and the first houses going up. I'm acutely aware of how close we came to having no park at all. And how lucky we are to have it.

Conrad Wirth, a future director of the Park Service, was a friend and occasional collegial enemy of my father's. We called him "Connie" in the family. He proposed a PRNS in 1936, and said nothing then, or in testimony later, about ranching being a virtue in the park. He said nothing about ranching at all (as Paul Sadin's administrative history of the park, commissioned by the NPS, will verify.). All he talked about was the biodiversity of Point Reyes and the opportunities

for recreation. Removal of the fence will be a beginning of a return to the vision of the park's original visionary.

Removal will begin to bring us back into alignment with Management Policies, the NPS bible on these matters, which decrees that commercial grazing will be allowed only where it "does not cause unacceptable impacts on park resources and values.

Removal will begin a return to compliance with the 1962 legislation that established the park.

I inherited from my father one of the signing pens with which JFK signed that legislation. Law specifies that the park's first priority be the natural environment. Property acquired for the park by the Secretary of the Interior "shall be administered by the Secretary without impairment of its natural values, in a manner which provides for such recreational, educational, historic preservation, interpretation, and scientific research opportunities as are consistent with, based upon, and supportive of the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment within the area.

Maximum protection of the environment and cattle don't mix.

Thanks, Ken Brower

**Correspondence ID: 24213**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Dear Mr. Craig Kenkel:

I fully support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's herd of Tule elk.

Please allow these animals to roam free and no longer be killed or injured via these fences

Sincerest regards

Lynne Crowton

**Correspondence ID: 24214**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

In the name of kindness, bravo! I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs Catherine Dunne

**Correspondence ID: 24217**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

REMOVE THE TULE ELK FENCE!! AND GET RID OF CATTLE OPERATIONS THERE ALSO!!  
I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, David Salinas

**Correspondence ID: 24219**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

We need more healthy ethical balance! I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Pangia Macri

**Correspondence ID: 24237**

Please take down the fences, stop starving the Tule Deer. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 24264**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

REMOVE THE FENCE AND THE CATTLE!

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Miss Laura Mendoza

**Correspondence ID: 24279**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks. REMOVE THE CATTLE, NOT THE ELK!! ELK are much more environmentally-friendly. Plus, they are a NATIONAL TREASURE!

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Barbara Roberts

**Correspondence ID: 24292**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing (“culling”) of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal “management” of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Please take down the fence. It just dangerous to the elk as all animals that get caught in it. They deserve to roam anywhere on the land. The cattle are polluting the water,air,land and should not be aloud in a national park.at the expense of the welfare of the elk and other wildlife and American people.

Please be their voice and save our elks from dieing,to many have died already. Thank you. Mrs Judy siak

Do the right thing, down with the fence.

Sincerely, Mrs. Judy Siak

**Correspondence ID: 24304**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support most of this petition:

I support the National Park Service's preferred “Alternative B” for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing (“culling”) of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal “management” of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Dan McCurdy

**Correspondence ID: 24307**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks. Ranchers have their own land and should not be allowed access to federally owned land. The ranchers should consider downsizing their herds.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Francine DiNatale

**Correspondence ID: 24329**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Remove it.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks. Remove them.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

HUMAN DOMINION REQUIRES HUMAN DECENCY.

Sincerely, Ms. Janet Kern

**Correspondence ID: 24339**

As California resident, I'm disheartened by current NPS actions allowing ranchers to remain leasing public lands they have already been paid off to vacate.

The environmental impact of cattle/dairy ranchers is significant and at Point Reyes they are contaminating water supply to Tule Elk, an important and rare species.

Considered a flagship species, Tule Elk are key to our ecosystem and biodiversity. They help restore the landscape including oaks, native grasses and other native wildlife that depend on these trees and grasses.

In fact, California's Nature Center has found Tule Elk are essential to the long term restoration of California's native landscape and serve a vital role as an umbrella species for California's native grasslands, oak woodlands and landscape connectivity.

For years, my wife and I have travelled to Marin County, taking our kids when they were young, specifically to visit Point Reyes and view native Tule Elk along with other wildlife along the beautiful coast.

Please, for our future generations, take steps to remove the three-mile fence and end ranchers leases at Point Reyes public lands as it is the only way to ensure Tule Elk remain at this beautiful nature preserve. Thank you for your time.

**Correspondence ID: 24340**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Hard to believe this fencing has not been removed. Should have NEVER been put up. Remove these cattle operations. This is Insanity.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Dr. Linda Gallaher

**Correspondence ID: 24358**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. The elk need to be able to move around their home! It's their home, not cattle home!! It would be better for the Earth if everyone went vegan, then we wouldn't need cattle anymore. The National Park Service shouldn't be having anything to do with cattle, anyway! They're not a native species, and native species are the only kind of species that should be in a National Park!!

Sincerely, Mrs. Janet Borelli

**Correspondence ID: 24377**

I am for fence removal option

**Correspondence ID: 24395**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I care very much about the well-being of all animals and would like to help the elk. They deserve to have good lives and to live out their natural life-spans. They deserve to be treated only with love and compassion.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

Thank you for your attention!

Sincerely, Ms. Rasa Petrauskaite

**Correspondence ID: 24396**

The only reason the Elk don't have enough to eat is that you don't maintain the areas they are in. Since kicking out the ranchers the land has been overrun with inedible poison oak and bramble.

If you look at the original park plans, it was to stop development, not get rid of ranchers.

Ranchers brought the elk in, to co-exist with the ranchers.



DO NOT REMOVE THE FENCE. START MAINTAINING THE AREAS THE ELK FORAGE IN, SO THEY CAN EAT THERE.

**Correspondence ID: 24399**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I have personally visited the Point Reyes National Seashore and been to the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve. I wholeheartedly support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. These majestic animals DO NOT belong behind fences! Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed. Cattle expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Carol Kearns

**Correspondence ID: 24406**

I resided in Marin County (Mill Valley) for 54 years (1964-2018), until retirement to the PNW. For fourteen of those years (1964-1978) I worked as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of California and am thus very cognizant of the history and the underlying purpose of the creation by Congress and the administration by the NPS of the Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

I strongly endorse the NPS's Alternative Plan B to remove the Elk fence and maintain the herd without artificial interventions or restrictions.

Concessions to dairy and cattle ranching should be immediately cut back with the ultimate goal of complete elimination. The political compromise in the foundational acquisition documents, allowing the few Lettered ranches to remain in family operation for a specifically determined number of years, has been perverted by those family operations enormously increasing their cattle herds to numbers that are clearly doing great damage and harm to the environment of the National Seashore.

I strongly urge the NPS to take further action ordering the reduction of all cattle herds in the entire Seashore.

**Correspondence ID: 24417**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I absolutely support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

As the granddaughter of a dairy farmer I hope my heartfelt opinion matters . I truly believe the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. Private cattle operations really have no business in our national parks.

I really appreciate the National Park Service considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Lea McLaughlin

**Correspondence ID: 24422**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I cannot emphasize this enough! I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, PLEASE officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have ABSOLUTELY no business in our national parks. I will save my thoughts about ranching and meat and dairy industries in general for another time.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Shayna Johnson

**Correspondence ID: 24431**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks. Take fenced down so elk can survive and cattle should be on person who owns them land and not In parks. Save elk

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Barbara Arana

**Correspondence ID: 24464**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Please for the love of God take down that fence those beautiful animals were there first. Enough is enough soon we won't have any of Gods creations because we people think that your God.

Sincerely, Deborah Glacken

**Correspondence ID: 24474**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the plan to remove the fences and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national parks. In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation allowing the killing of elk. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

The Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne diseases. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore and thank you for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Christy Griffin

**Correspondence ID: 24482**

Let common sense prevail!

**Correspondence ID: 24513**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I really think it's time we start treasuring the wildlife that still exists in our beautiful country. Wildlife that was here way before we came along and started infringing on their space.

Therefore I fully support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Cheryl Ann

**Correspondence ID: 24516**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Park land is for the animals and the people who visit it- not for cattle ranchers.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Cara Petricca

**Correspondence ID: 24530**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I fully support alternative B. I also oppose all lethal management of all wildlife in our national parks. And all private cattle operations should be removed from OUR National Parks. I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Debra Mcqueen

**Correspondence ID: 24531**

Thank you for my opportunity to comment for the scoping period. When I was 14, the first place I ever camped was in the Pt. Reyes National Seashore Park area. I remember it like it was yesterday. I hold this park and surrounding wild lands in my heart to this day.

As a native Californian on my mothers side w ancestors going back for thousands of years in southern California, our native wildlife is essential for an in balance eco system, and, most important to me, indigenous wildlife which survived the systematic extirpations of the 1800s and early 1900's must be viewed as a priority, granted unfenced free range & protected status as they repopulate our California lands.

In general I support Plan B to remove all reserve fencing and unconfine the Tule Elk herd of Tomales Pt.

Where I differ is that I believe the supplemental water provided to non-historic areas or any areas where the Tule Elk have become accustomed to drinking from should continue for a year or so and very slowly be diminished only when there is not a drought but not discontinued entirely.

In times of drought or the threat of drought, water and minerals should be provided. Also, I believe mineral licks should be continued indefinitely, because the habitat is not in its historic form, many native plants are missing from the land, and couple that with a drought and the Tule Elk could diminish in population again. Water and minerals, particularly salt and other basic minerals also help Elk to recover from hard winters, grow antlers, keep healthy coats, and help with fat storage for winters for females in particular.

We humans have so degraded the land and water for several hundred years now in the Tomales Point area including the human feces discovered leaking from a bathroom at one of the ranches (per the CA Coastal Commission findings) and the cattle feces in the water leave the Tule Elk vulnerable to immune compromising pathogens and parasites, and the herd's genetics all come from 10 Elk, wouldn't you think the least that NPS and the American public could do is have the Elks backs and offer them basic life sustaining fluid and minerals on an on-going basis to begin to right the injustices perpetrated on their ancestral home ranges & extirpated population?

Additionally, it is the commercial cattle on the remaining ranches which should be enclosed behind fences to keep the Tule Elk safe from potential diseases. Dairy and cattle ranches have no place in a wilderness which is part of a national park paid for by the American people on our public lands. cattle ranches have no integrity when they allow human feces to leak onto land & into natural water ways & the Pacific Ocean. It was discussed at the 2022 CA Coastal Commission zoom public meeting that the majority of commissioners supported phasing out the dairies and ranches asap and as each head of cattle died, not replacing any of the herd so they naturally all die out. That land belongs to the American people and firstly to the wildlife. The wildlife should have full access.

Fencing would be a good beginning, to demonstrate that the ranchers accept and must co-exist with our native Tule Elk and not ask for permits to kill any of the Elk who are simply exhibiting their natural behavior in their native home ranges.

Ranchers should be severely fined for polluting the water with human and cattle feces, it threatens the Elk but also the other wildlife who depend upon the natural water sources in Tomales Pt. and the great Pt. Reyes National Seashore Park.

The Tule Elk will intuitively migrate and bear young in a more expansive range, this should be sanctioned as it is their intrinsic Elk behavior and if you conducted a citizen survey, Californians would want our Elk to have the right of way and not be targeted and killed for just being Elk. Grazing for food will inevitably take them to new areas as they search for the freshest forage, in season. It is precisely that forage which provides most of their nutrients. At your recent zoom public meeting I asked what would happen to Elk who migrated into areas boarding the dairies/ranches and I did not actually receive an answer except to say that the standard procedures would be followed. I have since learned that that means the Elk might be shot and killed which is contra to the whole point of natural dispersion in an area designated as a wilderness. In the future, wolves and perhaps more mountain lions could target the elk which would be a plus for the carnivores and be another sign of our eco system becoming intact again. Let's do our part to keep the herds strong and abundant so that our native carnivores will have Elk to pursue in the future.

Thanks again for accepting my thoughts/comments.

**Correspondence ID: 24539**

What has become of this country? How is it that we arrest people for dog fighting, for cruelty to animals and yet this deplorable situation continues: the actual, intentional slow, cruel and senseless starvation of these sentient animals. Either kill them all and spare them the slow and painful death of starvation or set them free so that they may find the food and water they so desperately need.

**Correspondence ID: 24544**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

These beautiful sentient animals deserve to live free in their natural environment. Without pollution and harm!

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs Donna Hogan

**Correspondence ID: 24548**

According to reports from PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the elk at Tomales Point are dying of starvation and thirst because of a fence.

To save shelves of these animals, please remove the fence and allow the elk to graze at will and without impediments.

Sincerely.

**Correspondence ID: 24550**

Please remove the fence structure that keeps tule elk from accessing food and water necessary for their survival!

**Correspondence ID: 24551**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Thank you for your vision to be better caretakers of our precious natural world. I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk.

Fences and confined animals have no place in national parks. It is contrary to the purpose of a National Park.

In addition, I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks. Please rescind Current regulation in the general management plan which allows the killing of the two other herds, especially since the herds made me intermingle when the fence is removed.

Last, Private account operations on the national parks land are exposing elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease.

Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

The Seashores tule elk cannot be Free, healthy, and safe until the Private cattle operations are removed.

I Support doing the right thing, which is protecting our wildlife and our designated national Park land.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Julie Hammons

**Correspondence ID: 24561**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

DENYING ELKS ACCESS TO WATER IS ANIMAL ABUSE AND CRUEL BEYOND WORDS. ANIMAL ABUSE IS A FELONY OFFENSE IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR DENYING THEM WATER SHOULD BE CHARGED TO THE FULLEST EXTEND OF THE LAW.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Jeni Emmons



**Correspondence ID: 24563**

Please tear down the fence keeping the Tule Elk from roaming the wilderness area that they have inhabited far longer than the cattle farmers of Marin. The herd is unhealthy being cordoned off in such a small area. Some of the herd died of thirst when their one source of water dried up due to the ongoing drought, it is inhumane. We visited the Redwood National Park this summer and were delighted to see the Roosevelt Elk that famously inhabit that area. The elk are treated as the treasure they are, and the tourists were overjoyed to photograph them. The Point Reyes National seashore should treat their fauna with the same respect.

**Correspondence ID: 24568**

I want to urge you to remove the fence and let the majestic elk roam free. It's wrong to let the elk starve and die due to lack of water behind a fence.

Let's choose wildlife over profit and return beautiful Point Reyes to its natural habitat.

THANKS!

