

“PRESERVE RECREATION FOR DOGS AND PEOPLE IN THE GGRNA”

Public Health and Safety Suggestions & Comments Draft GGNRA Dog Management Plan

Public Comment on 2011 GGNRA DEIS

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Overview

The NPS claims our dogs are a significant public safety risk even though in reality there is virtually no impact on safety and the DEIS small incident counts aren't even supported by the real GGNRA data. The GGNRA law enforcement data shows only 1% of the park's safety incidents relate to dogs; this is in contrast to 14% of the Bay Area enjoying the park with our dogs, often on a daily basis. For the subset of "bite/attacks" incidents, most are nuisance type incidents involving scratches, bumps, or no injury at all and only a few required medical attention.

The Park Service ignores the major public health and safety benefits of around of the Bay Area exercising, playing, relaxing and socializing with their dogs in the GGNRA. The DEIS also ignores the benefit of responsibly caring for our canine companions and the safety benefits of a well-exercised, social dog. The DEIS also assume that the adverse health and safety impacts will not be simply transferred and amplified to other locations in the Bay Area or into the remaining areas in the GGNRA that allow dogs.

The Park Service has misrepresented the "No Action" GGNRA dog-related safety risks in DEIS justification, the DEIS narratives, in the DEIS impact statements, in public forums, and in the media; this compromises the public's ability to provide meaningful comment on the DEIS. In public forums, the Park Service personnel have demonized dogs and their people with their exaggerated claims that the dogs are a significant safety risk that justifies reducing dog recreation in the GGNRA. This representation is simply not supported by the facts. These misrepresentation can only inflame the irrational fear and dislike that a few people have for all dogs, even friendly family dogs like most of those in the GGNRA; and divides instead of uniting people and in the end discourages all people with or without dogs from going to the GGNRA.

The DEIS needs to comprehensively measure and evaluate public health and safety benefits as well as real adverse impacts instead of simply presenting every imaginable bad thing that could remotely occur no matter how remote the likelihood of the event occurring. The DEIS also needs to use an assessment methodology that is more objective and not this DEIS' subjective and arbitrary methodology that has allowed for such misuse of power. The assessment methodology should use the same standards as would apply to any activity, whether that is conservation or education or bicycling or hiking or walking with a dog. Based on these unreasonable assessment standards used in this DEIS, the Park Service should not allow anyone to enter the GGNRA because they could catch a deadly disease, encounter an aggressive person or be an aggressive person, or step on a plant. Based on the standards used in this assessment, just the remote possibility is enough for claims of significant adverse impacts.

I recommend the following for the revised GGNRA dog management plan:

- Determine and provide actual measurements of the existing visitation counts and usage
- Comprehensively evaluate and incorporate the public health benefits from dog recreation
- Comprehensively evaluate and incorporate the public safety benefits from dog recreation
- Determine the scale and type of reductions in GGNRA dog recreation and determine whether other acceptable options are available (e.g., adjacent lands)
- Eliminate all exaggerations, misleading statements, and "hypothetical" statements and define a assessment methodology that would be applicable to any recreational activity
- Monitor Park Service success in regards to the recreational value and to sound land use management

- Proactively work to reduce the existing issues with programs such as the following:
 - Work with city and county law enforcement vicious and dangerous dog units to develop mechanisms for tracking, reporting and prosecuting owners that have truly vicious or dangerous dogs
 - Develop dog etiquette, awareness, and other programs with the local humane societies to reduce any existing conflicts (e.g., leash gets the right of way, horse-dog desensitization programs) and to improve the health, safety and recreation value of the GGNRA
 - Improve safety measures such as poison oak removal on trail beds, signage, etc.
 - Improve feces collection with signage, bags, and an awareness campaign
 - Signage, physical barriers or other deterrents to help prevent cliff incidents and entry into closed areas
 - Providing adequate voice-control areas so as to encourage people to use those areas and free other areas for anyone that has an overwhelming dislike or fear dogs
 - Provide special compensations for people with disabilities by allowing them to have well-behaved, voice control dogs on any trail that allows on-leash dogs

The Public “Health” Benefits of Dog Recreation

The public health benefits from dog recreation need to be comprehensively evaluated in the revised GGNRA dog management plan.

Benefits of Exercise and Relaxation

The excerpt below from the GGNRA website explains why recreation, including dog recreation, is such an important Public Health benefit, particularly in dense urban areas:

The fundamental value of nature as integral to our health as a species is one of the precepts underlying the establishment of the national park system. As Director Jarvis pointed out in a recent speech at the Harvard School of Public Health, the connections between personal health and parks have been evident since public parks were conceived in the 17th century. A growing body of research has documented the significant health benefits of time spent in nature and exercising outdoors. While certainly not a panacea, parks have the potential to play a major role in addressing the nation's current health crisis reflected in the alarming increase in heart disease, diabetes, and obesity.

In recent years, examples of parks being utilized as places of health and wellness by medical practitioners have begun to appear throughout the National Park System, as well as in state, regional and local parks. From the "Medical Mile" in Little Rock, Arkansas, facilitated by the NPS Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program, to a "Park Prescription" partnership between Porter Health and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, to the Children & Nature Network, to the new health-based messaging of the East Bay Regional Park District in the San Francisco Bay Area, medical professionals and parks are beginning to team up for mutual benefit.

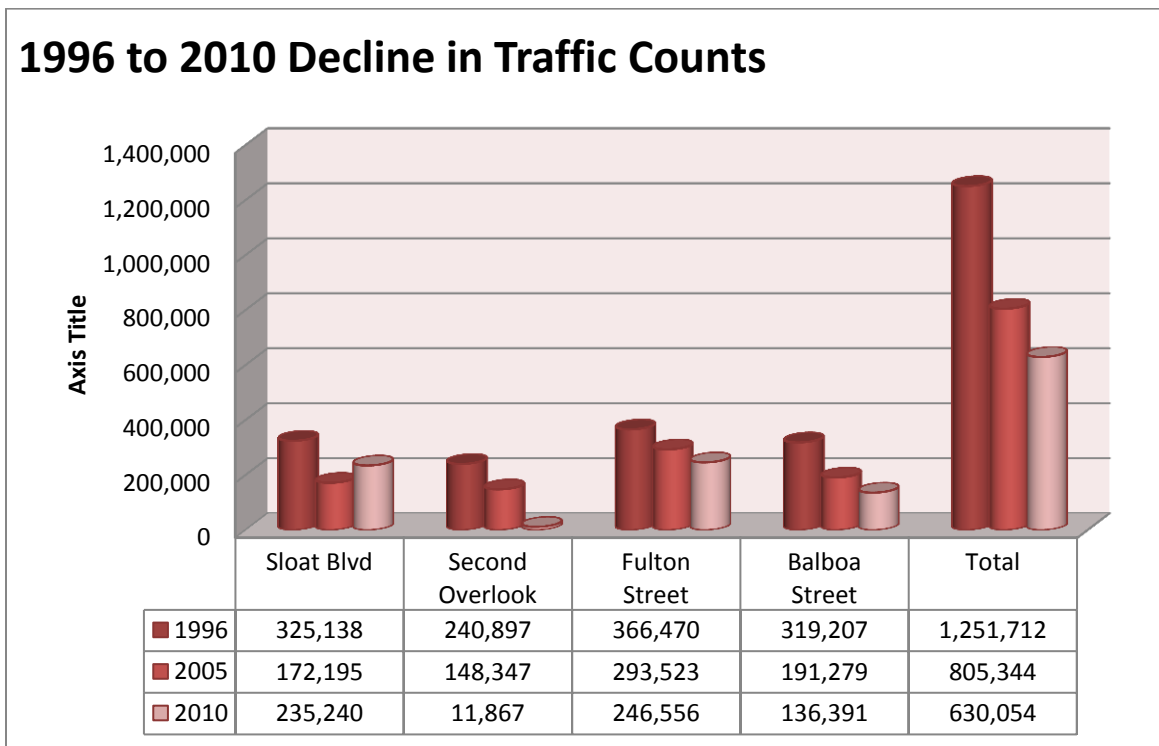
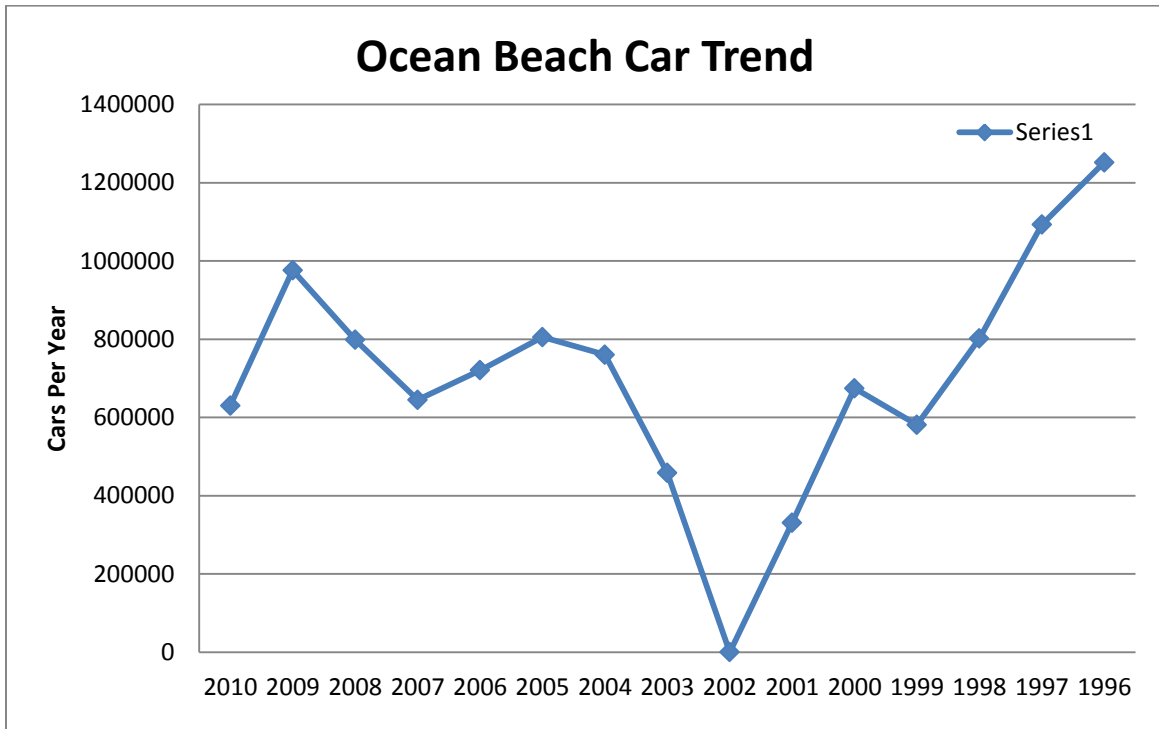
In September 2010, Director Jarvis established the National Park Service Health Promotion Committee, chaired by Captain Charles Higgins, Director of the NPS Office of Public Health. This committee has planned and organized the *Healthy Parks Healthy People US* meeting at Golden Gate, and is tasked with helping shape the follow-up to the meeting, and helping explore new opportunities to link the NPS mission to the health of the nation. The NPS Health Promotion Committee has created a web page with information and resources on *Healthy Parks Healthy People US*. Visit the site at www.nps.gov/public_health/hp/hphp.htm

