

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**COVER PAGE – ADDENDUM TO THE RECORD OF DECISION**

**Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Muir Woods National Monument  
California**

**January \_\_\_\_, 2018**

Concurrent with this cover page, the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, is issuing an addendum to the January 30, 2015, Record of Decision on the Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Muir Woods National Monument (GGNRA). The addendum implements the National Park Service's decision to end the GGNRA's Dog Management Plan rulemaking and associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and to rescind the Proposed Dog Management Plan and Rule. See 82 Fed. Reg. 61,199 (Dec. 27, 2017).

In 2002, the GGNRA began enforcing the National Park Service's nationwide pet regulation, but a 2005 federal district court decision concluded that the GGNRA could not rescind its 1979 Pet Policy without first completing a rulemaking process. The GGNRA's subsequent decision to examine alternatives to the 1979 Pet Policy triggered a NEPA review and rulemaking process for a new Dog Management Plan. A Proposed Dog Management Plan and Rule were published on February 24, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 9,139). A final rule was anticipated in early 2017 but was suspended in January 2017, pending completion of an independent review of the use of personal email by National Park Service employees to lobby for certain alternatives then under review.

As a result of the independent review, the National Park Service decided to rescind the Proposed Dog Management Plan and Rule and end the rulemaking and NEPA processes. See 82 Fed. Reg. 61,199 (Dec. 27, 2017). An addendum is necessary and appropriate to implement this decision and complete the administrative process. The NEPA processes for the General Management Plan and Dog Management Plan thoroughly evaluated a "no action" alternative that would have continued to manage dog recreation in the GGNRA under the 1979 Pet Policy and the Superintendent's Compendium, as amended. Accordingly, the changes made by the addendum have already been fully evaluated under NEPA, and no additional NEPA review will take place.

As detailed in the addendum, the GGNRA will continue to enforce existing pet regulations set forth in the 1979 Pet Policy and the GGNRA Superintendent's Compendium, as amended. Those regulations allow visitors to walk managed dogs under voice or leash control in specific areas of the GGNRA. The nationwide Park Service regulation requiring dogs to be on-leash will apply to areas not covered by the 1979 Pet Policy. The Park Service has also adopted two special regulations that modify the 1979 Pet Policy for parts of Crissy Field and Ocean Beach. For the time being, the interim permit requirement for commercial dog walkers remains in effect.

The National Park Service is confident that these changes will protect the GGNRA's diverse ecological values and preserve responsible dog walking recreation now and for years to come.