**Correspondence ID: 24570**

September 25th, 2023

Tomales Point Area Plan

c/o Superintendent

Point Reyes National Seashore

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Re: 42 U.S.C. 4321, The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; and 43 CFR Part 46, Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

To Whom It May Concern:

The Western Organic Dairy Producer Alliance (WODPA) and Western United Dairies (WUD) provide the following comments regarding the U. S. National Park Service Consistency Determination for their General Management Plan for the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS).

WODPA strives to preserve, protect, and ensure the sustainability and integrity of organic dairy farming by representing organic dairy farm families in the 12 Western states. WODPA is committed to advocating for organic dairies, their livelihoods and issues impacting the sustainability of the organic dairy industry.

WUD is a statewide dairy farm trade association representing five dairies located within the National Seashore including many of the dairies located within the PRNS and GGNRA.

Our two organizations collectively represent the entirety of the organic dairy farming sector in the Western states.

The existing ranches and dairy farms occupy about 20% of the National seashore, which exists today in part because of the contribution of land by their parents and grandparents in 1965 to preserve the beautiful landscape and historic agriculture traditions of the region. These dairy

farms are organic operations and operate under the USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) which sets the requirements for organic farming across the nation. Several key provisions within the NOP regulations are at risk of being violated if the NPS allows the removal of the elk fence – specifically in regard to pasture compliancy requirements. These provisions pertain to pasture management, access to pasture, feed, and grazing intake by ruminant livestock—and collectively, make up the entirety of the “Pasture Rule”.

The Pasture Rule also directs dairy farmers on how to implement the provisions of the rule. If a dairy farmer does not implement the rule correctly -for example, incorrectly calculating dry matter intake (DMI) and conducting poor grazing management, their organic status is in jeopardy with both USDA and their organic certifier. This, in turn, removes marketability of their milk by their milk processor and decreases their return on their product.

An article published by AMS entitled “Pasture for Organic Ruminant Livestock: Understanding and Implementing the National Organic Program (NOP) Pasture Rule” provides a complete description of the Pasture Rule requirements and can be found at Pasture Rule ([usda.gov](http://usda.gov)). Put simply, organic ruminants (including organic dairy cows) must graze pasture during the grazing season for their geographic region for at least 120 days per year. During that grazing time, each animal must receive at least 30% of their dry matter intake by grazing. To do this, producers must manage their pasture as an organic crop to meet the feed requirements while protecting the soil and water quality. One of the primary ways producers can meet these requirements is through testing and recording the pasture quality and quantity they have on their property and using it to its fullest potential. The threat of fence removal on this land would be devastating to organic producers trying to meet the USDA requirements for pasture set forth by the NOP. The introduction of elk on these properties would minimize the ability for producers to implement a pasture management plan effectively and efficiently. One important note to add here is that to have a sustainable grazing system, producers must assess the pasture and allow for plant recovery time after grazing and adapt their grazing management practices depending on pasture recovery rates. Losing control over what animals are allowed to graze and when animals need to be removed from the pasture to provide much needed breaks for the organic pasture would be detrimental to the health of the animal, the soil, the water and the farm in general. We encourage you to research the Pasture Rule more intensely to understand how detrimental this is for an organic dairy farm.

We urge the National Park Service to adopt an alternative that includes an elk fence. If this is not the action adopted, the NPS will be adopting a plan that is inconsistent with regulations proffered by an existing Federal agency -USDA. Removal of the elk fence will place the NPS at a circular inconsistency violation for Federal standards. All Federal agencies have been directed to avoid duplicative regulation. But placing the dairies in violation of the Pasture Rule is not lawfully possible. Inconsistent regulations undermine agency and regulatory goals by injecting uncertainty, creating potentially conflicting regulatory regimes, and increasing transaction costs with no discernible benefit to the public.

Sincerely, Anja Raudabaugh

Chief Executive Officer,

Western United Dairies

[anja@wudairies.com](mailto:anja@wudairies.com)

Lia Sieler

Executive Director,

Western Organic Dairy Producer Alliance

Lia.wodpa@outlook.com

**Correspondence ID: 24584**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore.

Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

THIS ISSUE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO MY FAMILY AND TO ME.

Sincerely, Ms. Valerie Lockard

**Correspondence ID: 24600**

Dear National Park Service,

I agree with your preferred "Alternative B" to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point, inside Point Reyes National Seashore. This fence has confined the elk for 45 years (since 1978), solely for the benefit of private cattle ranches.

In addition, I believe all private cattle ranches should be removed from our public park. Their thousands of cows produce millions of gallons of manure and urine every year, contaminating the park's streams and poisoning elk, fish and other wild animals, as well as humans. Commercial cattle operations pollute and have no place in this or any national park.

Once the elk fence is removed, elk must be protected from exposure to manure-borne cattle diseases which commonly occur in commercial dairy and beef operations.

Finally, ranchers should be monitored and heavily fined if they haze, harass, or in any way harm elk or other wild animals in the park.

Thank you.

Jean Stewart

**Correspondence ID: 24608**

Dear National Park Service,

I write on behalf of Madrone Audubon Society, a nonprofit conservation organization and Sonoma County Chapter of National Audubon. We represent approximately 3,000 members in the North Bay Area.

We cherish our relationship with Pt. Reyes National Seashore, and we and our members frequently visit this national park, observing and reporting about birds, habitat and wildlife.

We agree with your preferred "Alternative B" to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point inside Pt. Reyes National Seashore. That fence has confined the elk for 45 years, since 1978 - to benefit private cattle ranches.

We are deeply concerned about the health and well being of the elk and equally concerned about documented serious water pollution of fresh water streams and resources caused by cattle ranching operations.

Critically important in this process is that, once the elk fence is removed, elk must be protected from greater exposure to manure-borne cattle diseases common in the commercial dairy and beef operations, and ranchers must be monitored and heavily fined and held legally accountable if they haze, harass, or harm any elk or wild animals in the park, ever.

We support removal of all private cattle ranches from our public national park.

Adding to the voice of Madrone Audubon, as a Naturalist who has documented and monitored for 20 years the special status mammal, American Badger, at Pt. Reyes National Seashore, I also strongly support "Alternative B" and request a level of new responsibility on the part of the National Park Service. The fence needs to be removed, and then ranching operations need to be discontinued.

American Badger also needs to be able to range, to be safe in grassland habitat where badgers must try and coexist with the cattle operations. PRNS also represents at least two natal territories for American Badger; this small sustaining badger population needs to be able to move freely, to support survival and biodiversity. Tule Elk and American Badger coexist well. Removing the fence will facilitate natural and free movement for the elk and many species - This is a national park, a treasure to protect, prioritizing wildlife and habitat.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Susan Kirks, President

Madrone Audubon, Sonoma County

Naturalist, Paula Lane Action Network (PLAN), SF Bay Area

**Correspondence ID: 24618**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in our national parks.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I object to the lethal "management" of wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches became infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this crucial issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Chris Hydro

**Correspondence ID: 24620**

How can you condone this cruelty by depriving these animals of water. What are you thinking? We should be protecting our wildlife at every step. This must be corrected immediately. I am so upset that my tax dollars are being used to essentially have animals suffer. Take that fence down and show some compassion and humanity and care for all species. What you are doing is criminal. Again, take down that fence.

**Correspondence ID: 24627**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units. I have been so concerned for so long. I would be so grateful if NPS were to return the Elk to their natural ecosystem. Cattle and the pollution they cause have NO place on the Elks habit

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I truly thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs. Sharon Hone

**Correspondence ID: 24631**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the

fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks. Take down the fences. No more grazing cattle.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs. I Joanne Mapother

**Correspondence ID: 24632**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. I also believe that it is best to remove cattle entirely from this protected space. Corporate cattle ranchers routinely put pressure on the BLM---even worse, the BLM needs to be reminded of its duty to the public in assuring the protection of wild species. Sadly, people do not routinely protect wild life when there is profit at stake. Our history in this country has been a constant story of use and overuse of land. The real job is to raise food sources that do not require taking every single foot of land for the benefit of corporate greed. BLM, please speak out for us, the people who want to do the right thing for future generations. Thank you.

Sincerely, Ma Kristine Wood

**Correspondence ID: 24633**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Please please read and save the lives of hundreds of elk!

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing (“culling”) of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal “management” of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs. Andria Ganley

**Correspondence ID: 24649**

With many thousands of acres under the management of Point Reyes Nat. Seashore and GGNRA lands in Marin County, why must the fate of Tule Elk and Family Farms in the Park be anchored to this absurd, all or nothing conflict on Tomales Point? I support policy that embraces both elk and ranching. The ranches should be supported and encouraged to be world class models of sustainability and stewardship.

Instead of being an ongoing management nightmare, elk should be located in appropriate habitats throughout the two management units. These lands need large herbivore impact, be it cow or elk. Without grizzly bears and wolves, elk populations will always be difficult to manage in a park on the urban fringe where large carnivores will come into conflict adjacent suburban and agricultural areas.

Ranchers can be terrific partners in land management, controlling invasive species and maintaining grazed landscapes that help wildfire management. I urge park planners to follow the alternative plan that supports both elk and ranching in the park.

**Correspondence ID: 24660**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Why do we have dairy ranches in our national park? This is exploiting public supported land for the benefit of private businesses that pollute the land and demand wild animals be fenced off.

I support the National Park Service's preferred “Alternative B” for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing (“culling”) of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal “management” of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Deirdra Rogers

**Correspondence ID: 24663**

Hello. I support alternative B to remove the elk fence at Point Reyes National Seashore and let the elk live there and roam free!!

**Correspondence ID: 24682**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

PLEASE HELP US SAVE THE TULE ELK!

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Shannon Deaton-Herrin

**Correspondence ID: 24684**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

This is been an ongoing issue with this park, and I have been writing emails and letters for years - it's about time to do the right thing for these magnificent elk.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks. Enough already!



I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. Please do justice for the Tule Elk.

Sincerely, Ms Diane Mitchell

**Correspondence ID: 24690**

Hello NPS,

Thanks for this opportunity to comment during the public scoping period re the Tule Elk of Tomales Point Area Plan.

I support plan B, remove the reserve fences with the following codicils:

Water and minerals should continue to be provided for the Tule Elk, phasing out very slowly, not discontinued abruptly. Furthermore, we will continue to experience severe droughts and water and minerals are key for the Tule Elk to survive and procreate. It would be short sighted to remove these live giving sources. The days of not interfering with "nature" and wildlife ended when the westward expansion began and the killing off of almost all the Tule Elk, Wolves, and Grizzlies ensued in California & native lands were reduced to tiny islands or destroyed with invasive species, human habitation and introduced, non-native species of ungulates. We need to update our thinking such as they do in Kenya where water is provided in Tsavo and other national parks during extreme droughts which occur most every year now. Without these supplemental offerings and when CWD does enter California or another life threatening disease, we could lose this population. Let's be pro-active and keep what's working and think of their future risks and err on the side of caution to help them survive drought and the unknown.

Working with our indigenous peoples is also important. The Tule Elk co-evolved and coexisted with native peoples when there were 500,000 or more Elk living on ancestral lands including Pt. Reyes and many other areas of California. Input should be valued and included in "management" of Tule Elk from tribes (recognized and unrecognized) who live in Tule Elk historic range lands.

Ranching in the Pt Reyes National Seashore Park is anachronistic and at the very least all cattle should be behind heavy duty fencing. Feces contamination from human and cattle is a serious health risk to the Tule Elk, their off-spring and to all wildlife including native plants and the Pacific Ocean, we need to hold ranchers accountable, fine them and phase out the cattle as each cow dies. For a "wilderness" established in 1976 such as Tomales Pt. to still have dairy and ranching in-holdings/lease land is not aligned with what Californians want on our public lands and they need to be phased out ASAP. Open up the entire are for wildlife to roam and for the public to enjoy watching our native fauna, that's why the park was created in the first place not to be a dairy farm location.

Thanks for reading. Looking forward to the final draft.

**Correspondence ID: 24698**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

FEED THE TULE ELK!!!

NO KILLING!! COME ON! YOU HAVE BECOME MONSTERS!!

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs. Naila M Sanchez Johnston

**Correspondence ID: 24702**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

Protect OUR Wildlife. They belong to Americans, not to greedy ranchers. The fence must be removed for the Tule Elk to reach water. How dare the Park Rangers work for Ranchers. They do not. They work for Americans to protect our parks and wildlife. Get the cattle off public lands and tell those ranchers to feed their own cattle.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Patricia Reda

**Correspondence ID: 24705**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

\*Support Alt B.

\* No Elk culling.

\*Cattle leases are poisoning the elk and have completely degraded lands toxifying the local waters.

\*No rancher intimidation of the elk.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Aaron Kenna

**Correspondence ID: 24730**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

The following represents my position in support of the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Dr. Deborah Filipelli

**Correspondence ID: 24739**

Point Reyes National Seashore is public land. Even if the grazing of cattle were not incompatible with the purpose of the Seashore, it must always be secondary to preservation of natural values. That includes restoration of the Tule Elk population.

With respect to proposed elk management, the National Park Service should choose Alternative B, called "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," which will allow elk to naturally roam free.

Fences are inappropriate in wilderness areas, and the Park Service shouldn't prioritize cattle over native wildlife. It's unacceptable to let confined native elk die of thirst and malnutrition due to fencing, especially in a national park. Once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

Private cattle operations aren't appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

Urge the agency to remove the elk fence to protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore the ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 24740**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I recently saw a Tule Elk in a grassy meadow on my drive from Northern California home. I was stunned by their regal beauty. These majestic animals deserve to live and thrive.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. linda hackett

**Correspondence ID: 24748**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I grew up in the Bay Area and have visited Point Reyes several times. The Tule Elk are among the best highlights of the area. I was shocked and sickened when I learned that dairy ranchers and cows are given preferential treatment to the detriment of the elk, which are essentially confined.

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Anna Rivas

**Correspondence ID: 24752**

It is unconscionable to not allow these beautiful creatures to fend for themselves instead of trapping them to their deaths. I urge you to consider the decision and change your mind to find an equitable and sustainable solution.

**Correspondence ID: 24758**

Dear National Park Service,

I am writing to implore you to please listen to the public and take action to support the original vision for the Point Reyes National Seashore. At the very least, as a first step, please move forward with Alternative B "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area". Please remove the Elk fence at Tomales Point and allow the Elk to roam free as nature intended.