Forty years ago, Congress and the visionaries for our “recreation area” understood this when they mandated this park “**in order to provide for the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary to urban environment and planning.**” For people with dogs, the GGNRA is even more critical because so few parks allow dogs and extensive communities have developed in the parks. Proponents of excluding people with dogs from the GGNRA, propose that fenced city dog parks, city streets, or backyards are a substitute for long walks in the outdoors. They miss the point that people and dogs need to MOVE. Such arguments are on par with saying that people don’t need these recreation areas at all because there are a few city playgrounds. Yes, city playgrounds are important to small children and the community but they are not a substitute for long walks and communing with nature.

Dogs encourage people of all demographics to get out and MOVE in the outdoors everyday instead of sitting and represent a tremendous opportunity to encourage the 1 in 3 people with dogs to become healthier. Per the 2002 Population Survey, at least 14% of Bay Area residents already responsibly walk and enjoy the GGNRA with our canine companions and should be the role model for other communities instead of being demonized and exclude from areas that people with dogs have gone since before the creation of the park.

Dogs are a catalyst for all people, whether a child, senior, person with a disability, minority to get out in the parks. A trip to Fort Funston on any pretty weekend or evening shows children abound in the park, and the park is full of groups of seniors and people with disabilities walking every morning and evening with their off-leash canine companions. Dogs have a tremendous ability to bridge social barriers and encourage social interactions between other dog people and dog admirers.

What Happened to Urban “Recreation” at Ocean Beach?



2002 Population Survey Indicators Regarding the Impact of Dogs on Healthy Visitation

The “2002 Public Opinion Research Telephone Survey Regarding Golden Gate National Recreation Area Pet Management Issues” was a survey with a sample 1600 people equally divided between Alameda, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo County. The visitorship data doesn't support the need for harsh dog restrictions and exclusion. In my opinion, the both the GGNRA population survey and the ranger offenses/incident records consistently support that GGNRA off-leash dogs misbehave infrequently with park visitors.

Overall Park Visitation

It is likely that the GGNRA is grossly understating the overall park visitation for local residents since the survey averages by county along with 2008 US Census Data indicates 63 million local visits per year with about 26% being visitors with dogs. The average visits self-reported per person in the survey were Alameda 6, Marin 31, San Francisco 48, and San Mateo 11. Overall 14% of the Bay Area population uses the GGNRA for walking our dogs with Alameda 9%, Marin 22%, SF 15%, and San Mateo 13%.

Types of Negative Dog Interactions Reported

There are some public nuisance misbehaviors but they don't significantly impact most park visitors and are probably on par with equestrians, fisherman, bicyclists, sun bathers, disc players, high-energy teenagers, joggers, YMCA sports participants, etc. but those recreational activities weren't evaluated in the population survey.

When asked to explain how off-leash dogs distracted from their experience, fifteen people mentioned poop which is a problem with irresponsible dog owners not the dog behavior. Seventeen people state actual problem events caused by dog misbehavior and none represent a compelling public safety or health risk **nor any indication that these events occur on a regular basis:**

- splatter sand (2),
- sniff food,
- ate picnic,
- chase bike,
- run at (2),
- knocked child down,
- ran over towel,
- running at,
- jump on (2),
- knock over kite,
- ran rampant,
- disturb other people,
- dog bit off-leash dog (likely both were off-leash) and bleed,
- another off-leash dog interacted negatively with his on-leash dog

San Francisco, with the most off-leash areas and experience, is supportive of off-leash dog recreation:

- **Off-leash Support: 54% of San Francisco county supports allowing off-leash dog walking in GGNRA sites**

This is impressive considering San Francisco has the most off-leash recreation areas and experience and uses the GGNRA the most and yet is overall the most supportive of off-leash. In comparison, only 41% of all four counties support allowing off-leash dog walking in GGNRA sites. Initially, San Francisco was 57% supportive before they were read the statement: “The mission of the Golden Gate National Recreation

Area is the preservation, unimpaired, of the natural and cultural resources, and scenic and recreation values, of the park for present and future generations to enjoy.”

- **Fear Reduction:** 11% of people indicated fear of dogs with the highest being in Alameda (14%) and San Mateo (13%) and the lowest in San Francisco (10%).

This 28% reduction of fear from Alameda/San Mateo to San Francisco County supports the hypothesis that more positive exposures to dogs reduces fear of dogs and/or dogs in SF are safer than in other counties resulting in fewer negative experiences.

The data also doesn't indicate that people that fear dogs are not going to the GGNRA locations with dogs. The people that had visited the location in the past 12 months and indicated some level of fear of dogs as a percent of all visitors for the location was: 8%-China Beach (no dogs), 6%-Baker Beach, and 9%-Crissy Field, 10%-Fort Funston, and 10%-Sweeney Ridge (on-leash). Unfortunately, the survey doesn't directly ask people whether dogs change their visitation and, if so, how. I was particularly surprised at the high percentage for Fort Funston.

- **Visitation Increases: Owning a dog in San Francisco County increased the number of GGNRA visits per year from 39 to 90, a 131% increase in visits.** Visitors with dogs from San Francisco, with an average 27,000 visits per day, visit the GGNRA almost 3 times more on average than the other three counties and represent about 49% of the visits with dogs. **Overall San Francisco represents 52% of all GGNRA visits for the four counties.** Overall, the average days visited by dog owners over others increased from 21 to 33, a 58% increase.
- Based on those self-identifying themselves as **Hispanic, owning a dog (41 visits) resulted in a 130% increase in yearly visits to the GGNRA over people that do not own a dog (18 visits).** This was for all four counties.

A large majority of Bay Area residents don't support reducing on-leash sites

- **69% of all four counties oppose reducing the GGNRA sites that allow on-leash dog walking**
Note: The three GGNRA park units in San Mateo County only allow on-leash dog walking and because of the compliance rule, these parks will likely soon ban all dogs. Mori Point and Milagra Ridge would initially ban dogs from more than 60% of trails, and the 23,000 acre Sweeney Ridge will ban dogs 100%. For the past 10 years, there have been virtually no GGNRA law enforcement violations, other than leash law violations, and the DEIS presents nothing other than “hypothetical” natural resource impact from dog visitation. San Mateo County residents are heavy users of San Francisco off-leash parks and that will significantly increase if the GGNRA dog management plan passes.

The Public “Safety” Benefit of Dog Recreation

The public safety benefits from dog recreation need to be comprehensively evaluated in the revised GGNRA dog management plan. Well exercised and socialized dogs are a benefit to the community.

