



Point Reyes National Seashore
California

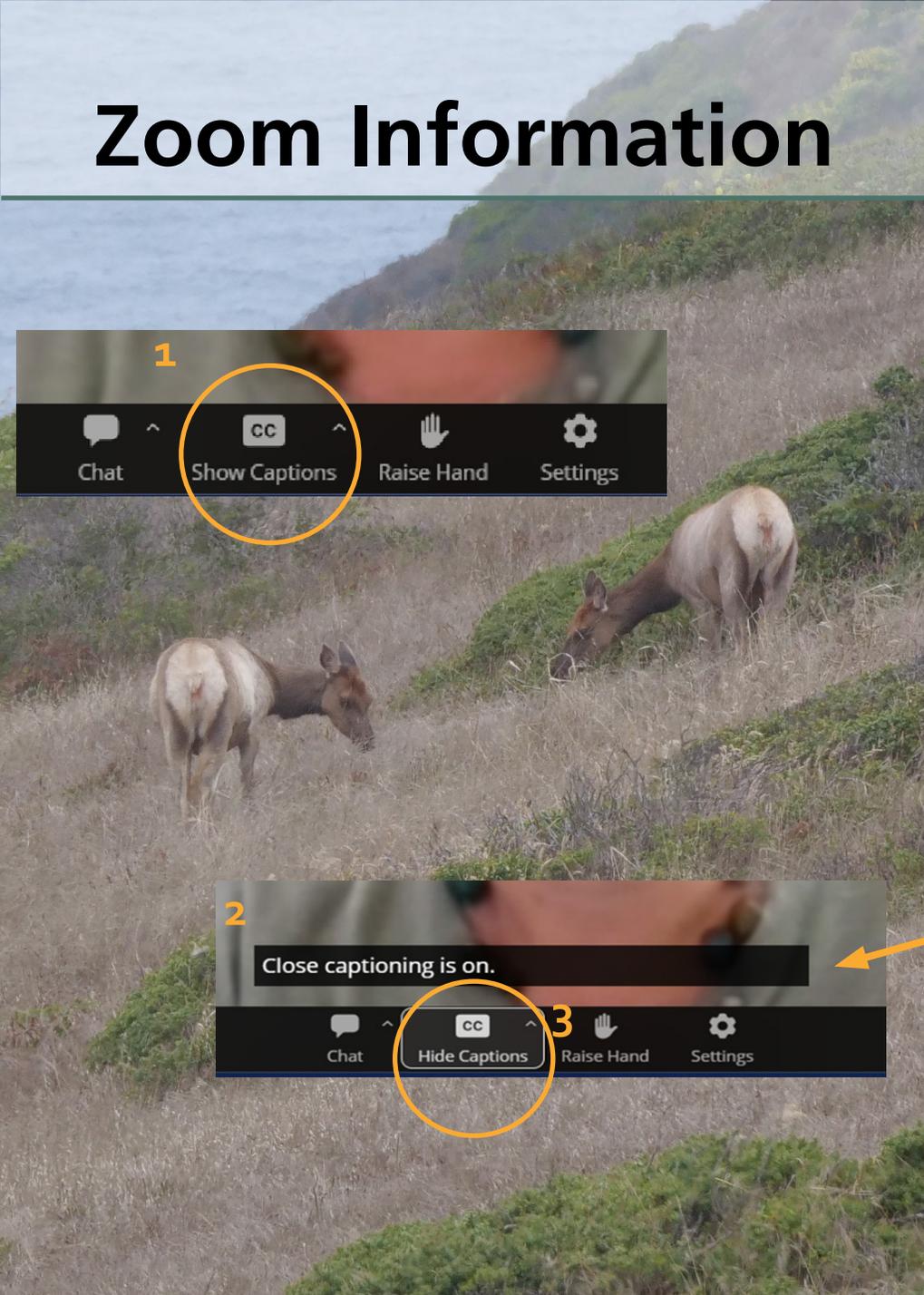
Tomales Point Area Plan and Environmental Assessment