It has been over 60 years since legislation was signed into law creating the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS). It has been 60 years since the ranchers agreed to accept fair market value compensation for their ranch lands. I assure you, back then, no one ever imagined that 60 years later, roughly 1/3 of the entire park would STILL be occupied by those same ranch families. Never in their wildest imagination did those responsible for the creation of the PRNS ever consider that, 60 years later, nearly 1/3 of the park would be dedicated not the protection and promotion of the natural flora and fauna of the land, and enjoyment of the public, but instead to the dairy industry which has created a ghastly dead zone of land--an ugly, unnatural, polluted, smelly, disgusting wasteland that is basically inaccessible to the public and unable to wildlife or native flora.

It is time to honor the original vision of the founders of the PRNS. At a bare minimum, Alternative B is a start. Please free the native Tule Elk. Remove the fence and do not allow the Elk to be culled, harassed, hazed, poisoned, killed, or harmed in any other way before or after the Elk Fence comes down. Allow them to roam free. They were here first, long before the ranchers. Support native Elk, not Cows.

Please free the Elk and start the process of removing all ranching from the Seashore within the next 5 years, and restoring the immense damage to the ecosystem that ranching has done, and continues to do, to what should be pristine lands.

Again, I support Alternative B.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID: 24763**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. Please remove the fence. Ranches should not be supported by the American public. That's money should go to needy people

Sincerely, Mrs Anne C Rush Phillips

**Correspondence ID: 24764**

I am writing to request that you remove the 8-foot fence in the Tule elk "preserve" at Pt. Reyes National Seashore. The fence prohibits elk from seeking adequate forage and water. More than 50% of the caged elk perished from starvation and/or dehydration during our last period of drought. The surviving elk are weak due to insufficient minerals in the soil. Please move forward with Alternative B to remove the fence. It is inhumane for us to keep these majestic beings in what is essentially a zoo.

**Correspondence ID: 24766**

September 25, 2023

Tomales Point Area Plan

c/o Superintendent

Point Reyes National Seashore

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

via: USFS Webform

Comments by Californians for Western Wilderness on  
Scoping for Pt. Reyes Tomales Point Area Plan

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I am submitting comments from Californians for Western Wilderness (CalUWild), a citizens organization with nearly 900 members and supporters. We are dedicated to protecting wilderness and encouraging and facilitating participation in legislative and administrative actions affecting wilderness and other public lands in the West. Our members use and enjoy the public lands in Utah and all over the West.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide scoping comments on the proposal for the Tomales Point Area Plan.

We are very happy that the Seashore's Proposed Action (Alternative B) includes the removal of the elk fence stretching across the northern end of the peninsula. We wholeheartedly support this action—it is long overdue. If needed, fencing should be built as needed to exclude cattle from the expanded Tule Elk range, especially any part of it that is included in the Phillip Burton wilderness.

The Seashore should remove the artificial water sources in designated wilderness, using non-mechanized means, as required by the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Non-native and invasive species must be prevented from becoming established and eliminated in areas where they currently exist. Inventories of plants and wildlife should be undertaken, and necessary vegetation and other habitat restoration projects should be implemented as needed to restore the original ecological functioning across the landscape.

We applaud the efforts to involve the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. You should also include and consult with other descendants of the original Miwok Tribe who may not be registered members of the Graton Tribe but who have current and ancestral links to Pt. Reyes and Tomales Point in all management decisions. At the same time, interpretive resources about the Tribes should be expanded.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please inform us of your decision in this matter and please also inform us of further opportunities to be involved in your public decision-making processes.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Painter

Coordinator

**Correspondence ID: 24771**

Free the elk and protect Point Reyes for native wildlife — not for the cattle destroying it.

**Correspondence ID: 24772**

As a frequent visitor to Point Reyes National Seashore and long-time resident of Marin County, I strongly support Alternative B: Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Corps Area.

As you develop the EIS for this Alternative, I recommend:

1. Assessing the need to phase out the provision of supplemental water and minerals for tule elk over a long enough period of time that will allow the tule elk to adapt to the new unconfined conditions and locate and regularly access alternative, natural water sources.
2. Assessing and developing plans to ensure that the newly unconfined tule elk that roam onto, or take up residence, in the Park's dairy and ranch lands are not subject to lethal removal. I strongly oppose lethal removal of tule elk from any of the lands within Point Reyes National Seashore.
3. When considering adding fencing to exclude cattle from Tomales Point, I encourage the Park Service to assess non-fencing options that could do the same thing, or if such options are not available, to ensure that any fencing that is put up is designed to minimize the harm to the Park's native wildlife to the maximum extent possible.
4. Any efforts to eliminate invasive plant species should not involve the use of pesticides or herbicides that can adversely affect native wildlife. The Park Service should comprehensively review--and prioritize--manual removal of non-native plant species, along with other non-chemically-based approaches to removing or eliminating invasive plant species.

Thank you for considering these comments and for addressing these issues as part of the environmental review for this important Alternative B.

Melissa Samet

**Correspondence ID: 24773**

At least seventeen years have passed since my husband, and I began visiting Point Reyes National Seashore. We've despised the fences since day one. Fencing in native wildlife in a national park? Private cattle ranches!? Infuriating. Cattle damage is terribly widespread across this state, and even here on nationally protected lands a few people are allowed to profit at everything else's expense. The very watershed is being deeply polluted.

I hope to experience land protected, and ecosystems restored from human impacts as much as possible when visiting such a precious place. The National Park Service should absolutely choose Alternative B, "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," to remove the deadly fencing. Further, livestock operations need be ended to be in compliance with both the Point Reyes Enabling Legislation, which states, "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes, and the Organic Act that designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

Please cease confining, culling, hazing, or harassing the native wapiti who have remained a mere shadow of their former glory for far too long, beyond the supposed enlightenment of society. I would much rather do away with cattle products entirely, and have native herbivores restored across the state. To think that the guardian agency of this land, this mere island of nationally "protected" land, would sacrifice it to prioritize cattle operations on the public's behalf, is atrocious. Please make it not so.

Thank you for allowing us a chance to speak, and be heard. May the wapiti herds roam free, waters run clean, plant communities replenish. Maybe one day we will all actually be able to see Point Reyes.



**Correspondence ID: 24777**

It is inhumane to confine Tule Elk in a tiny territory with our sufficient grazing and water.

Let The Elk have their territory!!?

**Correspondence ID: 24783**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

The purpose for my writing to you is to convey my gratitude in your proposal to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point, Point Reyes National Seashore. This will enable the Elk to roam the entire national park, and to broaden their gene pool and live-out natural lives.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs. Mary Luckhaus

**Correspondence ID: 24786**

I support Alternative B! Restoration of a free roaming herd of Tule elk is long overdue!

**Correspondence ID: 24788**

Hello,

I'm writing to express support for the sacred relative of the Coastal Miwok, the Tule Elk. The land of Marin has been colonized and polluted, especially by the West Marin dairy farmers. The generations of disrespect, imbalance, land theft, and indigenous erasure must end if we're to truly combat climate change. We need to give land back to indigenous stewardship across the globe, because they are the experts. What we have done with cash crops and large-scale farming has devastated the planet and the hope of our future generations. There is no other way forward for any of us, human or elk. Land back.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Charlene Eldon

**Correspondence ID: 24792**

It's time for the ranching at Point Reyes to come to an end. These ranching interests do nothing but pollute the land and the wildlife (some of which is endangered) around it, and for what? A sub-200 year legacy that doesn't need to be there to begin with? Turn the park into what it was and always should be—a haven for wildlife and let the tule elk (and all other species) live free, without culling or fencing. Embrace Alternative B from the proposed plan and finally remove all farming operations from the land. That's what needs to be done here.

**Correspondence ID: 24795**

I'm writing to ask that the following plans are followed for tule elk:

—Alternative B - removing the fencing

—Culling / killing tule elk as a management tool ends

—Remove ranches from the marine sanctuary park land- the cattle waste pollutes the water and elephant seal breeding grounds

Native wildlife cannot suffer for agricultural interests any longer. It's time to manage through science and for biodiversity, not ag and hunting interests.

**Correspondence ID: 24799**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units. Too many elk have needlessly died because of the fence.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks. I do not give permission for my tax dollars to be used for killing or "culling" any wild animals in our national parks!

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks!

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs. Brianna Kohlenberg

**Correspondence ID: 24806**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that

found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

AGAIN, I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE NPS ALTERNATIVE B, TO REMOVE THE FENCE AND FREE THE TULE ELK AT POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE! I HAVE VISITED THIS BEAUTIFUL NATIONAL PARK MANY TIMES AS HAVE MILLIONS OF OTHERS WHO ALSO SUPPORT REMOVAL OF THE CATTLE THAT HAVE NO PLACE IN A NATIONAL PARK! THANK YOU NPS!

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mrs. Jane Perkins

**Correspondence ID: 24815**

Thank you for considering the overwhelming public support for removing the elk fence. Fences are out of place in wilderness areas.

The National Park Service should choose Alternative B ("Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area,") which will remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free.

Native elk are entitled to the natural resources (food, water, habitat) they require for life, and protecting native wildlife and their habitats --especially on public lands-- should be prioritized over catering to private industry cattle owners. Further, once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk should be protected from culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

The Organic Act designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Point Reyes should honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes.

Therefore, and in summary, please immediately remove the elk fence and protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore the ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID: 24825**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national parks.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of wild animals in our national parks.

The Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed. These cattle expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases. Half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations do not belong in national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Judith Dean

**Correspondence ID: 24826**

Please allow the Tule Elk to roam the land (remove fences now) and support their reclamation of their home.

Farms were sold many years ago and should be given time to cease operations and cede the land back to the elk and other original occupants.

**Correspondence ID: 24830**

It's time to take down the fence at Pierce Point and let the tule Elk roam free. They were never meant to be fenced it permanently. Pierce Point was supposed to be a temporary enclosure as it does not have enough water or forage. Start giving precedent to the native wildlife. Make sure they have enough water and forage once the fence is down and keep the cows out. Restore the native grasses and have a fire plan and plan for droughts. This should be the end of this wildlife zoo and never again let hundreds of these iconic animals die. Also develop more trails and better access to the park and quit spending your budget on subsidizing the the ranches. They should submit to market forces like every other business.

**Correspondence ID: 24837**

My Name is Tim Kehoe and our family have been dairying on the J Ranch for over 100 years. My grandfather James Kehoe started our dairy business before there were even roads on Pierce Point. My brothers Tom, Mike and myself have always strived to be good stewards of the land that we have been born and raised on even after the park acquired the land in 1971. Before the Elk were introduced in 1978 the Pierce Ranch had been a beef ranch and before that it was one of the most productive dairies in the state of California with as many as 500 cows between the upper and lower Pierce Ranches. In that time there were as many as 20 water sources and the land had very lush pastures. Since the McDonalds left the Point in the late 70's, that land was considered wilderness so nothing was done to maintain the pastures or water sources for over 40 years on the Pierce Ranch. The questions that need to be considered are numerous; but, the main question since J Ranch will be adversely affected by taking the Elk Fence down is how will we be able to maintain our business and deal with hundreds of Elk potentially in our pastures, silage fields, and water sources. Our Organic Certification could be jeopardized if the NPS does not have a plan to address the impacts on the pastoral zone outside the planning area. Concerns that need to be addressed are how many Elk does the Park foresee in 5, 10, and 20 years that will be impacting all aspects of the range lands and the water quality that is supposedly impacted by the farming activity already. I have witnessed numerous Elk in creeks and tributaries on Pierce Point and this is going to be increased 10-fold if the fence is removed. How will the park service deal with this impact? The management of The Tomales Point Elk Herd can be managed at this point with the fence in place, if the Elk leave the point for other areas of the seashore or leave the park all together who is responsible for those impacts outside of the park? Has this been researched, what is the projection? In the event of another drought or other climate issues who will be responsible for water shortages if they become an issue? The reason I bring this question up is because the J Ranch had no water for almost 8 months in 2021 and 2022 and we had to supply water to our animals mostly from outside the park all at our cost. The impacts of the Tomales Point Elk Herd

in the pastoral zone area outside of the planning area cannot be brushed off because there are far greater issues to consider by taking the Elk Fence down. An environmental impact report needs to be done on what the effects will be outside the Tomales Point plan for these elk down the road 5, 10 and 20 years from now.

Tim Kehoe, J Ranch

**Correspondence ID: 24839**

National Park Services!

I urge you remove the elk fence that caused huge mortality rate for Tule elk. Poor animals have been suffering for a long time in the point Reyes Seashore park from starvation and malnutrition.

Also I urge you to protect Tule elk after removing the elk fence. Please let them to roam free in the Point Reyes Seashore national park. The lands in the national parks must be organized for wild animals not for the private cattle owners.

Sincerely, Dmitriy Komin

**Correspondence ID: 24845**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

The Tule Elk are a treasure to be preserved. Remove the fence.

Cattle should be removed to an area away from streams, ponds and shore areas due to their diseases, harmful to other species. Cattle belong away from park areas

Sincerely, Mrs Theresa Russio

**Correspondence ID: 24848**

Dear National Park Service,

I agree with your preferred "Alternative B" to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point inside Point Reyes National Seashore. — which has confined the elk (for 45 years, since 1978) only to benefit private cattle ranches.

There is no reason why the elk should live within a fence and the cattle ranchers should even be utilizing this land. The cattle ranchers should not only be removed from the land they should be subject to criminal trespass laws and fines if they harm the elk or utilize the land.

Thanks, DV

**Correspondence ID: 24854**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I've been absolutely appalled that the Park Service fenced off Tule elk from water sources in a National Seashore and left them to die of thirst. I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms Carole Richmond

**Correspondence ID: 24855**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

PLEASE...PLEASE...PLEASE...MANY PEOPLE AND ANIMALS ARE WAITING FOR RELIEF FROM YOU !!! IT HAS BEEN TOO MANY YEARS AND TOO MUCH SUFFERING AND DEATH.

CHOOSE ALTERNATIVE "B"...

RESCIND THE KILLING OF ELK IN THE OTHER TWO HERDS...

REMOVE PRIVATE CATTLE OPERATIONS , WHICH HAVE NO PLACE IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS, ACCORDING TO THE NPS ITSELF!

IF NOT YOU, WHO?

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

Sincerely, Ms. N. Vann

**Correspondence ID: 24861**

My understanding is that the Tule Elk are suffering and dying as a result of the 3 mile fence erected by the National Park Service.

I ask that you please consider removing the fence and allow the free movement of the elk.

They need to graze in their natural habitat and depriving them of their natural existence is decimating to their numbers.

Thank you.

Denise

**Correspondence ID: 24867**

First, thank you, National Park Service for reversing policy course with the Proposed Action to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence, freeing the park's largest Tule elk herd to the larger park.