Experts in animal behavior such as those at the San Francisco SPCA, <http://www.sfpca.org/about-us/positions/position-statement-GGNRA>, the Marin Humane Society, <http://www.marinhumanesociety.org/current/dogwalkingrules.html>, and Ian Dunbar http://saveoffleash.files.wordpress.com/2011/04/ian_dunbar_statement.pdf all support voice-control dog recreation.

Exaggerated and Misrepresented Public Health Safety Adverse Impacts

The public health and safety adverse impacts from dog recreation need to be comprehensively evaluated instead just listing every imaginable bad thing, no matter how remote the likelihood of an occurrence.

What the Law Enforcement Data Says about Human Injury and Death Risk

Considering the DEIS statistics, the actual GGNRA law enforcement records, the advice of leading dog behaviorists, my own personal experience, and common sense; there is no compelling argument that a few and far between human injuries, mainly nuisance level injuries on the trails and beaches, even comes close to representing a significant public safety issue; particularly since the US is canine rabies free per the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please see http://www.cdc.gov/news/2007/09/canine_rabies.html.

I agree that many nuisance type dog incidents probably aren't reported to the Park Service; most outdoors people and others in the park wouldn't consider them significant. Even a routine falls on the sidewalk or a stubbed toe is a more serious injury than most of the reported dog "bite/attacks". Based on the ranger descriptions with a few "nipping" incidents, I expect many of these non-dog owners reporting the incidents were worried about the risk of rabies more than the actual nick or scrap. Dog owners also probably aren't reporting all the incidents regarding getting a laceration when separating two dogs that are misbehaving, which sometimes results in people needing stitches. These incidents are rare but are on less significant than spraining an ankle when jogging on trails; it's a minor cost of enjoying our favorite recreational activity and responsibly caring for ourselves and our canine companions.

I expect any serious "vicious" or truly dangerous dog encounters or major injury incidents were reported; and those were even rarer in the ranger descriptions on the incidents. The law enforcement data actually shows that GGNRA dogs, particularly the dogs in off-leash areas, are well-mannered probably because of being well socialized and exercised and are far safer than their human counterparts. One of the best quotes that I've heard on the trail is:

"My dog is not off-leash because he is well-mannered; my dog is well-mannered because he is off-leash".

The actual law enforcement data actually highlights the benefits of the designated and encouraging off-leash areas in the GGNRA. When looking at the details of the dog-incidents, the most serious human injury incidents related to an on-leash reactive dog that got loose and a dog on the side of a high-speed road. If any of the DEIS action alternatives are implemented, the likely result is more of these type incidents since people will be forced to walk dogs more often near traffic and people will have less encouragement and opportunity to properly socialize and exercise their dogs. The most serious bite incident on a human in 2007 and 2008 was from a reactive, on-leash dog. The owner was juggling the leashes and the dog broke loose from the Ocean Beach dunes and got in a fight with an off-leash dog on the tideline. The other owner's hand was injured when separating the dogs, and he required a paramedic; per the ranger descriptions that was the only dog that the GGNRA reported to the SFPD dog unit. To me, that case just highlights how important it is to socialize our dogs (like GGNRA dog people do) and, if they are not social, to responsibly manage, exercise, and desensitize them. The other serious human injury was a dog on Quarry Road that was hit by a motorcyclist, requiring immediate medical attention for both the person and the dog.

When it comes to Public Health and Safety, the Park Service should be making the more compelling argument related to the public health and safety benefits of an estimated 450,000 people exercising and enjoying these

parks with their dogs and that off-leash and on-leash exercise and socialization is critical for making dogs safe and healthy members of the community. Instead of being condemned by the Park Service, the 1979 Pet Policy should be the role model for other urban parks including the GGNRA new lands acquired after 1979 that have been denied off-leash recreation.

Most Dog “Bite/Attacks” are Nuisance Type Incidents or Minor Injuries – Living is not without Risk

The Park Service provided PDFs of Ranger and USPP detailed cases for dog-related incidents/offenses (Ranger/USPP Details) based on a Freedom of Information Request by Brent Platter. The years provided included 2007 and 2008 and are at <http://www.nps.gov/goga/siteindex.htm> and the incidents for 2007 are obviously incomplete. In the DEIS on 285, the Park Service states what they have been implying to the public and the media and which is not supported by the DEIS or any of the actual law enforcement data:

“High numbers of incidents occur because of the large number of people that use the site at one time and the high number of dogs off-leash at the site, or non-compliance with the NPS leash regulation that remains applicable to the many GGNRA sites.”

As explained below this is a highly exaggerated statement that demonstrates the Park Service bias and demonization of dogs and people that enjoy recreation with dogs. The Park Service analysis seems to ignore that living is not without risk and that includes recreation. Considering that the 2002 Population survey indicates that 14% of Bay Area residents enjoy recreation in this recreation area park with their canine companions, even without delving into the details, 27 dog “bite/attacks” per year is not a “high” incident rate particularly considering the high visitation for many of these parks. Unlike claimed, virtually all of the injury incidents occurred while people were complying with the leash regulations with the exception of a dog that got in traffic and two incidents that occurred in the parking lot. Two other incidents related to tied-out dogs. Unfortunately, all recreation activities have risks but walking and playing with a dog is one of the safest active recreation activities available. Encouraging San Mateo County people to drive all the way to San Francisco for off-leash recreation, probably result in a more serious safety risk just by increasing the risks of a lethal accident on the highway.

After 5 years of being in the GGNRA almost daily with a dog, I’ve had 100,000s of happy dog interactions, and I’m certainly more concerned about poison oak, a bee sting, or tripping than any of the friendly GGNRA dogs. My biggest dog worry is keeping my dog away from the few dogs lunging and barking on leash at my dog.

Based on the **2007 and 2008 Ranger/USPP Details**, I found the following accounts of actual human injuries and other animal and safety related incidents for the two years that should represent all of the “bite/attack” and hazardous condition incidents:

16 Trails/Beach Human with Injuries

2 non-owners that were **nipped** by OFF-leash dogs resulting in minor welts or scraps (1 jogger and 1 beach goer)

2 non-owners hikers that were **nipped** by ON-leash dogs resulting in minor welts or scraps

5 non-owners **bumped** either from OFF-leash playing dogs or dogs jumping up on them (3 children, 1 bicycle, and one adult on the beach)

5 dog owners with **bite wound or lacerations** from separating dogs with some requiring stitches

1 fisherman with a **minor thumb puncture caused by a fish hook** when baiting the line and a dog run into the fishing line

1 horse incidents with a **rider thrown**

1 NPS maintenance person that was bit on the knee and showed **redness but no broken skin** (unattended/tied up dog on a 20 foot lead)

3 Non-Trail/Beach Human Injuries

1 motorcyclists was **injured** from hitting a loose dog in traffic on Quarry Road

1 child was **bite on the lip** by a tied up dog at a business

1 skateboarder had a **puncture wound/bruise** on the arm from an on leash dog that lunged at a passing skateboard on the sidewalk

32 Other Animal and Safety Incidents

1 horse and buggy incident on the Ocean Beach with the horse having puncture bites on the nose

7 dog-dog interactions resulting in non-lethal injuries (1 grab/shake and 6 with scraps or lacerations)

1 dog cliff fall with serious injuries requiring aid being carried up from the beach (Fort Funston)

5 dog cliff rescues from dogs stranded on cliffs with no injuries (1 Sutro Baths, 1 Fort Point, 3 Fort Funston)

1 dog barking at a Park Service policeman on a horse

1 dog charging and grabbing the boot of a Park Service policeman (Illegal camping by a Washington resident with an outstanding warrant)

9 incidents of dog owners complaining about inappropriate dog-dog interactions (no injuries)

3 complaints about people not liking dog interactions (no physical contact with a dog)