*September 2023
Information Session*

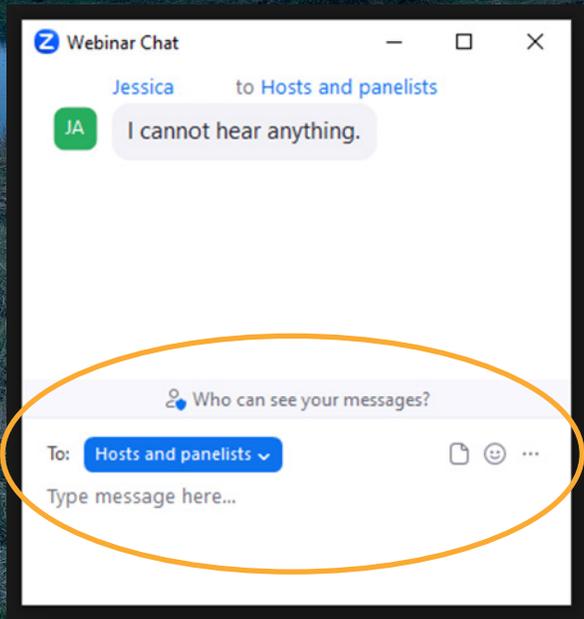
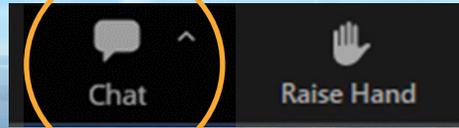
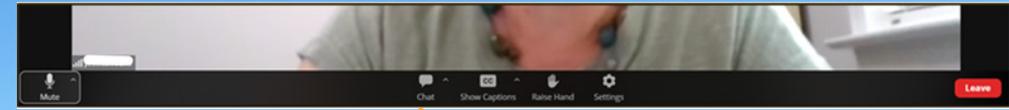
*Please visit project website for newsletter:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/tpap>*

Zoom Information

- This informational session is being recorded and the slide presentation will be shared online.
- Meeting participants do not have access to their microphone or camera but may ask questions in the chat box.
- Click the Captions button (on Mobile) or Show Captions button (on Laptop) on bottom of screen.
 1. As people speak, words will appear at the bottom of your screen.
 2. Click button again to turn off captioning.



Submitting Questions



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Agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Presentation
- How to Comment
- Question & Answer Session



Welcome

Introductions

- Introductions
 - Presenter
 - Brannon Ketcham,
Management Assistant
 - Subject Matter Experts for Question and Answer Session
 - David Press, Acting Natural Resource Program Lead,
Wildlife Ecologist
 - Paul Engel, Acting Cultural Resource Program Lead,
Archaeologist
 - Mark Husbands, Environmental Protection Specialist,
Environmental Quality Division

Purpose of this Meeting

- Present concepts of the proposed Tomales Point Area Plan
- Address common questions
- Invite formal public comment through <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/tpap>

Tomales Point Area Plan Planning Area



How is the TPAP Different from the GMPA?

- General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) 2021
 - Addressed management of lands leased for ranching in Point Reyes and north district Golden Gate National Recreation Area and free-ranging tule elk in those areas
- Tomales Point Area Plan (TPAP) 2023
 - Addresses management of the Tomales Point area
 - No active ranching in this area of the park
 - No free-ranging tule elk in this area of the park

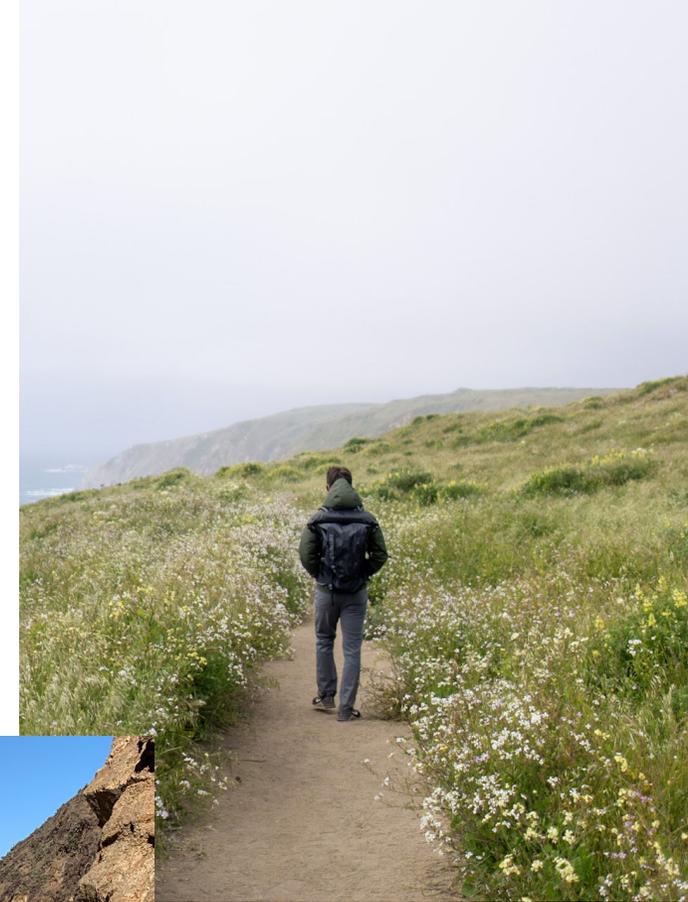
Tomales Point: History and Management



History of Pierce Ranch



Recreational Activities at Tomales Point



Purpose and Need



- The *purpose* of the plan is to establish the management direction at Tomales Point for protecting natural resources, preserving historical and cultural resources, preserving wilderness character, and improving visitor experience.
- The *need* for this project arises from:
 - Recent droughts that required NPS intervention to protect the elk herd.
 - The effects of climate change and the need to adapt management strategies accordingly.
 - The partnership between the NPS and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria to ensure collaboration on future management strategies.