My comments:

1. YES, I agree with your proposed "Alternative B" to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence, freeing this herd to the entire Seashore park.
2. In addition, remove all cattle operations from the park. Because all the park's Tule elk, and all the park's other wild animals — continue to be harmed in numerous ways by the operations of beef and dairy ranches, including cattle manure contamination of land and waterways, and massive methane gas pollution of the atmosphere.
3. Removing cattle ranches will provide thousands of additional acres of elk habitat for elk populations to expand into, thus negating the need for culling elk.
4. Therefore, make a public declaration to officially end all current policies allowing killing — aka, "culling" — any Tule elk in any area of the park. Including the killing currently allowed under the recent GMPA (General Management Plan Amendment). Removal of the elk fence will allow mixing of the three herds, effectively ending the distinction between elk inside and outside the Tomales Point Reserve.
5. Until cattle ranches are removed, confine cows away from what is currently Elk Reserve that has not been trampled, degraded and desiccated by cattle grazing — but could be when the fence is removed.

6. Enact and enforce severe financial penalties for any ranch operator or ranch employee who hazes, harasses, chases, attacks, shoots at or in any way disturbs any Tule elk.

7. Monitor ranches w. radio/satellite/cameras to assure compliance. (Do not collar elk) until ranches are removed from the park.

8. Until ranches are removed, consider making the current fenceline elk-permeable but cow-impermeable. One option: leaving the 8-ft-tall wooden posts in place, removing the woven wire mesh, replacing it with two straight (non-barbed), wildlife-friendly wires, 18" and 36" high. This would block cow access onto Tomales Point, but allow freer movement of elk both north and south, in and out of the current Reserve boundaries.

9. Refill supplemental water tanks and troughs for at least two (2) more years, in Oct. 2023 and Oct. 2024. Do this as a precautionary, pre-emptive measure for hot, dry summer-autumn weather. Do not wait, as in the past, until elk suffer from thirst and dehydration.

The park must be responsible for and prioritize elk herd health with supplemental water for at least two years after the Reserve fence is dismantled, allowing time for the northernmost herds to migrate south if they choose to do so.

Numerous citizens have photo-documentation of elk walking the fence line so it is safe to conclude some elk would have migrated south years ago if not for the Reserve fence.

10. Ban all herbicides and pesticide use in the park. National parks are wild places, not backyard gardens to be "managed" with toxic chemical poisons.

Herbicides and pesticides are toxic chemical biocides that enter the food chain, contaminate groundwater and harm or kill all life forms, including insects, birds, and mammals, including skunks, foxes, badgers, deer, weasels, raccoons, etc..

The most destructive "invasive species" by far at Point Reyes is the cow. Thousands of cows in the park's commercial beef and dairy ranches desiccate and compact soil, pollute surface water, and emit massive amounts of methane gas.

11. As described in Alternative B, remove the 12 fenced vegetation study enclosures in the Reserve.

12. Any Point Reyes management decisions which come from collaboration with, and input from, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria must still, and always, conform to National Park Service regulations specific to the Seashore, and the 1916 Organic Act which prioritizes "natural resources" which includes wild animals, which includes Tule elk herds. Any management regulations must be written and made public, not undisclosed, vague, or hidden from public oversight and review.

13. Options A and C, both of which allow the Elk Reserve fence to remain standing are not legally viable options because neither complies with the Wilderness Act. The Tule elk currently are NOT "free, unbound, unhampered, unchecked, having the freedom of wilderness," as required in the Wilderness Act and thus must be set free from fenced confinement in order to come into compliance.

- Jack Gescheidt, TreeSpirit Project.com



**Correspondence ID: 24872**

I am writing to ask the NPS to please remove the Tomales Point Elk fence so that the elk may roam freely. They deserve to be able to have access to food and water instead of dying of dehydration.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 24873**

SAVE THE ELKS!!!!

Take down the fence, let the elks have access to water. Revoke the leases from the ranchers, they don't belong in a national park. Let wildlife use the national parks.

**Correspondence ID: 24882**

I urge NPS to remove the fence: cattle grazing decimates ecosystems, contaminates the water supply with fecal bacteria, spreads invasive species and disease, and wastes massive amounts of water. Please remove the fence immediately.

Thank you

**Correspondence ID: 24892**

For years, native tule elk confined to Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore have been dying of apparent starvation and a lack of water. These beautiful animals are contained to the Tomales Point peninsula by a 3-mile-long fence erected by the National Park Service (NPS) with the intent to prevent the elk from grazing nearby seashore land. The problem has become so severe that a whopping 152 elk died on Tomales Point in 2020 alone.

After years of campaigns by PETA and other advocacy groups, I am pleased that the NPS is finally considering removing the fence confining the Tomales Point elk herd allowing the surviving elk to roam free and live the lives they deserve.

Corollaries to cattle grazing include decimated ecosystems, contaminated water supplies of fecal bacteria, spread of invasive species and disease, and waste of massive amounts of water!

KNOWN: Historically we have demonstrated a remarkable consistency in an inability to promptly and effectively remedy ecological devastation.

KNOWN: We have already breached an essential parameter for a viable planet: species diversification.

UNKNOWN: The number of undiscovered species

extincted on a daily; the rate/acceleration of ecological collapse as a result of species decimation.

Passage of this legislation is a must to preempt the cascading of ecological disaster(s).

**Correspondence ID: 24898**

Public Comments #1-Julie Fisher

The Tomales Point Area Plan needs to focus immediately on removing the fence that is preventing the Tule Elk from migrating to other areas of Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS), which also contains the Phillip Burton Wilderness.

The National Park Service (NPS) and CA Fish & Wildlife have documented poor health and deaths of Tule Elk, as well as poor forage quality and stress from droughts. These factors have impacted plants and wildlife (inc. Elk) at Tomales Point, but also throughout the Point Reyes National Seashore.

The 2 unfenced herds of Tule Elk have also suffered from poor health and deaths, as well.

The fence that is trapping the Tule Elk at Tomales Point needs to be removed, immediately.

If it cannot be removed immediately due to unsafe conditions for the elk if they wandered outside Tomales Point, then steps should be taken to quickly arrange for safe migration zones so that the elk can travel freely within Point Reyes National Seashore.

If there are delays in removing the fence, then (in the interrum) the NPS should assist the Tomales elk herd, even if that means supplemental food or water. Once the fence is removed, the elk can be monitored for any stresses in the future.

**Correspondence ID: 24906**

I support Alternative proposal B to remove the fencing for the Tule elk herd so that they are free to roam and graze. Please do not allow this land to be used to graze cows. Thank you for your consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 24908**

Please implement the Area Plan. Remove the fence to allow the elk in the 2,900 acre reserve to be able to get to the rest of the 71,000 acres of the whole reserve. This change is needed due to the droughts.

**Correspondence ID: 24913**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Please remove all cattle fences and support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan e fences allowing killing ("culling") of elk in s the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Mary Ellen Hannigan

**Correspondence ID: 24914**

I have very strong concerns about removing the Tomales Point elk fence and therefore support Alternative C. The Tomales Point herd needs to be managed both for their well being as the land they live on. The carrying capacity of Pierce Point needs to be determined and the herd needs to be maintained within that capacity. Taking down the fence will inevitably allow the herd to invade nearby properties like Tomales Bay State Park and the ranches which have had to provide water and feed during the drought to the 1998 herd that was released without a management plan. Improvements to the Tomales Point area to improve visitor facilities would be welcome.

The ranches deserve to have a chance to operate as determined by the Secretary of State when the oyster farm was closed. The twenty year leases would enable them to take out loans to improve their operations. The short term leases tie the hands of the ranchers. Give them a chance to demonstrate their commitment to operate environmentally responsibly and provide organic foods near a metropolitan area.

The proposal to put some of the elk on the Phil Burton Wilderness area where the Woodward Valley fire allowed grasses to be restored is another alternative. Park collaboration with Coastal Miwok descendants of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria could provide an opportunity for them to demonstrate traditional land management.

**Correspondence ID: 24921**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Time to move forward with a plan to humanely manage the elk and cattle populations at this national park. Please. I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Reinessa Neuhalfen

**Correspondence ID: 24924**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I want to make sure you know: here's ANOTHER vote to support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National

Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms Mary Lyon

**Correspondence ID: 24927**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

As a resident of this area, and someone who cares deeply for our ecosystem, I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Dr. Fred Pepper

**Correspondence ID: 24928**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

It's great to have hope for the future of the Tule Elk. Thank you for considering "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms Donna Preston

**Correspondence ID: 24929**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Tomales Point Area Plan.

I support Alternative Plan B: removal of the elk confining fence and adding a fence to exclude cattle from Tomales Point. After the elk confining fence is removed, the elk should be monitored to make sure they are able to access forage and water.

The Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OPEC) Mission Statement states that OPEC serves as a leader in resource stewardship and the sustainable and equitable management of the Department's resources. We foster partnerships to enhance resource use and protection as well as to expand public access to safe and clean lands under the Department's jurisdiction. We strive to continually improve environmental policies and procedures to increase management effectiveness and efficiency.

The removal of the elk confining fence and addition of a cattle excluding fence is a first step to good resource stewardship. There needs to be a plan to move agriculture out of the Point Reyes National Seashore and restore sustainable ecosystems and biodiversity in the land and water degraded by agriculture. I suggest a botanical inventory and an insect inventory of the land and water in the planning area.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 24936**

I am totally horrified at what the Tule Elk have had to endure ever since they were fenced off years ago. It was an unthinkable action that made the Elk suffer for years and dwindled the number of elk.

These elk are now facing threat from climate change, thirst, and malnutrition. It is hard to conceive why the National Park Service originally favored cattle ranches on an ecological preserve. The animals, particularly the Tule Elk, were deprived good foraging areas and water - why? this is a National Sea Shore not a cattle ranch.

I totally support the proposal to remove the fence for elk and allow them to roam free. This should never happen again. I understand cattle need to roam and forage but there are many places in the state that can support cattle ranches. The Tule Elk must be protected and supported as they are wild animals and have few places to roam.

I hope the actions that are taken will ensure that the Tule Elk are given prominence and protection. The visitors to Pt Reyes National Seashore have much to learn from nature preserves and the beauty, joy, and serenity of wilderness areas. Our state has few areas that

are as beautiful as the Pt. Reyes National Seashore and all wild creatures that live there should be protected so that they continue to thrive.

Sincerely

Helen Gail Jarocki

**Correspondence ID: 24938**

Please keep the elk fence up and do a better job of maintaining it. The elk are not being constrained by their designated area. The ranches are a very important part of our community. The elk should not interfere with the ranching businesses.

Please choose C.

**Correspondence ID: 24942**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue. YOU have the power to help these beautiful, innocent, majestic creatures!!

Sincerely, Ms. Laura Marquez

**Correspondence ID: 24944**

I support all measures to provide sufficient habitat, access to water, necessary minerals, and forage for the Tule Elk at Point Reyes. Removal of fencing which leads to elk mortality must occur.

Solutions which use public lands to support ALL public good should be in place.

Dan Pitcock

**Correspondence ID: 24953**

I support the intention of the 1964 Wilderness Act, biodiversity, and the vital role that wildlife play in sustaining ecosystems. That is why I support Alternative B as the best option. Removal of structures in the Wilderness and the fence just outside of the Wilderness is the right choice. Alternatives A and C should be opposed as they degrade the Wilderness and endanger rare Tule elk. However, some other changes to Alternative B ought to be considered:

--Removal of water structures unlawfully built in the Wilderness must be done by non-motorized means. The structures are small and could easily be removed without the use of motor vehicles.

--Please eliminate grazing by cattle. The cattle should not be allowed in Point Reyes or the Wilderness anymore as per the original agreement.

--Don't use herbicides in the Wilderness. Removing cattle and the fence would allow for better distribution of Tule elk and would mitigate against expansion of invasive plants.

--Allow natural fires to burn and shape the wilderness landscape rather than using manager-ignited fire to create artificial conditions. Too-frequent use of manager-ignited fire has the tendency to favor non-native invasive plants.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**Correspondence ID: 24956**

Please reconsider Option C as the preferred option.

We need to protect all resources, including resources to support ranching. We need to have some separation from cattle in crucial areas and management of the Elk numbers, through culling if needed. Ranchers "cull"/sell/remove cows on a regular basis as needed and it seems appropriate that the Elk numbers are also balanced, as they are in other National Parks, since their numbers are not balanced by natural predators.

Agriculture, including ranching has become an important part of our Marin, and especially West Marin, economy and culture. Each time a ranch closed on the seashore, ripple effects are felt throughout our community. Fewer jobs, fewer local families, and fewer children in our schools are a result of added restrictions to the few ranches still functioning in the Seashore area. These ranchers need longer leases and stewardship support to be able to continue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Correspondence ID: 24958**

Hello! I'm writing to express my FULL support of Alternative B: Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

Alternative B represents a commendable and deeply necessary step towards climate change justice and animal welfare within our national parks. By updating management zoning to include a Wilderness Zone and Scenic Landscape zone, this alternative prioritizes the preservation of natural habitats, critical in mitigating the impacts of climate change. Removing the elk fence and discontinuing the provision of supplemental water and minerals for tule elk aligns with principles of animal welfare, allowing these animals to thrive naturally and sustainably.

Additionally, the commitment to retaining historic and cultural landscape features while managing invasive plant species showcases an understanding of the interconnectedness between human history and ecological balance. The promotion of ethnobotanical resources in collaboration with the Tribe not only respects indigenous knowledge but also contributes to climate resilience.

Finally, the focus on visitor use management, with potential limits on camping and daytime beach use, shows a commitment to preserving these natural and cultural treasures for future

generations. In essence, Alternative B is a testament to the principles of climate change justice and animal welfare, ensuring the responsible stewardship of this remarkable natural heritage.

**Correspondence ID: 24962**

I support Alternative B to remove the fence confining the native Tule Elk herd at Point Reyes National Seashore, AND urge the immediate removal of all commercial cow grazing from Point Reyes National Seashore, to fulfill the purpose of Point Reyes as a natural area for the plants and wildlife, including the Tule Elk herd. Cattle grazing in a National Seashore area is not compatible with this purpose and should never have been allowed or supported by the construction and maintenance of the fence by the NPS all these years, for the benefit of private business owners grazing cows ("grazers"). When the original grazers leased the public land to graze cattle, they KNEW that Tule Elk would compete for grazing areas and water sources with the cattle, but the grazers took on that economic risk anyway, so the NPS building the fence to block the elk was a 'gift of public funds' to the commercial grazers that was unjustified, and contrary to the mission of the NPS to preserve and restore NPS land to benefit native wildlife and plants. It is long past time to remove the fence to correct this injustice, and prevent further starvation deaths of elk, which are native to Point Reyes and should be given every priority to use all the land and water resources to support the herd. Please choose Alternative B for these reasons and remove the fence, and terminate cattle crazing on public land immediately. It is the right thing to do.