4 stray dogs friendly dogs with no indication of aggressive or fearful behavior

DEIS “Action Alternatives” Increase and Shift Public Safety Risk

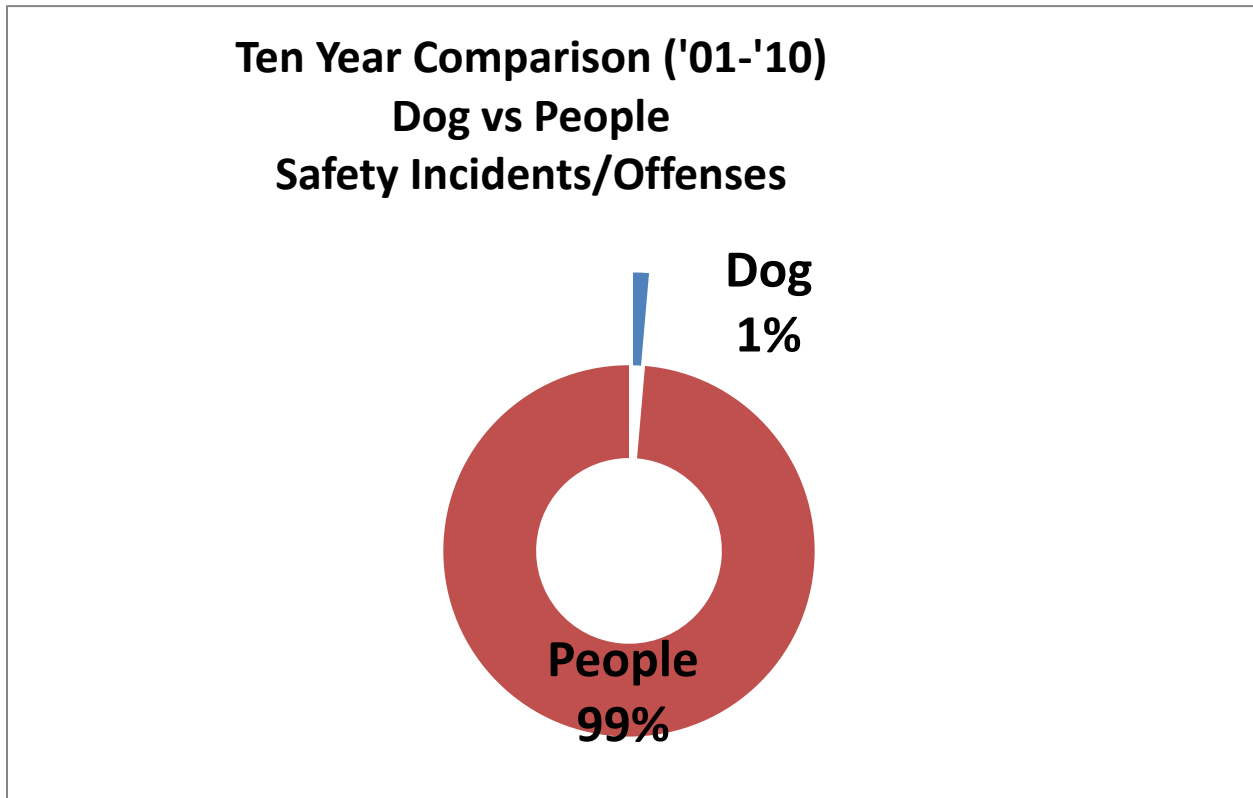
Note that the DEIS “Preferred Alternative” and other “Action Alternatives” will not eliminate most of these incidents and may actually increase the safety incidents even in the GGNRA by concentrating more dogs and people in an even smaller area. The only way the DEIS Preferred Alternative, in comparison to the “1979 Pet Policy”, would reduce these incidents in the GGNRA is if people with dogs choose to not go to the GGNRA to walk with their dogs and the recreational value of the GGNRA is diminished. If people choose not to go to the GGNRA and choose to continue living in the Bay Area, their dismal options include:

- Continuing to responsibly exercise and socialize their dog, which means the public safety risks is merely shifted from the larger GGNRA sites to more concentrated and less appropriate urban streets, urban parks, other more distant regional parks, or other, unauthorized, urban areas.
- Become unmotivated to provide responsible daily exercise and socialization, which means the community will not have the safety benefit of this exercise and socialization for dogs. This will lead to:
 - more frustrated and unsocialized dogs (e.g., backyard barking, escaping from backyards, lunging/barking when on leash, jumping on people, etc.)
 - more fearful, vicious and dangerous dogs in people’s homes, in backyards, on city streets, or as strays

- more babies and children receiving serious injuries from unsocialized and frustrated dogs
- more new born infants entering homes with family dogs completely unsocialized to babies
- more stigmatization of dogs because of irresponsible dog owner care
- Abandoning or euthanizing their dogs, which not only impacts the dogs, but also the health and well-being of people and the community

In my opinion, keeping an unsocialized and frustrated dog in a home is not humane and is the equivalent of keeping a loaded gun. Only euthanizing dogs or people choosing not to have dogs would truly reduce the overall public safety risk related to dog ownership. In my opinion that is an extreme and unnecessary alternative considering the benefits people and the community receive from our canine companions, particularly considering the overall low safety risk related to responsible dog ownership.

Dog-Related Safety Risk Insignificant in Comparison to Other GGNRA Safety Risks



The 2001 to 2010 GGNRA Law Enforcement Records (Ranger/USPP Headers) list all of the reported incidents/offenses (incidents) with the ranger or USPP officer's brief description of the incident. The Ranger/USPP Headers do not indicate a significant number of safety-related incidents from dog recreation. I summarized and categorized the Ranger/USPP Headers, and found that between 1 and 2 percent of GGNRA safety-related incidents were dog-related. These incidents include incidents at all GGNRA sites not just the sites covered by the DEIS plan. These counts seem insignificant considering some 14% or 450,000 people in the Bay Area enjoy walking their dogs in the GGNRA (estimated from the 2002 Population Survey and 2008 US Census Report) and the nuisance type severity of most dog-related incidents. The level of severity for most other incidents is unclear from the

Ranger/USPP Headers; however, it is reasonable to assume that the overall severity of other incident categories is much greater and include more life threatening injuries and some even result in deaths.

Some highlights of the counts of some other safety related categories for 2007 to 2008 includes:

11 Bicycle & Motor Vehicle Accidents

66 Bicycle Injuries

272 Other Accidents

156 Assaults

18 Deaths

13 Suicide Attempts or Suicides

53 Domestic Disputes

531 Other Injuries

Dog Visit Estimates and '01-'06 "Bite/Attack" Ratio

Dog Visit Estimates

GGNRA

Dog Walks and Ownership

Walks in GGNRA by Dog Owners	50%
Percent of all surveyed	14%
African American Percent	33%
Estimated Dog Ownership	28%

Bay Area Population

	2008 Census	2002 Survey	
San Francisco	808,976	663,931	75%
Marin	248,794	197,104	69%
San Mateo	712,690	545,061	44%
Alameda	1,474,368	1,089,169	29%
	3,244,828	2,495,265	
Estimated Dog Owners	908,552		
Estimated Dogs Owners that take to GG	454,276		

Experience with Dog (per 2002 GGNRA Phone Survey)

Visitors with Experience with Dog Walking

Seen dogs in GGNRA	52%
Seen dogs off-leash	39%
Added to experience (if seen)	27%
Distracted (if seen)	22%
no-impact (if seen)	49%

Support by Ownership

	Support	Oppose
Dog Owners for Off-Leash	51%	45%
Non Dog Owners for Off-Leash	35%	56%
Overall	40%	53%

Dog Trips (per 2002 GGNRA Phone Survey)

		Yearly Visit Estimate	
		Individuals	Visits/YEAR
Taken dog (if have dog)	50%	454,276	37,709,444
daily	19%	86,312	31,504,035
weekly	20%	90,855	4,724,470
monthly	22%	99,941	1,199,288
semi-annual	31%	140,826	281,651
	92%		

Estimated Bites per Visit	Dog Bites per		
	GGNRA	Visits/Year	Visits/6 Years Visit/Bite
Dog Bite Ratio (estimates)	166	37,709,444	226,256,665
			1,362,992

1 dog bite/attack per 1,362,992 GGNRA dog visit

Key:

Data in Blue is from the 2002 Public Opinion Research Telephone Survey Regarding Golden Gate National Recreation Area Pet Management Issues

Data in Tan is from the 2008 US Census Report

Estimate are based on calculations from the Population Survey and the US Census

What the Law Enforcement Data Says about Dog Injury and Death Risk

In looking at the 2001 to 2010 Ranger/USPP Headers, I only saw one case of a dog death reported in the Ranger/USPP Headers, which indicates the death risk is low for dogs. Even though these death incidents almost never happen, there needs to be a standard process and legal mechanism, which will help prevent repeat incidents and ensure the risk is accurately presented. In the detailed 2007-2008 Ranger/USPP Details of dog-related ranger/USPP tickets, there were two cases where the bite incidents were reported to the ACC/SFPD. In the Ranger/USPP Details, only 7 other dog-dog incidents reported any injury to a dog in the two years.

Mechanisms for Identifying and Making Individuals Accountable for Serious Injuries

A woman, at the Supervisor's meeting, that was injured while riding indicated that the GGNRA does not have mechanisms for identifying and holding the owners accountable for any serious injuries caused by their dog. The GGNRA should work with the SF Animal Care and Control and the San Francisco Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies to develop procedures for dealing with such incidents within San Francisco and also within other counties. Most dog "bite/attacks" are more nuisance type incidents but there are more serious incidents that require more comprehensive procedures particularly to deter repeat offenders.