Alternative A:

Continue Current Management
(No Action)

- Continue current management which has required waivers to NPS policy on wilderness and wildlife management.
- Tule elk would be managed as a confined herd, the elk fence would remain.
- Supplemental water infrastructure would remain in place, used as needed.
- Pierce Ranch would remain a passive outdoor exhibit with employee housing.
- Trail maintenance for the Tomales Point and McClures Beach trails remains unchanged.
- Overnight camping / day use would continue for beaches and coves along Tomales Bay, north of the elk fence.



Alternative B:

NPS Proposed Action:
Preservation of Park Resources

- Partner with the Tribe for preservation and protection of significant resources
- Remove existing elk fence and non-historic water systems
- Discontinue provision of supplemental water and minerals
- Remove 12 elk exclusion fences from Wilderness
- Protect wilderness values such as the importance of healthy, intact ecosystems and opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation quality



Alternative B: (continued)

NPS Proposed Action:
Preservation of Park Resources

- Improve facilities at Pierce Ranch for visitor use, revise circulation patterns, and add a spur trail to a new overlook of Tomales Bay
- Add new vault toilets at Pierce Ranch area and increase parking capacity
- Improve and maintain the Tomales Point and McClures Beach trails
- Improve visitor use management for Tomales Bay beaches and coves through refinement of the camping program, including a site-based reservation system.



Alternative C:

Maintain Elk Fence and Actively
Manage Elk Population

- Management recommendations would be the same as the NPS proposed action (Alternative B), except as noted below
 - Retain and maintain the elk fence
 - Active management of elk population, based on carrying capacity of habitat, through lethal removal
 - Remove non-historic water systems and enhance naturally occurring water at springs and seeps
 - Overnight camping at the beaches and coves with a site-based reservation system

- Wilderness character
- Cultural resources
- Wildlife, including tule elk
- Visitor use and experience

The analysis may also consider effects of the alternatives on areas outside of the planning area.

Resource Topics for Analysis



NEPA Process and Key Milestones



**Initiate NEPA EA Process
and Public Scoping**

Summer 2023

**Public Scoping and
Comment Period**

Open until
September 25, 2023

**EA Public Review and
Comment Period**

Spring 2024

Final Decision

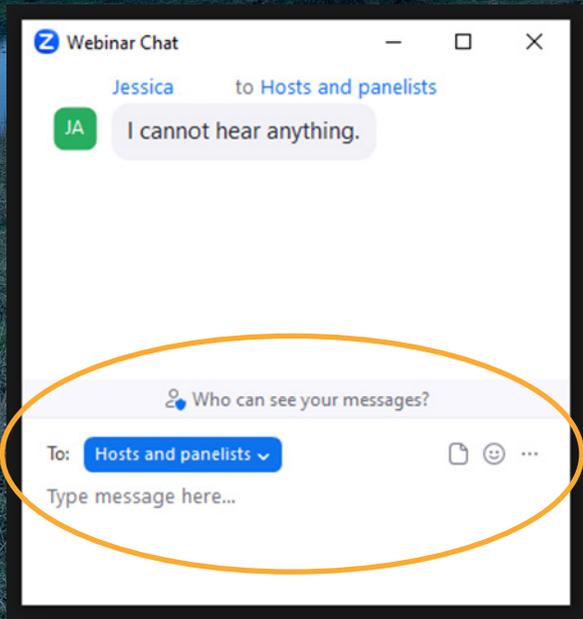
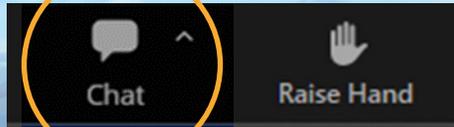
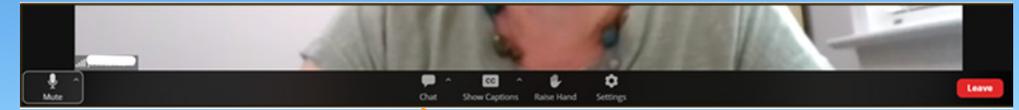
Summer 2024



Question and Answer Session



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How to Comment

Please share your comments no later than
September 25, 2023, 10:59pm PT

- The NPS is seeking input from the public for this planning effort.
- Your involvement in this planning process is vital to the future management of Tomales Point.
- The public comment period is open for 31 days until Monday, September 25, 2023, 10:59pm PT.

Please share your comments online at:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/tpap>

Or please mail (postmarked by September 25, 2023) your comments to:

Tomales Point Area Plan
Point Reyes National Seashore
1 Bear Valley Road
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

**Thank you for
your time and
participation**

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