**Correspondence ID: 24966**

Hello, I would like you to please choose -Alternative B, the "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," in order to remove the fatal fence and allow Tule elk to roam free.

Thank you for removing the fences that have been removed.

The elk need to be unconfined and be able to wander and eat and live naturally.

We need to please protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and put our resources towards nurturing and restoring the ecosystem.

Thank you very much

**Correspondence ID: 24968**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I fully support theTHIRD alternative

of your presently considered options. Please feel free to contact me

I completely and unequivocally support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and



manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Eli Kyle

**Correspondence ID: 24969**

The proposed removal of the elk fence needs more time for study. There are too many unknowns, such as effects on elk health, effects on livestock health, control of non-native plants, human interactions, elk reaching residential areas, and economic effects to families on the ranches. Note that the forage is good in the pastoral zone, which is why elk want to be there: the Limantour herd is the best example of that, but also the Pierce Point herd is suffering from poor forage that was, fifty years ago, among the best forage on the coast.

It also needs to be noted that avian science is showing that open fields are essential for many species' survival. As well, many native mammals such as badgers, gophers, coyotes and bobcats thrive on the pastoral lands. Pasture released from grazing and then not managed has been shown to harm certain native flora and fauna that have adapted to grazing as a replacement for Indigenous burning and heavy grazing by native elk.

Certainly, if the Kehoes, McClures, Evanses and Grossis--and those farther south--choose to leave their ranches and businesses, whether for personal or economic reasons, that would be the time to move the elk fence south to the northern end of Drakes Estero. I prefer a system of attrition rather than forced eviction. The people who make wages and are housed on the ranches are a vital part of the community's culture, and the removal of the elk fence will threaten the existence of the family-run ranches.

As a longtime local resident, I have great appreciation of the elk, other wildlife, and wildflowers in the national seashore, but also appreciate the contribution of the families out on the Point. I have witnessed over the past 50 years the change from grazed pastures teeming with wildlife and wildflowers to almost-monocultural forests of brush and fir trees. The latter areas have their place, and there are tens of thousands of acres of such land, but it would be detrimental to lose the open grasslands of Point Reyes.

In closing, I recommend an adequate delay of decisions regarding removal of the elk fence.

**Correspondence ID: 24974**

Enact Alternative B! Unconfine the elk!

I wholeheartedly support the preservation and protection of the Tule elk in Point Reyes. These magnificent creatures are not only a vital part of the natural ecosystem but also a symbol of our commitment to conservation and wildlife welfare. Point Reyes is their ancestral home, and we have a moral obligation to ensure their continued existence here.

The Tule elk have faced historical challenges and their numbers dwindled to near extinction. However, through dedicated conservation efforts, their population has been gradually recovering. It is our responsibility to build on this success and provide them with a safe and thriving habitat.

I urge the authorities to prioritize the well-being of the Tule elk in any decision-making process for Point Reyes. This means considering their needs in land management, ensuring adequate resources, and safeguarding their habitat. By doing so, we not only protect a unique species but also contribute to the broader cause of preserving biodiversity and combating the global biodiversity crisis.

Let us be stewards of these beautiful creatures and the environment they call home. The Tule elk deserve a future in Point Reyes, and it is our duty to make sure that future is secure.

**Correspondence ID: 24975**

Born, raised and lived in Point Reyes Station for 55 years, I've always loved and enjoyed the PRNSS. The park needs to stick to its plan of keeping the elk fenced in and letting the ranchers have the land that they have leased without extra burden. Stop listening to people that aren't familiar with the area. I'm certainly not going to weigh in on discussions in another state that the locals know more about.

**Correspondence ID: 24979**

Native Tule Elk, which are confined to Tamales Point, in Point Reyes

National Park, have been dying of starvation, and a lack of water. They are kept behind fencing,

designed to keep them away from land now occupied by cattle ranches, and dairy farms. This is a

National Park, with a mandate to protect diverse marine, intertidal, and terrestrial species. the park

has more than 50 endangered, threatened, and rare animals. The farming industries are degrading

the land, and water for wildlife.

Having private industries reducing the space, where people can go,

to have life changing experiences, is a huge shame, in a National Park. The Tule Elk, are part of the

seashore's allure. They should not be forced to slow, and horrific deaths, from lack of water, and food,

while cows graze on National Park land!

**Correspondence ID: 24981**

Along with many of my neighbors and community members, I very strongly urge you to adopt PLAN C--which is the plan that benefits the ranchers, the community and the environment here in West Marin.

Plan C means that the elk fence would remain intact, and the elk would be culled but not exterminated. Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria would work with the park on management. As others have suggested, some elk could be relocated to the Phillip Burton Wilderness Area. This would neither interfere with local residential areas nor ranching.

This solution is best for the benefit of all, and I thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

Mary Winegarden

**Correspondence ID: 24985**

Hello,

I would like to reach out in support of the Tule Elk and voice my support for removing the elk fence. Please protect these wild animals. The cattle ranches on NPS land cause pollution to our waterways and interfere with the natural wildlife of the area such as the Elk.

Thank you, National Park Service, for finally listening to the overwhelming voice of the public and removing the elk fence from Point Reyes. Fences are inappropriate in wilderness, and cattle should not be prioritized over wild animals. Beautiful Point Reyes National Park needs to be preserved for future generations. Please do your part to preserve this beautiful park and all the natural beings in it for future generations.

Thank you for your service,

Bridget

**Correspondence ID: 24987**

I speak as a very concerned citizen in support of protecting the Point Reyes National Seashore as the natural treasure it is and allowing the elk who call this area home and depend on it for their very existence to be allowed to again roam free.

It is way beyond time to stop genuflecting to livestock owners and the ranching industry, whose political and lobbying clout have been allowed to gain much too strong a foothold in this country where the welfare of wildlife and natural resources are concerned.

The Point Reyes elk must no longer be confined to a peninsular area behind a fence. These are not zoo animals. To imprison them in this way where their access to suitable food and water is compromised, even to the point of starvation and death, is unethical, inhumane, and unbelievably cruel. And then to propose killing what seem to be considered "excess" animals as if they have no value is immoral in the extreme. For what? Because ranchers want to spread into what is a natural wilderness area that should be valued for its very wild-ness--not trampled and destroyed by cattle herds. The ranching industry makes its living on death. It has no right whatsoever to do what it currently does more and more--that is to brazenly expand into wilderness areas such as Point Reyes with no regard for the destructive impact inflicted on the

environment it invades or on the life forms who live there. It then thumbs its collective nose at the government agencies who allow it to do just that. This is very, very wrong.

The fence has to come down, and the elk must be allowed to roam free as is their natural right. I believe there is a proposed "Alternative B" which would allow just that. This particular species was once hunted almost to extinction. There are not that many of these animals today and they should not be killed or bothered in any way but be allowed to thrive. There are precious few true wilderness areas left anymore and the existence of too many species has become precarious because of human interference. Please do not let the ranchers win this issue at the expense of these elk.

For the Point Reyes elk, "Live and let live" should be the rule followed from now on.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint.

Respectfully,

Linda Young

**Correspondence ID: 24988**

**9/25/2023**

Tomales Point Area Plan

c/o Superintendent

Point Reyes National Seashore

1 Bear Valley Road

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

RE: Scoping Comments on the Tomales Point Area Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore

The Resource Renewal Institute (RRI) appreciates the opportunity to provide the scoping comments before the National Park Service (NPS) initiates a formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the 2,900-acre Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve ("the planning area").

Since the 1970s, RRI's founder, the late environmentalist Huey Johnson, has dedicated energies to the protection of the lands, waters, and wildlife of Point Reyes National Seashore for current and future generations. For example, In the 1970s, Huey founded the Trust for Public Land and, through that organization, acquired various parcels from the RCA Corporation in the 1970s. In 1976 and 1977, the Trust for Public Land announced the purchase of 2,300 acres (G Ranch and what is now Niman Ranch/Commonweal area) of coastal Marin property for eventual inclusion into the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA) and Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE). More recently, RRI has dedicated significant volunteer and staff time and resources to research NPS management of PORE and GOGA lands and to participate in various public processes related to the aforementioned management.

In preparation for these comments, RRI has reviewed the NPS letter dated March 31, 2022, as well as the Public Scoping Newsletter for the Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP)/Environmental Assessment (EA). We are aware that the NPS has identified multiple issues as part of the

planning effort including: the maintenance or removal of the tule elk fence; population management of the Tomales Point tule elk herd; supplemental water for the elk; wilderness management; and visitor use and infrastructure at Pierce Point Ranch. Finally, we applaud the NPS at PORE for providing meaningful opportunities for Tribes to participate in decision-making processes that affect tribal interests.

RRI's scoping comments intend to provide substantive comments regarding management activities within the Tomales Point Area; however, we also acknowledge that the outcomes associated with the TPAP are predicated on assumptions about adjacent land management practices found in the NPS Record of Decision (ROD) for the General Management Plan (GMPA) completed at PORE and GOGA, which is currently being challenged in court.

In RRI's Pre-Scoping Period Comments dated 5/9/2022, we provided a collection of proposed alternatives for the TPAP/EA NEPA process that provide dynamic responses to management challenges currently being experienced in the planning area. RRI is grateful to see that our Proposed "Alternative B: Elk Fence Removal Alternative" is conceptually consistent with the proposed action put forward by the NPS: "Alternative B: Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area.

Please find below RRI's scoping comments on the alternatives developed by NPS for the TPAP/EA:

#### Proposed Alternatives

##### A. No Action Alternative

Based on the aforementioned purpose and need statement, RRI believes this alternative is inconsistent with the NPS Organic Act, enabling legislation for PORE, nor elk management plan goals and objectives from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) 2018 Elk Plan.

The public has expressed concern over the NPS management of the Tomales Point tule elk herd, which has resulted in numerous die-offs in recent years.

Between 2012 and 2015 the population at Tomales Point declined by approximately 50% dropping from 540 to 283. The loss of animals is believed to be related to drought conditions, mineral deficiencies, and a population level above carrying capacity within the enclosure.

Once again, in 2021, the NPS announced a die-off of 221 elk in the planning area. Since then an additional 72 tule elk have died. As proposed during the 2012-2015 drought, the loss of animals is believed to be related to drought conditions, mineral deficiencies, and a population level above carrying capacity within the enclosure.

During each die-off incident, the free-ranging tule elk herds in PORE did not experience any die-offs, with populations remaining stable or declining slightly.

These "boom and bust" cycles had been anticipated in numerous publications and white papers developed since tule elk were reintroduced to PORE. Large mammalian herbivores in a restricted reserve may grow to a number that exceeds the ability of the habitat to sustain them (McShea et al. 1997b). This finite amount of food resources, when coupled with the effects of crowding, was anticipated to eventually lower reproductive rates, increase mortality, and lead to a reduction in the rate of population growth. (Porter 1992).

In addition to overpopulation, tule elk in the planning area are known to suffer from nutritional copper deficiencies due to poor soil/forage and Johne's disease, a cattle-borne paratuberculosis which transplanted elk likely to have been contracted from cattle at PORE between 1978 and 1979 (Gogan and Barrett 1986).

As a result of recent droughts, and the die-offs of tule elk in the planning area that followed, the general public demanded a response. Initially, activists delivered water to the tule elk in the planning area. Eventually, the NPS bowed to public pressure and decided to forgo their "hands-off" management policy, and have delivered water and mineral supplements to the Tomales Point tule elk herd.

Questions remain about the viability of a business-as-usual management strategy for the planning area. Since the release of the 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan, new questions have emerged regarding vegetative succession and forage quality since the cessation of ranching in the planning area. In addition, climate-induced uncertainty in precipitation patterns and air temperature have revealed new questions about hydrology in the planning area. Both of these issues affect tule elk population dynamics, along with other wildlife species—including threatened and endangered species.

Finally, tule elk in California have been through a series of genetic bottlenecks with undetermined effects. The population of tule elk at Point Reyes' has been estimated to contain the lowest level of genetic variation (or heterozygosity) of all the herds in the state of California, based upon an analysis of translocations and bottlenecks (McCullough et al. 1996). This low level of genetic variation is due to CDFW policy that prohibits the translocation of tule elk from PORE due to the prevalence of Johne's disease. The Point Reyes elk herd relies on its genetic makeup and diversity to cope with the challenges of its environment.

Alternative A would fail to address these myriad problems.

#### B. Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area (NPS Proposed Action)

Based on the preliminary list of elements identified by NPS for their Proposed Action, RRI supports deeper investment and evaluation of Alternative B. RRI believes Alternative B offers the NPS the best opportunity to further improve the ecological restoration and resilience of the planning area. Furthermore, Alternative B offers a variety of opportunities to improve public recreation, use, and enjoyment of the planning area. Finally, this alternative allows NPS to enhance a variety of cultural resources in the planning area.

The "boom and bust" cycles associated with the artificial island ecosystem at the northern end of the National Seashore are a direct result of an 8-foot-tall, 2.4-mile elk fence at Tomales Point, which essentially created this separate planning area and divorced this ecosystem from the whole of the Point Reyes peninsula. Gogan and Barrett (1986) state: "There is an inherent conflict in attempting to manage within a Park Service natural zone an ungulate population existing under unnatural conditions, i.e., restrained by fencing to a small area without any opportunity to disperse.

The presence of the elk fence was a stipulation associated with transplanting tule elk to PORE. In their 1971 "Report on Survey of Potential Transplant Sites for Tule Elk", California's Tule Elk Interagency Task Force stated: "An elk fence is mandatory, to the extent they cannot move to

adjacent private lands and cause depredation problems or to adjacent service lands where dairy cattle are grazing.”

If the existence of the elk fence is predicated on concerns regarding conflicts on adjacent NPS lands where dairy cattle are grazing, there is an opportunity to explore the possibility of fence removal based on the newly developed NPS's ROD Succession Policy for beef and dairy ranches at PORE and GOGA. The ROD and Succession policy both demonstrate the potential for the conversion of dairy ranches to beef ranches in the near future, the conversion of commercial cattle ranches to land management by Tribal governments, or the closure of ranch operations altogether.