Park Service Misrepresents Dog-Related Safety Risk

In addition to these broad claims, Park Service cannot substantiate even the low number of incidents in the DEIS. Please see *Appendix 3: e-mails Supporting Park Service Inability to Support DEIS Law Enforcement Counts in my public comment regarding Environmental Injustice*. I attempted to verify the counts using the Ranger/USPP Details and the Ranger/USPP Headers and neither provided support for the dog "bite/attacks" counts, particularly the 17 reported for Stinson Beach in 2007 on page 272 of the DEIS. There is no evidence of any "bite/attacks" at Stinson Beach during 2007 or 2008, and yet this one DEIS number represents 32% of the total DEIS count (53) for all of 2007 and 2008 dog "bite/attacks". Overall, I was only able to find 51 incidents that seem to qualify as a "bite/attack" or hazardous condition versus the 119 shown in the DEIS. In addition, the DEIS shows that "bite/attack" and hazardous condition incidents dropped 45% from 77 in 2007 to 42 in 2008 without any apparent reason. **I requested the schedule of the Ranger/USPP Details that substantiated the counts and was told there is no schedule, which indicates either a lack of professional care or deliberate manipulation of the data.**

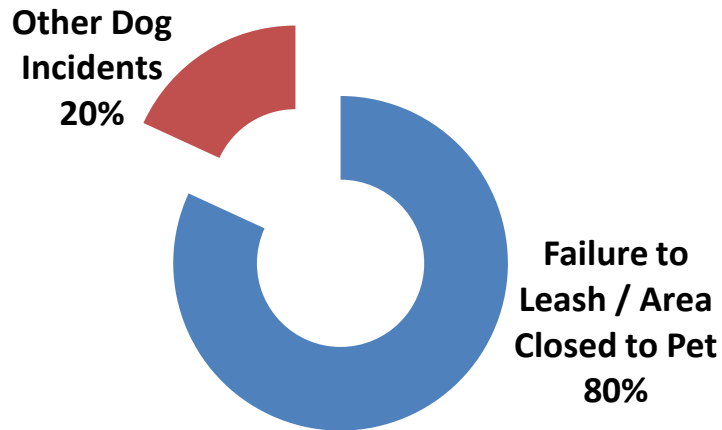
I was unable to review every single word of the Ranger/USPP Details for Stinson Beach area closed to pet PDFs but suspect the 334 Area Closed to Pets incidents for 2007 are also inflated since the Ranger/USPP Headers only indicates 51 incidents. The 334 for Stinson Beach is 64% of the total 518 Area Closed to Pets incidents on page 230 of the DEIS. Overall, the DEIS is showing 2008 counts for all locations to be 42% less than 2007 without there being any reason for such significant changes.

Also note that the Park Service file containing the 2008 Ranger/USPP Details contains almost 880 pages. While there are many duplicate pages the number of pages seems reasonable. The Park Service file with the 2007 Ranger/USPP Details contains only 93 pages but is supposed to represent 42% more incidents. While there are many duplicate pages in the 2008 file the number of pages seems reasonable. In addition, I only found 15 Ranger/USPP Details for 2007 Ocean Beach leash law violations in comparison to the 240 indicated by the Ranger/USPP Headers.

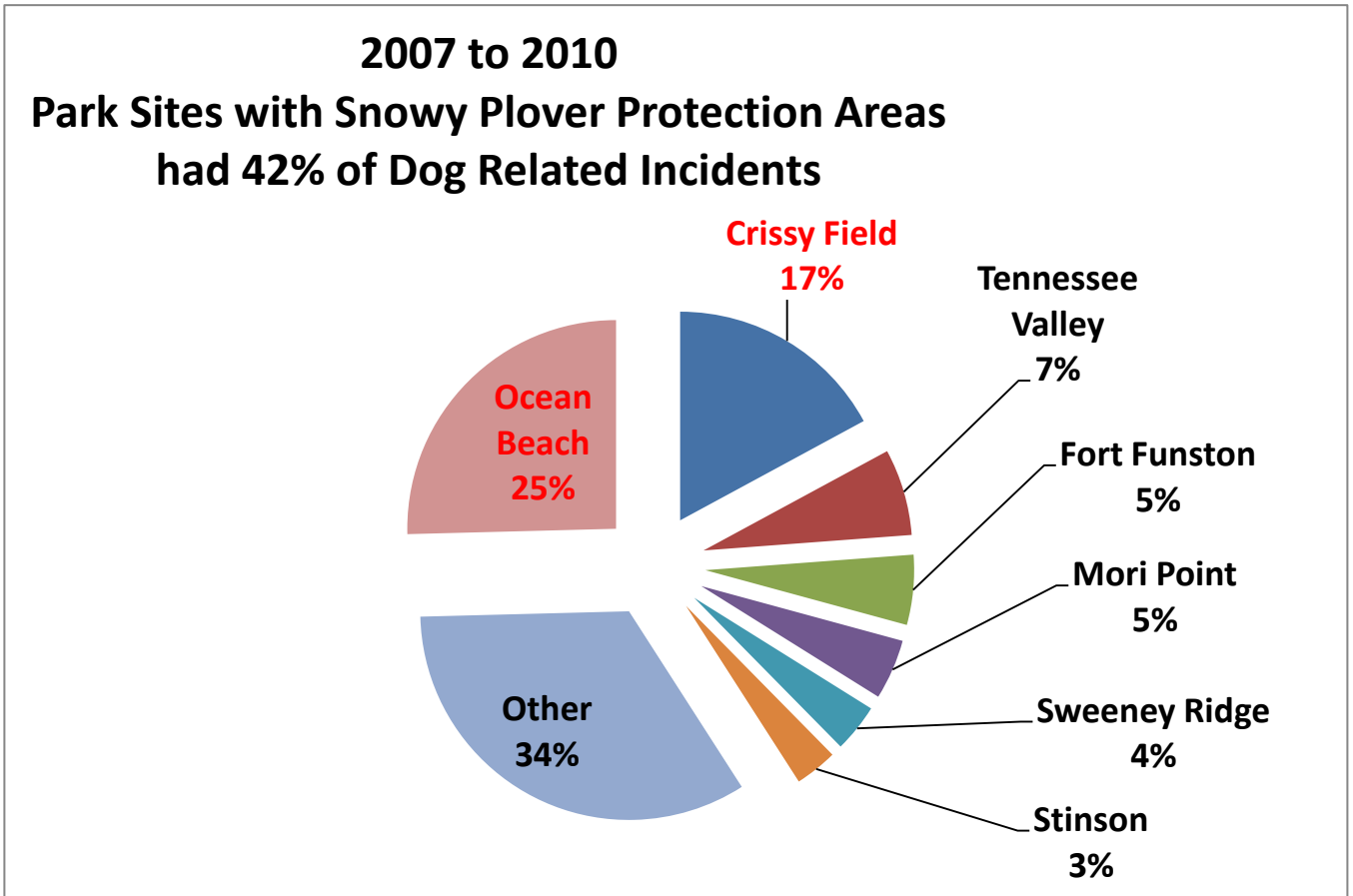
Off-leash Dogs or Dogs in an Area Closed to Pets Does not Automatically Represent a Significant Safety Risk

Vast Majority of Dog Related Incidents are Failure to Leash / Area Closed to Pet

Based on 2007 and 2008 Ranger/USPP Headers



The TWO Snowy Plover Protection Areas Alone Represent 42% of Dog-Related Incidents



GGNRA Area	Dog Related Incidents
Crissy Field	385
Tennessee Valley	151
Fort Funston	122
Mori Point	105
Sweeney Ridge	84
Stinson	74
Other	758
Ocean Beach	572
Grand Total	2251

Almost all these incidents relate to Failure to Leash and Area Closed to Pets violations that have little to do with public safety concerns.

Purely Subjective Adverse Impact Statements Leads to Abuse

Eliminate all exaggerations, misleading statements, and “hypothetical” statements and define a assessment methodology that would be applicable to any recreational activity.

Incomplete Impact Scope

The public health and safety impact statement should be changed to “Beneficial” for all GGNRA sites for the “No Action” alternative and public health and safety should be **considered a major justification for honoring the 1979 Pet Policy and adding addition off-leash areas in San Mateo County in the revised GGNRA dog management plan.**

The Assessment Methodology for Public Health and Safety provides no standard other than Park Service judgment and how many “potential” problems could occur. The entire DEIS Public Health and Safety section, like the rest of the DEIS, reads like a “Witch Hunt” with all these horrible things attributed to dogs without their being any evidence that the events are occurring in the GGNRA, just like the way witches were prosecuted by Salem courts in the 17th century. This section is designed to create unnecessary paranoia instead of reasonably showing the risks and the effect of those risks.

Without any real standards for impacts, the Park Service could arbitrarily eliminate all recreation and all people from the GGNRA. Just because something can happen doesn’t mean it is likely to or that it is a significant safety or health risks. The dogs have been in the parks for decades and only rarely is there a significant injury, and there is no evidence that dogs are transmitting diseases to humans or the wildlife in the parks. On the other hand dog recreation provide systemic health and safety benefits that are ignored in the DEIS.

Safety in the Park In particular, there is no public health and safety epidemic related to dog feces or dog pathogens. Even in the unlikely event that people contract these diseases the odds of serious medical issues is negligible and certainly not any more severe than pathogens from other sources, such as wildlife droppings and city street run-offs, in the GGNRA. Per the Park Service response to my FOIA request, the Park Service has no evidence of pathogen transmission in the GGNRA and is purely relying on listing of possible dog related diseases. Certainly, the 1 in 3 families in America with dogs, do not deem these to be significant risks that would cause them to not associate with dogs.