Removal of the elk fence would have little effect on wilderness, so long as cattle cannot move into the wilderness area. RRI recommends NPS evaluate methods to ensure cattle cannot access the planning area.

This alternative helps the NPS meet CDFW elk management goals for the confined herds, including goals to 1) reduce the number of confined herds and reduce the frequency of removing excess animals; 2) enhance habitat within enclosures; and 3) enhance opportunities for public use and enjoyment of elk that includes wildlife viewing and education. As part of these overarching goals, CDFW regional and headquarters staff identified the following possible actions.

Goal 1. Reduce the number of confined herds and the frequency of removing excess animals.

Objective 1.1. Eliminate one or more confined herds by 2025.

Goal 2. Enhance habitat within enclosures.

Objective 2.1. Enhance elk habitats by at least 5% by 2028.

Goal 3. Enhance opportunities for public use and enjoyment of elk that include wildlife viewing and education.

Objective 3.1. Increase elk viewing and educational opportunities by 20% by 2023.

C. Maintain Elk Fence and Actively Manage Elk Population.

RRI believes this alternative is inconsistent with the NPS Organic Act, enabling legislation for PORE, nor elk management plan goals and objectives from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) 2018 Elk Plan.

Based on RRI's analysis of the TPAP/EA Pre-Scoping Comments and RRI's analysis of public comments submitted during prior NEPA processes at PORE, RRI feels confident that public sentiment does not support either the ongoing maintenance of the elk fence or the “management” (i.e., “taking”, “culling”, killing) of the tule elk populations within the planning area.

\*\*\*Critical Information Required for the NEPA Process\*\*\*

As part of the TPAP/EA process, please produce information on current tule elk population size, density, age structure, fecundity (birth rates), mortality (death rates), sex ratio, and their use of habitats throughout the year and over time. This information will be necessary in the planning process moving forward.

In California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Elk Conservation and Management Plan (2018), CDFW states that they are currently collaborating with the NPS to 1) identify/establish specific vegetation management thresholds for Tomales Point; and 2) determine the prevalence of Johne's disease within tule elk at Tomales Point. RRI understands that the former was scheduled to be completed in 2021, while the latter work is ongoing. Please provide the most up-to-date information on both of these processes with CDFW to help RRI and the public evaluate forage availability and disease prevalence within the planning area.

Please evaluate the costs associated with the maintenance of the elk fence versus the removal of the elk fence at Tomales Point.

Please evaluate the costs and impacts associated with the removal of the portion of the elk fence that extends into the intertidal zone of Tomales Bay between Elk Fence North and Elk Fence South beaches.

Please evaluate the Tomales Point elk management activities (e.g., hazing) and associated costs.

Please evaluate water resources within the planning area, such as stock pond, spring, and seep abundance, distribution, and estimated productivity. Please produce visual aids (i.e., maps) that present spatial and topographical characteristics of these water resources.

Please evaluate the annual costs associated with providing supplemental water and mineral supplements, to date, to provide the public with the full costs associated with that program.

Please evaluate the threatened and endangered species within the planning area, as well as strategies to enhance the habitat for these species. Please provide visual aids (i.e., maps) that present spatial representation of species distribution within the planning area.

Please evaluate the health of flora and fauna within the planning area. Please provide visual aids (i.e., maps) that present spatial representation of species distribution within the planning area.

Please evaluate the use of prescribed fire to meet the desired conditions of native plant communities.

Please evaluate opportunities to partner with indigenous communities to further protect and interpret cultural and environmental resources within the planning area.

Please evaluate public recreational opportunities within the planning area.

Please explicitly evaluate how the removal of the elk fence may enhance visitor use and enjoyment via trail connectivity from the planning area to other trail networks and parking areas south of the planning area (e.g., Marshall Beach Trailhead). Please provide visual aids (i.e., maps) that present spatial and topographical representation.

Please evaluate the methods for improving boat-in camping site reservations on Tomales Bay.

## Conclusion

In 1979, a statewide tule elk management plan was prepared by the Tule Elk Interagency Task Force with an overall goal "to ensure the continued growth of healthy, free-roaming tule elk herds of sizes that are ecologically compatible with the suitable habitats of California."



The Tomales Point elk herd's limitation to planning area is a historical artifact of their reintroduction onto an area bounded by historic ranch areas intent to restrict their movements to a protected preserve. If they are to remain part of the Seashore's fauna and ecological processes, they must eventually become free-ranging throughout the Seashore.

RRI believes the management decisions born out of this planning process can help the state of California realize this long-held vision for the tule elk. What's more, RRI believes the management decisions will bring the planning area into concert with the founders' vision for Point Reyes National Seashore and the management approaches of the original stewards of this land.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Chance Cutrano

Director of Programs

Resource Renewal Institute

8 Bolinas Rd, Suite 3A

Fairfax, CA 94930

Literature Cited:

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Gogan, P.J.P. and Barrett, R.H. 1986. Tule Elk at Point Reyes National Seashore. Proceedings of the Conference on Science in The National Parks. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA.

Hughey, L., et al. 2021. Effects of human-altered landscapes on a reintroduced ungulate: Patterns of habitat selection at the rangeland-wildland interface, Biological Conservation. DOI: 10.1016/j.biocon.2021.109086

Tule Elk Interagency Task Force. 1971. Report on Survey of Potential Transplant Sites for Tule Elk. California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California, USA.

Tule Elk Interagency Task Force. 1979. The management plan for the conservation of tule elk. California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California, USA.

**Correspondence ID: 24989**

Remove the fence and let the elk run free! Species are being threatened, do the right thing.

**Correspondence ID: 25002**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the "proposed action" to remove the elk fence of the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve. This is "Alternative B" of three alternatives the NPS is required to consider and free the Tule elk to access the much larger, entire park.

Sincerely, Mr Dan Hendrickson

**Correspondence ID: 25004**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks. I don't understand why cattle ranchers are allowed to graze their herds on public lands. That's not what the park was intended for.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Suzanne Hamel

**Correspondence ID: 25006**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support your "proposed action," Alternative B, to remove the Tule Elk Reserve fence at Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore. In addition, I would like to see all cattle operations removed.

Sincerely, Mr. Keith Benson Radcliffe III

**Correspondence ID: 25017**

Dear Superintendent Kenkel and Planning Committee,

I strongly encourage you to support Alternative C. Alternative C is the best and most wholesome option. It is a Gestalt view, offering balance and harmony. Alternative C assures a lasting legacy of support and protection for the land, the Tule Elk and the people.

Alternative C also provides the opportunity to address and correct errors of the past wherein decision makers--whoever they may have been--failed to look at long-term consequences and impacts.

Alternative C is a sound and sensible plan.

Thank you,

Graciela Lechon

**Correspondence ID: 25023**

I have lived in Pt. Reyes for a few years some time ago, and now have lived in Marshall, across from Pt. Reyes for the last 7 years, so I am familiar with this discussion in the community regarding the elk and cows. It seems reasonable to me to resolve this dispute by compromise,

which for me means allowing all parties to succeed in some arrangement of mutual success. This means to me to NOT take down the fence, as this will result eventually in compromising the dairy/cow farms, whereas keeping the fence means limiting, but not removing, the elk herds. Not perfect, but all get something reasonable here. We do very much need the dairies as a reliable healthy food source, and the elk are clearly majestic creatures which deserve some protection in this special landscape.

Thanks for the consideration,

Greg Goodman

**Correspondence ID: 25024**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johnne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johnne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

PLEASE STOP THIS HEINOUS CRUEL SADISTIC OPERATION AT ONCE!!

IT MUST STOP!!

Sincerely, Ms. Antoinette Maceri

**Correspondence ID: 25025**

Dear Superintendent Kenkel,

I strongly support alternative B for the Tule Elk Management Plan.

It is time to free the Tule Elk at Tomales Point. The removal of the fence aligns with the National Park Service's mission and the purpose of Point Reyes National Seashore. The need for water infrastructure in undeveloped areas would be eliminated. And the use of lethal population control measures would no longer be necessary.

**Correspondence ID: 25028**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

My name is Jennifer Coleman, a voter in Marin County. I support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National

Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. I oppose all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks.

I thank the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely, Ms. Jennifer Coleman

**Correspondence ID: 25031**

Remove the fence and set the elk free, for years I have pondered at the beauty and was astounded that cattle have more rights to the land than other animals! Cattle destroy land. They are no good for the environment. If the cattle industry can't live with elk roaming they should leave. Take down the fence please.

**Correspondence ID: 25044**

To NPS:

i am a longtime home owner in west marin. Thank you for finally allowing We the People to comment on your fencing in of local wildlife on behalf of 'we the ranchers'..

I strongly AGREE with your preferred ALTERNATIVE B.

Frankly, this is a no-brainer.

I have gone to see the Elk in your fence together with the Coast Miwok People, the original inhabitants of these lands as we paid our respect to the Elk.

I have since informed myself intensively on the history of the Elk and the rangers and the NPS role in this particular way of managing these lands.

I have informed myself through various channels on the pollution of Tomales Bay where I swim, and on the CO2 effects of the dairy and beef industry on the climate.

I have hosted many tourists for years and fielded their questions on why there are only stinking cattle operations and non-native dried out european grasses in this special place on earth, so remarkably suited for re-wilding and establishing the ancient ways of harmony, as in the days of the Coast Miwok who thankfully are still very present in our west marin communities.

A lot of brutal slaughter of deer was done by you in 2007 under the mandate of 're-wilding'. We still carry the scars of that. I ask you to think of what re-wilding really means especially in these times of tipping points in so many ways that are crucial to the survival of our children and grandchildren. Please do the right thing: NO FENCE. NO RANCHERS. THE SOONER THE BETTER. We, locals and tourists, are all watching your behavior closely and intently.

**Correspondence ID: 25046**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

Speaking for my entire family, I strongly support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore. It is long overdue time to remove the deadly fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk — the smallest & most threatened of all native U.S. elk species. Fencing in this iconic, rare elk species until elk die of thirst and starvation is unacceptable!

Also, we respectfully demand the U.S. Nat'l Park Service officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of Tule elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed. Tule elk lack sufficient genetic diversity, making a larger number of individual elk essential for the future health and survival of this species. Lethal management of Tule elk by failing to provide access to water and forage... or, by deliberately killing individual elk, is unwise and unacceptable.

It is time for the Nat'l Park Service to acknowledge that the Pt Reyes Nat'l Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations in the park are removed. Cattle foul streams with their manure, trample natural forage, and compete with elk and other wildlife species for food. Cattle expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and to bovine diseases, including Johne's disease. The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found half of the park's dairy ranches were infected with Johne's disease. Private cattle operations have no business in our national parks!!!

Please take immediate action to better preserve Tule elk and better protect the natural parkland from domestic cattle grazing on a Natural Seashore that belongs to all of us, including wildlife!

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely, Lori Paul

**Correspondence ID: 25048**

Dear Superintendent Kenkel,

Thank you for your consideration of the many opinions on the tule elk management issue in Point Reyes National Seashore. I have been a science teacher in Marin County for 22 years, and also enjoyed living in Marshall for part of that time. I feel that the tule elk should be allowed to roam freely if they are to be maintained on the peninsula. While I recognize that the community will have to find solutions for elk that are on ranch property, it also appears to me that the elk have to be able to move significantly in this area's increasingly dry climate. I would hope that this would also add to the appeal of the park for the many visitors who come to see the unique wildlife. I strongly support alternative B for the Tule Elk Management Plan.

Thanks very much,

-Rich Seymour

**Correspondence ID: 25051**

Dear Superintendent Kenkel,

Please accept these comments on the Tomales Point Area Plan on the Point Reyes National Seashore on behalf of the Klamath Forest Alliance and EPIC- the Environmental Protection

Information Center. Our organizations represent over 13,000 member and supporters who deeply value the wildlands and wildlife of Northern California. The Tomales Point area is the ancestral territory of the Coast Miwok people.

The plan covers the 2,900 acre area of Tomales Point north of and including the elk fence. Approximately 85% of the planning area is within the Phillip Burton Wilderness. The purpose of the plan is to establish the management direction for protecting natural resources, preserving historical and cultural resources, preserving wilderness character, and improving visitor experiences. The purpose of the plan would best be met through Alternative B. The "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area," which would remove the fatal fence and allow elk to naturally roam free.

We urge the agency to listen to the overwhelming public support for removing the elk fence. Fences are inappropriate in wilderness areas, and the Park Service shouldn't prioritize cattle over native wildlife. It's unacceptable to let confined native elk die of thirst and malnutrition, especially in a national park. Once the elk fence is removed, free-roaming elk shouldn't be subjected to culling, hazing or harassment for any reason.

Private cattle operations aren't appropriate in Point Reyes and should be ended to honor the charter of the National Seashore. The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes. In addition, the Organic Act designates national park lands to "provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Protecting, restoring and preserving elk and their natural environment would include removing the fence. It would improve scenic values. It would allow elk and other wildlife a chance to be unimpaired, live a healthier more natural life and to remain viable so that future generations will retain their natural heritage.

We urge the Service to choose Alternative B and to: develop fire management practices within the planning area to maintain healthy ecosystems and natural processes; inventory and restore native coastal prairies within the planning area; assess climate-related impacts on water resources and native vegetation within the planning area; expand public education and interpretation of Native American culture and history in consultation with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and other descendants of Coast Miwok inhabitants and; improve public education and interpretation about the Tomales Point elk and their role in the ecology of the Point Reyes peninsula. We appreciate your consideration.

Regards,

Kimberly Baker

Executive Director

Klamath Forest Alliance

And

Public Land Advocate

EPIC- Environmental Protection Information Center

145 G. St., Suite A

Arcata, CA 95521

**Correspondence ID: 25053**

Public Comments #2-Julie Fisher

Alternative B (the NPS preferred alternative) is the best option presented in the TPAP because it best fits the goals of the wilderness designation.

Alternative B also removes the elk fence, which is essential for the long term health of the Tomales herd because it allows for natural migrations to other areas within the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS). This is vital for gene mixing with other elk in the remainder of PRNS, and migrations are critical during times of food or water shortages.

However, there are improvements that could be made to Alternative B, as follows:

- 1) Ensure that no livestock enter the designated wilderness area of Tomales Point (or within PRNS).
- 2) Improve natural water availability at springs & seeps at Tomales Point (and throughout PRNS).
- 3) If the elk can access sufficient natural water supplies in other areas of PRNS, then artificial water supplies may not be needed at Tomales Point. However, the water supplies throughout PRNS need to be monitored to ensure there are sufficient locations and abundance of water for ALL the elk to access.
- 4) If water supplies are deficient (particularly during droughts), then monitor and maintain artificial water supplies (for cleanliness and for sufficient water levels).
- 5) For artificial water supplies, use natural looking watering holes.