The Park Service has merely compiled a list of all the harmful things that could happen in regards to dogs and shown the low Law Enforcement numbers to show the severity of actual dog related incidents. Based on these standards all human activity in the GGNRA could be deemed a significant Public Health and Safety risk because just entering the park one could come up with 1000 of potential things that could happen. Certainly, the list of potential life threatening diseases transmitted from one person to another, violence from one person to another, or accidents that could occur and are far more significant than any risks regarding dog interaction. In fact, the law enforcement data above only shows that dogs are a minor, if not negligible, risk in comparison to the GGNRA accidents and violence associated with other human activities.

Exercise and Mental Well-Being Benefits In addition, these standards completely ignore the beneficial impact of walking with a dog and enjoying the park. Note that it is highly unlikely the few people that fear or dislike dogs are reducing their exercise in the outdoors to offset the increase in people with dogs exercising in the parks. People with dogs have far fewer options and few can afford to go to a fenced dog park and then go for a long walk somewhere else. Unfortunately, the GGNRA has not conducted any real studies of recreation needs or barriers to scientifically comprehensively model the expected impact on visitation and exercise levels.

Safety Benefits from Responsible Dog Care The impact statements and analysis ignore the safety benefits of a well exercised and socialized dog.

Safety Benefits from Local Recreation Having open space available close to home reduces the need for car travel and reduces the risk of accidents and pollution.

Adjacent Areas or Concentration The impact statements ignore impact of these any safety risks being transferred to people's homes, city streets, city parks, and other locations. Unless people euthanize their dogs and stop getting dogs, the dogs aren't going away so any risk to the community is only going to be transferred to other locations that will now have a greater concentration of dogs. The DEIS also talks about the issues being caused by a high concentration of dogs but is proposing with this plan to further concentrated the off-leash and on-leash dogs in smaller areas and is not accounting for this in their impact analysis.

Subjective Public Health and Safety Criteria

Excerpt from DEIS Page 1592

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The analysis of effects on human health and safety considered conflicts between dogs and various user groups of the park. The presence of dog waste at park sites was also included in the analysis. Impacts on both park visitors and park employees were analyzed quantitatively using the park's LE database on pet-related citations, warnings, and reports taken in 2007/2008, which is summarized in table 9. Qualitative analysis considered the LE database along with information from relevant studies, personal communication, and professional judgment to predict changes in human health and safety over the next 20 years.

IMPACT THRESHOLDS

Health and safety impacts were determined by examining the potential effects of dog walking activities on the health and safety of park visitor and staff within a park site. The intensity of each adverse impact is judged as having a minor, moderate, or major effect. A beneficial impact would be a positive change in the condition or appearance of the resource. Negligible impacts are neither adverse nor beneficial, nor long-term or short-term. No impacts to the health and safety of park visitors and staff may also be applicable for some alternatives and sites if dogs are prohibited. The following impact thresholds were established to describe the effects to the health and safety of park visitors and staff under the various alternatives being considered:

- Beneficial* A beneficial impact is a beneficial change from the current condition and is a relative indicator of progress compared to the no action alternative. In general, a beneficial impact would be a decrease in the number of dog-related confrontations, injuries, and illnesses.
- Negligible* The health and safety of both park visitors and park employees would not be affected, or the effects would be at such low levels of detection that no appreciable effect on human health or safety would be measurable.
- Adverse*
 - Minor.** Effects on the health and safety of both park visitors and park employees would be detectable but would not be large enough to be quantified.
 - Moderate.** Effects would be readily apparent and would result in substantial, noticeable effects on the health and safety of both park visitors and park employees on a local scale. Revision of park policies could be required to ensure human health and safety.
 - Major.** Effects would be readily apparent and long term, and would result in substantial, noticeable effects on human health and safety for both park visitors and park employees on a regional scale. Revision of park policies would be required to ensure human health and safety.

The adverse impact statements claimed in the DEIS are arbitrary and subjective, even if one doesn't consider the cumulative impacts on Public Safety (e.g., dog behavior, other adjacent lands, health benefits, responsible dog guardianship, etc.) with not clear explanation for the differences (e.g., number of past incidents, number of visitors, etc.) Below is a table showing the highest level impact claimed in the DEIS in Table 5. For example, there seems no justification for listing Milagra Ridge and Pedro Point as Minor while Sweeney Ridge and Mori Point are negligible. In fact, even using the questionable numbers on page 271, no location other than Stinson Beach and Fort Funston have more than ten combined dog "bite/attacks" and hazardous condition incidents. In reality, only Fort Funston and Ocean Beach, with more than 2,000 average daily visits, had any serious incidents in 2007 or 2008 on the trails or on the beach.

DEIS Public Health and Safety “No Action” Impact Statements

Row Labels	A2 - Moderate Impact	A3 - Minor Impact	A4 - Other Non-issue Impact
Marin	2	3	3
Alta Trail, Orchard Fire Road and Pacheco Fire Road		1	
Fort Baker			1
Homestead Valley			1
Marin Headlands Trails	1		
Muir Beach		1	
Oakwood Valley			1
Rodeo Beach/South Rodeo Beach		1	
Stinson Beach	1		
Other		1	
New Lands		1	
San Mateo		2	2
Milagra Ridge		1	
Mori Point			1
Pedro Point Headlands		1	
Sweeney Ridge			1
SF	9		2
Baker Beach to Golden Gate	1		
Crissy Field WPA	1		
Fort Funston	1		
Fort Mason	1		
Fort Miley			1
Fort Point	1		
Lands End	1		
Ocean Beach	1		
Sutro Heights Park			1
Grand Total	11	6	7

Subjective Visitor Experience Criteria

Excerpt from DEIS Page 1402, on the Assessment Methodology for Visitor Experience:

IMPACT THRESHOLDS

Visitor Use and Experience impacts were determined by examining the potential effects of dog walking activities on the visitor's experience within a park site. The intensity of each adverse impact is judged as having a minor, moderate, or major effect. A beneficial impact would be a positive change to visitor experience. Negligible impacts are neither adverse nor beneficial, nor long-term or short-term. No impacts to visitor use and experience may also be applicable for some alternatives and sites if dogs are prohibited. The following impact thresholds were established to describe the relative changes in visitor use and visitor experience under the various alternatives being considered:

Beneficial A beneficial impact would be a positive change to a visitor use or experience at a park site. Individuals participating in that use or experience in other local or regional areas could return to or begin using the park due to the markedly improved visitor experience as a result of implemented dog management. A beneficial impact is a beneficial change from the current condition and is a relative indicator of progress compared to the no action alternative.

Negligible Visitors would be unaware of impacts associated with proposed changes. There would be no noticeable change in visitor use and experience or in any defined indicators of visitor satisfaction or behavior. Defined indicators that may impact visitor satisfaction include greater safety concerns, additional user conflicts, and additional dog-related incidents such as dog bites or dogs chasing or jumping on visitors.

Adverse **Minor.** Changes in visitor use and experience would be slight and detectable, but would not appreciably limit or enhance any critical characteristics of the visitor experience. Critical characteristics of the visitor experience include overall visitor satisfaction, visitor safety, and recreation opportunities. Other park areas would remain available for similar visitor uses and experiences. Visitor satisfaction would remain stable.

Moderate. A few critical characteristics of the existing visitor experience would decrease. The number of visitors engaging in a specific use would be altered, resulting in a noticeable change in visitor satisfaction. Other park areas would remain available for similar visitor uses and experiences; however, some visitors participating in that use or experience might be required to pursue their choice in other available local or regional areas.

Major. Multiple critical characteristics of the existing visitor experience would deteriorate, or become unavailable and/or the number of visitors engaging in a use would be greatly altered, resulting in a noticeable change in visitor satisfaction. A limited number of park areas would be available for similar visitor uses and experiences; thus, large numbers of visitors participating in that use or visitor experience would be required to pursue their choice in other available local or regional areas.

The Assessment Methodology is arbitrary and based on judgment without any objective measurement criteria. There were not objective studies done to determine the significance of dog recreation visitation or the experience

by those that dislike or fear dogs. In addition, the introductory statement below says that visitor surveys were conducted but the Park Service could not provide a single visitor survey as requested in my FOIA.

Excerpt from DEIS Page 1402, on the Assessment Methodology:

Visitor use and experience can be measured by the indicator visitor satisfaction. Visitor satisfaction is measured by visitor satisfaction surveys distributed at various sites throughout the park. The potential for change in visitor experience was evaluated by identifying projected increases or decreases in on-leash and voice-control dog walking and other visitor uses per alternative, and determining whether these projected changes would affect the desired visitor experience and result in greater safety concerns or additional user conflicts.

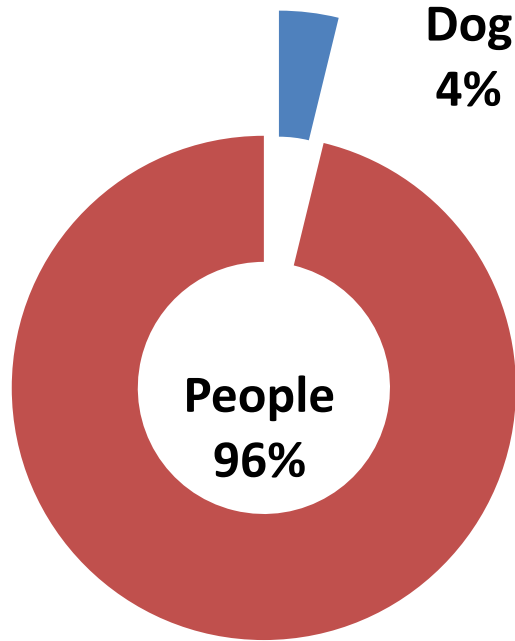
The Visitor Experience needs to be based on more than arbitrary conclusion that dog have a significant impact on a substantial number of people that fear of dislike dogs. I don't golf, play tennis, ride horses, play basketball, use the GGNRA gym but I'd expect any plans to close those GGNRA facilities would be based on a valid argument that the those areas would benefit a greater number of people with the alternative plan and not be simply that there are people that don't use this particular facility. For example, I'm any outdoors person that had lived in the Bay Area for about 10 years but I'm pretty sure I only stopped at Fort Funston at most once before I got a dog. With our without the dogs, Fort Funston is not a major destination for most people without dogs. Certainly Fort Funston is a cultural landmark or mecca for the dog community.

“No Action” Visitors that Dislike Dogs - Highest Level Impact Statements

Row Labels	A1 - Major Impact	A2 - Moderate Impact	A3 - Minor Impact
Marin		2	6
Alta Trail, Orchard Fire Road and Pacheco Fire Road		1	
Fort Baker			1
Homestead Valley			1
Marin Headlands Trails			1
Muir Beach		1	
Oakwood Valley			1
Rodeo Beach/South Rodeo Beach			1
Stinson Beach			1
Other			1
New Lands			1
San Mateo		1	3
Milagra Ridge			1
Mori Point			1
Pedro Point Headlands			1
Sweeney Ridge		1	
SF	1	6	4
Baker Beach to Golden Gate		1	
Crissy Field except WSP in WPA		1	
Crissy Field WPA		1	
Fort Funston	1		
Fort Mason		1	
Fort Miley			1
Fort Point			1
Lands End			1
Ocean Beach - Snowy Plover Protection		1	
Ocean Beach (except for WSP in SPPA)		1	
Sutro Heights Park			1
Grand Total	1	9	14

**Appendix 1: 2001 to 2010 Ranger/USPP
Law Enforcement Header Category Counts
(Access Database)**

Dog vs People Law Enforcement Incidents/Offenses



Source: 2001 to 2010 GGNRA Law Enforcement Incidents/Offenses (Access Data Base)

Total Counts by Dog and People

Year	(All)
Class 2	(All)
Sort	(All)

Row Labels	Count of Incident Type	
Dog	5140	4%
People	129772	96%
(blank)		
Grand Total	134912	

Total Counts by Dog and People by Category of Incident

Year	(All)
Class 2	(All)

Row Labels	Count of Incident Type	
Dog	5140	3.8%
A - Safety Related Incidents	393	
C - Park Damages	31	
D - Public Nuisance & Complaints	143	
E - Regulation Violations	4573	
People	129772	
A - Safety Related Incidents	28144	
B - Personal Damages	3450	
C - Park Damages	9603	
D - Public Nuisance & Complaints	3800	
E - Regulation Violations	27312	
J - Other Activities/Incidents	20681	
H - Assistance/Calls	25822	
F - Other Law Enforcement	4524	
I - Occasion/Escort	6436	
Grand Total	134912	

Total Counts by Dog and People by Type of Incident

Class 2		(All)							
Count of Incident Type		Column Labels							
Row Labels	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Dog	397	407	653	757	370	305	606	500	
A - Safety Related Incidents	41	40	32	42	31	38	47	30	
ANIMAL ABUSE - DOG	1					1			
DEATH - DOG						1			
DOG BITE / ATTACK	28	28	24	30	25	28	31	1	
DOG BITE / ATTACK - HORSE			1		1	2			
DOG BITE/ASSAULT	1								
DRUGS - PETS									
FUGITIVE - PET									
HAZARDOUS CONDITION - CLIFF - DOG								2	
HAZARDOUS CONDITION - DOG									
INJURED - PERSON W PET								1	
INJURED - PET	1	1			1	1	1		
INJURED/SICK PERSON				1		1			
SEARCH & RESCUE - CLIFF - DOG	10	6		2	3	3	7		
SEARCH & RESCUE - CLIFF - DOG & PEOPLE		1		1			1		
SEARCH & RESCUE - DOG		3	6	5	1		3		
SEARCH & RESCUE - DOG & PEOPLE			1			1	1		
SEX OFFENDER - PET									
WARRANT/WANTED - PET		1		3					
C - Park Damages	3	1	2	1	6	1	7		
DOG - UNATTENDED OR LOST									
FAILURE 2 PICK UP - DOG	3	1	2	1	4	1	7		
RESOURCE VIOLATION - PET									
VANDALISM - PETS									
WILDLIFE DISTURBING - DOG OR PET					2				
D - Public Nuisance & Complaints	18	29	9	14	16	16	10		
COMPLAINT - DOG	13	11			1	3	2		
COMPLAINT - DOG ATTACK							1		
COMPLAINT - DOG vs HORSE							1		
COMPLAINT - DOG WALKER									
COMPLAINT - LEASH LAW			3	1		3			
COMPLAINT - NOISE - PET					2				
COMPLAINT - PET		3		3	9	5	2		
DISORDERLY - DOG									
DISORDERLY - NOISE DOG		1	1						
DISORDERLY - PETS									

Total Counts by Dog and People by Type of Incident

Class 2		(All)							
Count of Incident Type		Column Labels							
Row Labels	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
DOG - UNATTENDED OR LOST	5	14	5	10	4	5	4		
E - Regulation Violations	335	337	610	700	317	250	542	495	
FALSE ID - PET/DOG	3				1	4	2		
LEASH LAW/AREA CLOSED TO PETS	330	314	584	684	290	204	488	495	
OTHER PET VIOLATIONS	2	23	26	15	26	37	50	49	
PERMIT VIOLATION - PET						3			
RESISTING ARREST - PET				1					
TRAFFIC VIOLATION - PET						2			
WARRANT/INTERFERRING - PET							2		
People	14483	11753	11736	13502	13334	12874	12330	11995	
A - Safety Related Incidents	3238	2698	2758	2990	2961	3023	2717	2595	
ACCIDENT - BICYCLE & MOTOR VEHICLE	3	4	3	5	3	8	7		
ACCIDENT - BICYCLE INJURY	23	38	22	33	20	34	33	3	
ACCIDENT - BOAT		2	5	1	4	2	1		
ACCIDENT - MOTOR VEHICLE	38	48	45	45	28	27	26	3	
ACCIDENT - MOTOR VEHICLE - DUI	2	6	1	5	6	7	9		
ACCIDENT - MOTOR VEHICLE - HIT & RUN	17	23	24	15	19	19	17		
ACCIDENT - MOTOR VEHICLE - NPS	51	46	21	26	31	18	37	3	
ACCIDENT - MOTOR VEHICLE - PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY	73	71	55	80	49	53	57	4	
ACCIDENT - MOTOR VEHICLE - TRUST	8		1	1	1		1		
ARSON	2	1		1	1	2			
BOMB THREATS	2			2		1			
BURGLARY	26	20	18	30	17	30	18	1	
COURT ORDER		1		2	1	3			
DEATH - ACCIDENTAL/NOT SPECIFIED	1		1						
Death - Drowning	1	1			1	4			
DEATH - FALL	1	1		1			1		
DEATH - HOMICIDE					1				
DEATH - HORSE		1							
DEATH - INVESTIGATION	8	2	3	11	5	10	8		
DEATH - MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT				2					
DEATH/INJURY - NPS ANIMAL	1	2		2	1		3		
DISORDERLY - FIGHTING/THREATS	22	6	3	1	6	4	3		
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE / DISPUTES	27	20	32	26	39	22	13	4	
DRUGS	1029	586	591	702	658	548	547	63	
DRUGS - CLOSED AREA			1	2		3	1		
DRUNKENNESS	81	73	95	104	76	80	56	7	
EXPLOSIVES - FIREWORKS	36	65	43	50	50	68	52	6	