**Correspondence ID: 25054**

Public Comments #3-Julie Fisher

I support Alternative B (NPS preferred action), but I have some more suggestions.

Improvements to Alternative B.

- 1) Restrict the use of motorized vehicles within the designated wilderness zone by walking in supplies, using llamas or donkeys (if safe for the elk), and/or use small electric vehicles with wide treads to reduce impacts.
- 2) Do not use prescribed burns, as this contradicts the goals of the wilderness as being natural and evolving into its own wild condition. However, if fire prone brush are deemed a significant risk to the elk or other wildlife, then allow only small areas to be burned (to create a mosaic of vegetation).  
and limit any prescribed burns to be few and far between.
- 3) Any prescribed burns should utilize the local indigenous people for guidance and methods.

4) Do not use herbicides in the Wilderness. If killing invasive plant species is deemed essential, then removing by hand is the preferred method. If that is not possible due to the job size, then use only non-poisonous weed killer solutions (vinegar, water, biodegradable soap, salt).

5) If elk health is failing due to poor quality forage or due to drought conditions, then provide healthy artificial food and nutrients because, right now, the cattle are diminishing food quality and food supplies in many areas of PRNS, and cattle are also polluting the natural water supplies in various areas of PRNS. This is NOT fair to the wildlife of PRNS.

**Correspondence ID: 25056**

I vote for Alternative B: Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area

**Correspondence ID: 25057**

Public Comments #4-Julie Fisher

Alternative B (NPS preferred action) is the best, but here are more suggestions.

- 1) Rank Wilderness as the 1st priority in designated wilderness zones.
- 2) Rank local Indigenous people, values and practices as 2nd priority in designated wilderness zones.
- 3) Rank (low impact) visitor usage & education as 3rd priority in designated wilderness zones.
- 4) Limit visitor numbers in designated wilderness areas to keep the wilderness zone healthy.
- 5) Give a discount or give a preferred reservation system to those visitors who are willing to take a 1 hour training program on etiquette within the wilderness and with indigenous people. Too many people do not know proper etiquette or are just thoughtless.

**Correspondence ID: 25062**

I strongly support alternative B for the Tule Elk Management Plan. Please let them live as the wild animals they are.

**Correspondence ID: 25067**

Conspicuously and strangely missing from the "preliminary impact topics" is Climate Change for which this "Wilderness" area would be an indicator area.

The newsletter cites impacts from extreme droughts. Are these going to be persistent common events? Are we looking at persistent drought events?

If so, the Carrying Capacity issue intensifies, as stressed environments become more vulnerable to impacts, some irreversible.

Include climate change as a Topic, and then everything changes, especially if drought for California becomes persistent.

Without serious consideration of this issue, the planning effort may prove inadequate for those entrusted to manage the park and its resources.

I am on the other side of the continent from CA, but the weekly news reports send the message that things are happening there re climate, and this unit would be on the front line.

The ultimate action here is not going to be (and should not be) simple.



Of course, public ( and accompanying political) pressure becomes a factor as the Covid plague did inspire a confined population to rediscover an outdoor experience (even for those with no previous (or limited) outdoor experience.

The Zinke relegation of National Parks to the Theme Park model did not help with the perspective that resources might seem provided as resort or Theme Park attractions or amenities.

Yes, there would be popular tourism excitement for more invasive use of this area, but the mandates/directives and goals for preserving our natural heritage do still exist.

Wilderness, when occurring in a real (Recreation oriented) world, is certainly under stress, with climbing and extreme sports seem to be hyped as Wilderness activities, with resulting intrusions of alteration and impact.

To maintain any kind of Wilderness, there needs to be serious consideration of resource-impacted Carrying Capacity, instead of Carrying intensity.

What is somewhat disturbing is that in an area where most of the area is designated as Wilderness, some of the proposals, especially in terms of "Type and Intensity of Development" immediately pose a challenge in proximity to Wilderness, and seem more elements appropriate to an NRA.

For example, if there is an increase in parking and other amenities, then clearly we are not talking about Wilderness.

There is a serious need to consider the reason much of this area was designated as Wilderness to begin with.

Clearly, the ranch and its cultural resources deserve visitor appreciation, interaction, and upgrade, but again, Increasing Visitor Activity at a site directly adjacent to Wilderness raises issues.

Increasing Visitor capacity at the ranch with no rest rooms!

This has been an increasing unpleasant issue at many parks. Pit toilets for many visitors may not seem acceptable.

And, if there is a proposal for an increase in parking and visitor amenities, then clearly, we are not talking about wilderness.

The plan does need a full assessment of the cultural resources in the area. We look forward to the Tribal input and recommendations for the Plan.

There needs to be much attention to any rare and threatened species present, especially as they may be important in the larger ecosystem, affected by climate change, AND especially increased visitor interaction.

There is repeated mention of Water infrastructure removal: "non-historic supplementary water systems."

One is uneasy with a rapid removal in a time of drought cycles, especially when there is a threatened herd. Such withdrawal should be done carefully, whether herd is confined to the current area or given free range.

It may seem an unwise move when a herd is subject to unstable resource availability, and no knowledge of future availability or the eventual natural track of species presence.

A commitment to the herd is a commitment to the herd. There would be a problem here with denying essential sustenance, further complicated by the Wilderness declaration.

There is mention of seeps and springs, and monitoring, but here also, the availability in drought becomes a major issue.

A larger, system wide issue lurking here. How do we manage “wilderness,” especially when climate change is a reality, when a stressed Wilderness area may be the only area where a particular species exists, and whether intrusive interventions become necessary.

**Correspondence ID: 25074**

The fence causes massive elk die-offs during drought years, cutting animals off from adequate food and water sources.

Please free the elk and protect Point Reyes for native wildlife — not for the livestock owners whose cattle are destroying its ecosystem.

Thank you.

Sarah Singer

**Correspondence ID: 25075**

Public Comments #5-Julie Fisher

Alternative B (NPS preferred action) is the best option presented in the TPAP.

But, I have suggestions to improve on Alternative B:

- 1) In non-wilderness areas, natural (wild) ecosystems should still be given a very high priority, particularly in the current undeveloped areas and in grazing areas that might revert back to nature in the future.
- 2) In non-wilderness areas, Indigenous people should be given higher priority over more recent historic arrivals after the 1400's. (i.e. the Euro/American and other “Old World” influences).
- 3) For vegetation monitoring and removal of invasive species, consider deeper research into what native species might have been at PRNS prior to the 1500's, and perhaps even prior to the earliest immigrants (the Indigenous peoples).
- 4) New research is expanding our knowledge about what “native” species existed before any humans arrived into the Americas. Human influences (especially after the 1400's) has changed our concepts of “wild” because waves of humans altered the environment. With careful consideration, incorporate species from the nearby region (outside of PRNS) if that will enhance the health of the ecosystems because there is strong likelihood that species outside of PRNS did use to inhabit PRNS.

**Correspondence ID: 25076**

I am writing to urge you to take down the fences that are causing so many deaths among elks. These are beautiful animals and to see so many die from starvation is horrific to me. The cattle that are grazing the land are decimating the environment and leaving bacteria in their wake that is so unhealthy for the animals and the land. Please for the ecosystem and the animals, take down the fences. Thank you for your time.

**Correspondence ID: 25077**

SURJ Marin is not alone in strongly urging you to please tear down the fence keeping the Tule Elk from roaming the wilderness area that they have inhabited far longer than the cattle farmers of Marin. We follow the lead of the indigenous Coastal Miwok people, who have and continue to be the stewards of this land we occupy. We know that some of the herd died of thirst when their one source of water dried up due to the ongoing drought. This is inhumane. We my husband and I visited the Redwood National Park this summer we were delighted to see the Roosevelt Elk that famously ROAM FREE and inhabit that area. The elk are treated as the treasure they are, and the tourists were overjoyed to photograph them. The Point Reyes National seashore should treat their fauna with the same respect, and follow the lead of your colleagues at Redwood National in working with the Indigenous community to preserve the lands they've served since the the dawn of time. Thank you for preserving the beauty of the parks, and for including all living things in your preservation by standing up to the ranchers who have inherited the land from the original colonizers whose genocide nearly wiped out the living Coast Miwok who are now asking you to, as we do, use the power you have to begin to do better for the land, the Tule Elk, and Indigenous people.

Sincerely, Kalicia Pivrotto

SURJ Marin leadership

**Correspondence ID: 25080**

By all means, remove the fence, and also remove the cattle as per the agreement. Do all possible to allow the elk to reach water. If you are removing dams, that should be done without helicopters, big machines, etc. Impact the wilderness as little as possible, and you are to be commended for your policy to protect the Tule elk. It's good to see animals being treated with compassion and intelligence.

**Correspondence ID: 25082**

Please tear down the fence and allow the tule elk to roam free with access to water and food. The Tule Elk are native to Point Reyes. Tule Elk will increase tourists and encourage local residents to visit the National Park at Point Reyes.

I enjoy the dairy farms at Point Reyes but there are plenty of places that will allow cattle in West Marin.

Please protect the Tule Elk by tearing down the fence and restoring their homeland. The Tule Elk are an outstanding addition to the Point Reyes National Park.

Thank you

Dorrie Newton

**Correspondence ID: 25086**

I support Plan B, where Tule Elks are free-roaming. Not only do these animals have the opportunity to find resources for themselves, the financial commitments that led to saving and taking care of these elks won't be "wasted", should lethal removal of elks be considered in the future. I understand that we cannot save every animal/plant species out there and I'd like to think we can figure out how to manage cattle territory and provide the opportunity for elks to expand and continue thriving. Through plan B, we can learn new management techniques that allows for wildlife and domestic animals to co-exist.

**Correspondence ID: 25088**

Dear Craig Kenkel - Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent,

I and my family support the National Park Service's preferred "Alternative B" for the Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve at Point Reyes National Seashore, to remove the fence and free the park's largest herd of Tule elk. Fences and confined animals have no place in national park units.

In addition, please officially rescind the current regulation in the General Management Plan allowing killing ("culling") of elk in the other two herds since herds may intermingle when the fence is removed.

It is obvious by now that the public opposes all lethal "management" of any wild animals in our national parks and supports use of sensible humane measures instead.

Finally, the Seashore's Tule elk cannot be free, healthy, and safe until private cattle operations are removed because they expose elk to fecal bacteria in soil, streams, and ponds, and manure-borne cattle diseases, including John's disease.

The NPS itself cites a 1979 study that found that 50% of the park's dairy ranches were infected with John's disease(?) We cannot and will not stand for this! Common sense and the public's safety says loud and clear:

"Private Cattle Operations, Stay Out of Our National Parks!"

We are grateful to the National Park Service for requesting and considering public comments on this crucial issue.

Sincerely, Mr. David Calhoun

**Correspondence ID: 25089**

Public Comment #6-Julie Fisher

The long term health of the Tomales Point elk herd (and for every other herd in PRNS) is entirely dependent upon both a local and statewide approach for ALL Tule elk.

The elk fence at Tomales Point needs to be removed and cattle need to be removed.

All elk at PRNS must be allowed to roam freely, both within the designated wilderness zones, as well as within the remaining areas of PRNS (except perhaps for the visitor center areas).

The population of PRNS tule elk fluctuates, but ranges around 500.

Cattle at PRNS outnumber Tule Elk by about 10 to 1.

The PRNS was not intended to prioritize cattle, historic or not.

Management at Tomales Point must incorporate free roaming elk throughout PRNS, with Tule Elk and other wild species and wild ecosystems having the top priority.

Historic cattle & livestock can be reduced in numbers, or livestock can be removed entirely, but that does not mean that all the historic buildings would need to be removed (just the livestock).

As an example: There are historic southern plantations and battle fields that people visit all the time, but that does not mean that the entire spectrum of the slave system nor actual battles should be recreated for authenticity!

The cattle need to be dramatically reduced throughout PRNS so that all elk can roam free and be healthier and with abundant forage and cleaner water.

**Correspondence ID: 25097**

I do not support efforts to keep the Thule Elk in the Point Reyes National seashore. But if they are to continue, then reduce the size of the herd and keep the herd within the current fenced area.

**Correspondence ID: 25099**

To Whom It May Concern,

I support Alternative B but with a few modifications. I think the cattle fence under consideration should be installed in a way that does not interfere with elk movement. Cattle are incompatible with the preservation or renewal of our native ecosystems, and they will compete with tule elk wherever they are present. They should be excluded not only from the Philip Burton Wilderness but from the park entirely.

As far as wilderness management is concerned, I believe that much like the elk, the best management for wilderness is as little management of possible and within the boundaries of the wilderness act. This includes removal of unneeded structures like the twelve elk enclosures and actions like prescribed burns (at this point). Exclusion of cattle with concomitant expansion of the tule elk herds may have unforeseen, beneficial consequences for local plant life, so unless there's some clear, pressing need to intervene with invasive species, etc., it may be best to wait for the animals to sort things out as much as possible before manual removal or herbicides, especially, if herbicides should be used at all. Continuation of vegetation research once the tule elk are unconfined and cattle are excluded may eventually give further insight into how manage vegetation minimally to restore the ecosystem.

Lastly, I vehemently oppose Alternative C.

Thank you for considering my comments.

**Correspondence ID: 25100**

As a taxpaying resident of West Marin County who loves and visits Point Reyes National Seashore and Pierce Point at least once a week, I am writing to most strongly urge you to tear down the restrictive elk fence on Pierce Point and allow the native tule elk herd to roam free in their native grazing lands. These are wild, native animals who belong here, and our National Parks are not a zoo. The sheer fact that there are privately owned cattle grazing on our public national park lands is problematic enough. Elk need thousands of acres to roam and should be a part of every part of our National Seashore. I am aware that in our recent years of drought -

which is a part of California's climate that is becoming more intense - the Pierce Point herd had no access to water and inadequate food, suffering and some starving to death while privately owned cattle grazed freely on the lion's share of public Park land on the other side of the elk fence. This is totally unacceptable.

It is bizarre and inappropriate that on almost every popular hiking trail in Point Reyes, cattle are present everywhere. The runoff from their excrement and urine pollutes PRNS waterways and estuaries, and their grazing removes and crushes native vegetation - including endangered species endemic to our region - and introduces invasive weeds, totally disrupting the formerly intact ecosystem in Point Reyes that native wildlife rely on.

Cattle viewing is not what people come to spend time doing at our National Seashore, and as a local, I am frequently asked by shocked tourists "are we still in a National Park?" And when I replied "yes", they asked "Do you know why there are cows here?" Which is a normal question for anyone standing inside a National Park to ask. And then when they see the elk fence, they are quite frankly horrified.

The Point Reyes Enabling Legislation mandates "the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment" within Point Reyes and as a result of the elk fence as well as the rampant private grazing of cattle, this is currently not being upheld. I urge the Park Service to choose Alternative B, "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area" removing the elk fence so that elk may roam and privately owned cattle are no longer prioritized over native wildlife in our National Park, and ensure their complete protection from human-induced harassment or harm of any kind following the removal of the elk fence.

While I understand that dairy and cattle farming is an important part of the economy of Marin County and has a history here of a couple hundred years, tule elk are endemic to California and have lived on the Point Reyes peninsula as part of the native ecosystem for an estimated 8-10,000 years, and they have every right to roam free on these lands just as all wildlife do in any national park. Cattle and dairy farms do not belong inside National Parks.

Thank you for hearing the public's overwhelming support for removal of the horrifying and cruel elk fence. Please remove the fence at once, to protect Point Reyes National Seashore's native wildlife and restore the ecosystem.

Sincerely, Jennie Pakradooni

**Correspondence ID: 25104**

Public Comment #7-Julie Fisher

Alternative B (with some improvements) is the best option (for now).

Alternative B needs to add more goals so their will be a higher carrying capacity for Tule elk throughout PRNS (not just at Tomales Point).

All 3 Tule Elk herds number around 500 (population varies). During drought years, many elk are allowed to just die, or they are killed. This is unacceptable for many reasons.

The TPAP should incorporate relocation to current preserves and future preserves throughout California, many of which are within the historic ranges of Tule Elk. Tribal nations should be regularly engaged in relocations of Tule Elk to tribal lands that can support elk.

Tule Elk barely escaped extinction. Their current population in ALL of California is only 5,700, and that is about 1% of the population they had prior to 1850 when there were 500,000 Tule Elk through vast areas of California. 5,700 surviving elk is NOT a recovery at all!

The statewide goal should be to increase the total Tule Elk population up to at least 100,000 tule elk (20% of their pre 1850's numbers), and it can be done if rewilding of lands is pushed up to a top priority throughout California.

Agriculture and livestock grazing are destroying California's biodiversity and our water tables.

Wetland and wild ecosystems need to be restored, which would benefit all wildlife, cool the climate at regional levels, and recharge groundwater tables, which will then help any remaining crop lands and range lands.

Conservancies and private land owners need to be contacted to see if relocations of elk can be planned ahead of time when the PRNS elk rise about the carrying capacity of PRNS.

Furthermore, the legislation that created PRNS and the wilderness zones needs to be scrutinized because the livestock and ranches appear to have increased their protections, perhaps in ways that were not intended or to the letter of the various laws.

**Correspondence ID: 25105**

Dear Superintendent:

This letter supports alternative B (the preferred option) in the proposed service plan respecting the native tule elk. The service plan and preferred alternative B are described in an article in the Marin Independent Journal dated September, 9, 2023.

I am a 35-year resident of Marin County, a frequent visitor to the Point Reyes National Seashore, and a supporter of our national parks throughout the United States. I strongly believe that the management and service plans previously adopted by the National Seashore have inappropriately preferred the commercial interests of the ranchers who lease land from the Park over the interests of the native environment, including the tule elk, and the many people who visit and support Point Reyes National Seashore. It is time to seriously phase out ranching on Park land and to begin enhancing the native environment in a meaningful way. I am pleased to see the Park take an important step in this direction with a service plan that would allow roaming freedom to the existing tule elk herd and prevent

the incursion of cattle.

Thank you on behalf of myself and others who enjoy and fund our national parks, now and for the future,

**Correspondence ID: 25106**

I support the NPS recommendation to dismantle the tule elk reserve fence. This should have been done a long time ago. The next time I finish I hope it will be gone.

**Correspondence ID: 25107**

I am writing to you concerning the Tomales Point Area Plan. I am a longtime resident of Solinas and I have always loved seeing the tule elk, they are such majestic creatures. I am 100% behind the Alternative B plan. We all know the cattle ranches, historic as they may be, cause erosion, toxic runoff and trampled land with loss of native ecosystems. And even more historic

than the ranches were the Miwok and the wild animals. I think that sooner or later policies for preserving the wildness of the Point Reyes National Seashore will prevail. The public needs these special places of beauty and wildness now more than ever. So please, take down the fences and do not cull the tule elk. Give them the freedom to roam.

**Correspondence ID: 25108**

We are writing to you today to voice our long years of discomfort at the mistreatment and suffering of our majestic native Tule Elk. The Elk are supposedly being protected as a herd living inside of the Point Reyes National Seashore.

The law creating the Point Reyes National Seashore, declares that its purpose is to preserve this area for the native flora and fauna. That means that private businesses of cattle ranching should be removed. Instead, ranching interests and politics have been allowed to prevent that proper action from occurring.

Even worse, the ranchers are still being permitted to pursue and obtain leases of many years duration into the future for their businesses.

Still worse, these leases are being granted despite the proven facts of many types of serious damage and degradation to the lands and the flora, fauna, waters, and so forth! In our view, a betrayal and mismanagement of the mission of this park.

We were startled to read that you actually shoot the Tule Elk in some areas of the National Park to limit their numbers and keep them from bothering the ranchers. Where else can we find herds of Tule Elk?

And now we reach what is most appalling of all. You actually built a fence that limits the Tule Elks' access to good grazing land and, most shocking of all, access to water!!! And you didn't provide back-up supplies of water and food along with the actual necessary access to it, despite severe drought conditions! In fact, the fence actually artificially worsened drought conditions for the Tule Elk! Therefore, they suffered greatly and many even died! These Tule Elk should be your priority not cattle. The cattle have ranchers providing for them, although they should be located elsewhere.

Each of you voluntarily chose to pursue and accept job positions of responsibility in this park. I ask each of you, "Where is your conscience?" Where is the inspiration that led you to getting and keeping your jobs here serving the purpose of this Point Reyes National Seashore?

Please don't operate this land like most other places in our country where commercial interests override the preservation of wild lands.

It is a wonderful blessing that this special area, with its plants and animals, still exists and that is another reason for immediate corrective action to be taken on their behalf. We greatly need The Point Reyes National Seashore to be the special protected place for the Tule Elk, etc. for more reasons than we even now understand or realize.

**THIS FENCE IS AN OUTRAGE! REMOVE IT ASAP!**

**Correspondence ID: 25109**

Superintendent:

It is good news-for the tule elk to have the long overdue ability to thrive.



Thank you National Park service for this long awaited implementation of removing the 3-mile fence barrier-allowing the elk to roam naturally and freely.

Again, Thank you for your service to the National Park system and the wildlife it protects.

**Correspondence ID: 25110**

Please take down the fence! This is the most humane and reasonable solution and could not come soon enough.

Take this victory for the elk and know you are doing the right thing not only for the elk but for future generations by making a stand that our precious wildlife and wild lands are worth protecting.

I look forward to the great celebration when the fence comes down.

**Correspondence ID: 25113**

On behalf of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Tamales Point Area Plan (TPAP) that seeks to establish management direction at Tamales Point for protecting natural resources, preserving historical and cultural resources, preserving wilderness character, and improving visitor experiences.<sup>1</sup> These priorities are important to the County of Marin.

**Removal of the Elk Fence: Agriculture Impacts and Migration Outside Park Boundaries**

The County of Marin (County) has a rich agricultural heritage and relationship with agricultural operators within the Point Reyes National Seashore (Seashore). As a result, the County requests an additional analysis to understand the holistic consequences of removing the tule elk enclosure, which may impact areas outside of the planning area, including the Seashore pastoral zone, Tamales Bay State Park, and private property within the County of Marin.

This is to ensure appropriate management and mitigations are in place in addition to the previously defined strategies outlined in the National Park Service (NPS) General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) or Record of Decision (ROD). Specific requests include the following:

- Long-range analysis of potential migration routes of tule elk into the pastoral zone, Tamales Bay State Park, and private property within the County of Marin in order to mitigate impacts to pastoral agricultural operations and impacts to private property and County resources if elk migrate outside of the Seashore boundaries.
- Clarify how the NPS GMPA and ROD apply to tule elk in areas adjacent to the planning area. The GMPA and ROD provided a science-based analysis to reduce conflicts with agricultural operations. Will a similar analysis take place for operations adjacent to the planning area?
- The County should be informed regarding consequences, intended or unintended, and negative impacts caused by tule elk to County responsibilities to rural communities related to agriculture, health, and human services outside of the planning area.

**Tribal and Cultural Resources**

We continue to support the partnership with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and NPS to protect the area's significant cultural resources and the impact that this partnership will have on educating the public about the 10,000- year cultural history of Indigenous communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the TPAP that will update management guidance to protect natural resources, historical and cultural resources, wilderness character, and improve visitor experiences.

**Correspondence ID: 25114**

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP) that seeks to establish management direction at Tomales Point for protecting natural resources, preserving historical and cultural resources, preserving wilderness character, and improving visitor experiences. These priorities are essential to District Four.

**Removal of the Elk Fence: Agriculture Impacts and Migration Outside Park Boundaries**

The County of Marin (County) has a rich agricultural heritage and relationship with agricultural operators within the Point Reyes National Seashore (Seashore). As a result, I respectfully request an additional analysis to understand the holistic consequences of removing the tule elk enclosure, which may impact areas outside of the planning area, including the Seashore pastoral zone, Tomales Bay State Park, and private property within the County of Marin.

I want to ensure appropriate management and mitigation plans are in place, in addition to the previously defined strategies outlined in the National Park Service (NPS) General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) or Record of Decision (ROD).

Specific requests include the following:

- Long-range analysis of potential migration routes of tule elk into the pastoral zone, Tomales Bay State Park, and private property within the County of Marin to mitigate impacts to pastoral agricultural operations and impacts to private property and County resources if elk migrate outside of the Seashore boundaries.
- Clarify how the NPS GMPA and ROD elk management plan will apply to tule elk in areas adjacent to the planning area.
  - o The GMPA and ROD provided a science-based analysis to reduce conflicts with agricultural operations. Will a similar analysis take place for operations adjacent to the planning area?
- The County should be informed regarding any consequences, intended or unintended, and negative impacts caused by tule elk to the County's responsibilities to rural communities related to agriculture, health, and human services outside of the planning area.

**Facilities and Visitor Services**

Tomales Point offers exceptional recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy exceptional vistas of the Pacific Ocean, Tomales Bay, and agricultural landscapes within Marin County and dynamic biodiversity, geology, and cultural resources.

I support the goals of the NPS to improve visitor services and facilities and address shared concerns regarding visitor impacts to meet regional goals for health, well-being, recreation, public access, and safety. I encourage improvements including the following:

- Installation of vault toilets at the Pierce Ranch area.

- Installation of waste disposal bins that are in alignment with California Senate Bill 1383 and the County of Marin's Reusable Foodware Ordinance that would provide compost, landfill, and recycling bins with appropriate educational signage at McClure's beach and Pierce Ranch area.
- Support an interpretive center in Pierce Ranch area to provide educational opportunities and act as an emergency response center to improve public safety response.
- Explore opportunities for improved public transportation options for a shuttle service to reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Develop increased parking capacity, repaving and/or improvements to the roadway access to Tomales Point.
- Improve ADA accessibility to McClure's beach, historic Pierce Point area, public restrooms, and interpretive waystations.
- Update interpretive waystations that include multiple language

options for the diverse visitors to the Seashore relating to the cultural and natural history and responsible visitation practices, including Leave No Trace Principles at Pierce Point area, McClure's beach, and the eastern shoreline of Tomales Bay where kayaking and boating access to the Seashore is available.

- Review the process for overnight camping permits to ensure that Leave No Trace Principles may reduce any negative impacts of visitation to health and public safety within and along the shorelines of Tomales Bay.

#### Tribal and Cultural Resources

I continue to support the partnership with the Federated Indians of Geron Rancheria and the NPS to protect the area's cultural resources and the impact that this partnership will have on educating the public about the 10,000-year cultural history of Indigenous communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the TPAP that will update management guidance to protect natural resources, historical and cultural resources, wilderness character, and improve visitor experiences.

#### **Correspondence ID: 25115**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations for consideration in Point Reyes National Seashore's (PRNS) Tomales Point Area Plan I Environmental Assessment Public Scoping Newsletter (hereafter, "Plan").

Regarding the proposed alternative actions described in the Plan relative to elk management, the Department supports the PRNS proposed action, Alternative B, "Unconfined Elk Herd and Pierce Ranch Core Area". Should livestock exclusionary fencing be added, the Department encourages PRNS to install wildlife-friendly fencing to support and promote landscape connectivity. Ideal fencing is highly visible to ungulates and allows wildlife to jump over or crawl under easily without injury, while preventing access by domestic livestock.

While the Department supports Alternative B, we additionally recommend combining one element from Alternative C to manage for stable, productive elk populations.

Specifically, the Department supports the continued enhancement and availability of naturally occurring water at springs and seeps to promote elk occupancy on suitable public lands and to benefit other wildlife.

The Department supports the action items in Alternative B that provide for various recreational opportunities related to elk such as wildlife viewing, photography, and nature study. The Department recognizes the importance of supporting and maintaining elk populations on PRNS land, where it is desirable for elk to occupy after the elk fence is removed. The Department thus recommends that infrastructure installation and enhanced visitor use as described in Alternative B be carefully considered and limited in areas frequently used by elk. Human recreation can disturb elk and other wildlife and alter their behavior and habitat use negatively. Allowing for various recreational opportunities that also minimizes disturbance to elk will be important to ensure Alternative B becomes a success.

The Department recommends future application of elk co-management strategies including use of appropriate demographic and abundance survey methods to measure population performance, assessment of elk space and habitat use relative to land management and human recreation activities, and disease testing and surveillance, among other activities. The Department remains committed to investigating and addressing these issues through continued collaboration with PRNS and Tribes to co-manage for sustainable elk populations.

We appreciate the complexity of the issues PRNS will address with this Plan. We look forward to continuing to work with PRNS staff in managing the tule elk population at Tomales Point. If you or your staff have questions, or we can be of assistance, please contact Dr. Mario Klip, Game Conservation and Wildlife Connectivity Program Manager, at 530-258-7578 or [Mario.Klip@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Mario.Klip@wildlife.ca.gov).