Total Counts by Dog and People by Type of Incident

Class 2		(All)							
Count of Incident Type		Column Labels							
Row Labels	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
EXPLOSIVES (NOT FIREWORKS)	5	3	4	14	15	4			
FIRE - BONFIRE	127	213	174	383	507	575	335	1	
FUGITIVE	4	3	1	1	1	1	2		
HAZARDOUS CONDITION	90	71	78	82	75	94	101	1	
INJURED - INSECT/RAT/RACCOON/COYOTE BITE		3	1	2		1	3		
INJURED - NPS MEMBER	17	15	8	14	18	14	19	1	
INJURED - NPS VOLUNTEER							2		
INJURED/SICK PERSON	330	280	306	266	201	240	254	2	
K-9 SEARCH (E.G. BOMB, DRUGS)	9	57	52	67	126	146	154	8	
MISSING PERSON	54	48	55	48	28	44	49	4	
PSYCHIATRIC	30	24	24	33	29	36	33	3	
RESTRAINING ORDER	1	1	3		5	4	3		
SEARCH & RESCUE - BOAT		1	1						
SEARCH & RESCUE - CLIFF	3	8	3	9	5	4	1		
SEARCH & RESCUE - OTHER	16	26	11	15	23	19	13	1	
SEARCH & RESCUE - WATER	28	43	67	31	70	69	42	4	
SUICIDE ATTEMPTS & SUICIDES	6	9	13	9	13	11	4		
SUSPICIOUS PERSON/ITEM	397	396	435	356	355	331	315	3	
TRAFFIC - DUI	18	12	5	6	13	14	51	5	
TRAFFIC - DUI - NPS EMPLOYEE									
TRAFFIC VIOLATION	325	191	266	225	219	206	216	2	
VIOLENCE - ASSAULT	47	81	87	80	75	71	88	6	
VIOLENCE - KIDNAPPING									
VIOLENCE - ROBBERY	8	4	3	1	1	1	5		
VIOLENCE - SEXUAL	1	3	7	1	5	2	4		
VIOLENCE/ABUSE - CHILD	2		1						
VOYURISM				2					
WARRANT/WANTED	202	120	148	116	81	93	57	3	
WARRANT/WANTED - CAMPING	5	11	2	29	18	39	39	1	
WARRANT/WANTED - TRAFFIC	12	11							
WEAPONS	49	47	39	53	61	61	37	4	
B - Personal Damages	290	270	311	344	341	388	400	4	
LARCENY - CAR	81	106	129	98	122	162	185	2	
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	30	36	50	73	77	62	69	4	
OTHER THEFT & FRAUD	178	123	125	169	137	156	136	1	
TAMPERING	1	5	7	4	5	8	10		
C - Park Damages	1008	879	1078	1031	963	901	1047	9	
ABANDONED PROPERTY	319	258	480	388	385	306	262	3	
ANIMAL & WILDLIFE INCIDENTS	152	90	83	109	70	64	157	1	

Total Counts by Dog and People by Type of Incident

Class 2		(All)							
Count of Incident Type		Column Labels							
Row Labels	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
DAMAGE	54	58	66	86	67	105	90	9	
DUMPING/SANITATION	92	113	116	146	146	114	80	1	
FIRE - OTHER	34	19	14	27	17	23	29	2	
FIRE - WILDLAND	7	4	2	3	1	1	1	1	
LITTERING	3	7	5	5	4	5			
OTHER THEFT & FRAUD - GOVERNMENT	31	35	32	16	34	36	42	2	
RESOURCE - ARPA	5	1	1	1	2	2	1		
RESOURCE VIOLATION	40	24	30	31	33	38	32	3	
SMOKING VIOLATION		1	1	1	1		1		
VANDALISM	248	238	209	173	175	190	242	20	
WILDLIFE VIOLATION	23	31	39	45	28	17	110	4	
D - Public Nuisance & Complaints	390	388	436	469	405	379	356	34	
CAT BITE						1			
COMPLAINT - OTHER	21	19	32	23	18	16	19	1	
DISORDERLY	136	120	143	168	154	127	161	14	
DISORDERLY - NOISE	167	182	171	135	129	132	86	10	
INTERFERRING	7	6	11	16	14	11	20	2	
LOITERING		1	1	3	1	6	2		
LOST CAT		1							
OTHER SEXUAL OFFENSES	28	39	50	95	63	60	38	2	
PAN HANDLING	2	2	2						
TRUANCY(JUVENILE)	6		2	5	2	1	5		
URINATING IN PUBLIC	21	10	16	23	24	25	24	1	
VAGRANCY		5		1					
VENDING	2	3	8				1		
E - Regulation Violations	2905	2248	2225	2989	2967	2716	2731	266	
AIRCRAFT VIOLATION	2		1	2	1		2		
BICYCLE - CLOSED AREA		2	2	7	15	9	15		
BICYCLE VIOLATION	47	25	22	21	23	19	19	1	
BOAT VIOLATION	8	5	3	5	3	5	2		
CAMPING - CLOSED AREA		1		1	1		1		
CAMPING VIOLATION	354	365	385	431	374	369	372	30	
CLOSED AREA/TRESPASS/OFF ROAD	232	193	239	331	383	283	292	23	
COMMERCIAL	4								
FAILURE 2 OBEY A LAW									
FALSE ID	9	4	6	8	7	4	6		
FISHING	82	95	167	194	270	152	131	9	
FISHING - CLOSED AREA				3	1				
HORSE VIOLATION	2								

Total Counts by Dog and People by Type of Incident

Class 2	(All)							
Count of Incident Type	Column Labels							
Row Labels	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
LIQUOR LAW	211	105	111	210	200	182	234	234
Other							3	
PARKING VIOLATION	621	381	401	448	431	414	576	576
PEDESTRIAN VIOLATION					1			
PERMIT VIOLATION	31	46	54	76	84	63	84	84
RESISTING ARREST	1		1			1	2	
SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT	1213	968	803	1192	1104	1137	914	803
SKATE BOARD VIOLATION	29	46	28	37	59	64	63	63
SOLICITATION	2	1		6	3	5	2	
WARRANT - TRAFFIC VIOLATION	29	1					8	
WARRANT/WANTED - CAMPING	28	10	2	17	7	9	5	
J - Other Activities/Incidents	3404	2273	1579	2084	2302	1774	1693	1414
1ST AMENDMENT							1	
ADMINISTRATIVE							9	
ALARM OFF	1212	1155	912	1383	1532	1275	1414	1155
CANCELLED							28	
Case Number Missing								
INVALID CASE NUMBER							13	
OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT								
PARK SERVICE	2146	1016	656	681	758	492	226	1016
Problem					1			
UNAUTHORIZED USE								
Unfounded	46	102	11	20	11	7		
UNSECURED INSTALLATION							2	
H - Assistance/Calls	1830	1792	2055	2463	2613	2664	2442	2613
911 Call	154	130	4	13	12	19	8	130
911 HANG UP	248	247	377	361	344	280	202	130
ASSIST CITIZEN & OTHER	1428	1415	1674	2089	2257	2365	2232	2473
F - Other Law Enforcement	620	556	573	550	373	412	361	373
DEATH - BONES			1			1		
DEATH - NATURAL CAUSES		6	4	1	1	1	1	
DEMONSTRATION	1	4	1	2	1	1	4	
INVESTIGATION	3							
Other	1		5	6	3	4		
OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT		1	1	3		3		
PROPERTY - LOST&FOUND	417	363	398	359	241	276	237	241
UNSECURED INSTALLATION	198	182	163	179	127	126	119	163
I - Occasion/Escort	798	649	721	582	409	617	583	583
ESCORT	61	64	26	22	16	11	7	26

Total Counts by Dog and People by Type of Incident

Class 2		(All)							
Count of Incident Type		Column Labels							
Row Labels		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
OCCASION		737	585	694	560	392	606	576	494
OCCASION - PET				1		1			
Grand Total		14880	12160	12389	14259	13704	13179	12936	12444

Appendix 2: 2007 to 2008 DEIS Reported “Bite Attacks”, Hazardous Conditions/Rescues, Wildlife Disturbances

Location	"Bite/ Attacks"						Hazardous Conditions /Rescues						Wildlife Distur- bances			
	2007		2008		Total		2007		2008		Total		2007		2008	
SF	19	51%	14	88%	33	62%	34	85%	26	###	60	91%	29	83%	9	82%
Fort Funston	5	14%	7	19%	12	23%	16	43%	15	41%	31	47%	1	0.03	1	3%
Ocean Beach	5	14%	6	16%	11	21%	2	5%	9	24%	11	17%	24	65%	8	22%
Sutro Heights	0		0		0		1	3%	0		1	2%	0		0	
Fort Miley	0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0	
Lands End	2	5%	0		2	4%	2	5%	0		2	3%	0		0	
Baker Beach	1	3%	0		1	2%	0		0		0		0		0	
Fort Point	0		0		0		1	3%	0		1	2%	0		0	
Crissy Field	4	11%	1	3%	5	9%	9	24%	1	3%	10	15%	4	11%	0	
Fort Mason	2	5%	0		2	4%	3	8%	1	3%	4	6%	0		0	
Marin	18	49%	2	13%	20	38%	5	13%	0	0%	5	8%	6	17%	2	18%
Fort Baker	0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0	
Marin Headlands	0		1	3%	1	2%	1	3%	0		1	2%	0		0	
Rodeo Beach & Lagoon	1	3%	0		1	2%	0		0		0		2	5%	2	5%
Alta Ave	0		0		0		1	3%	0		1	2%	0		0	
Oakwood Valley	0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0	
Tennessee Valley	0		1	3%	1	2%	1	3%	0		1	2%	0		0	
Muir Beach	0		0		0		1	3%	0		1	2%	0		0	
Stinson Beach	17	46%	0		17	32%	1	3%	0		1	2%	4	11%	0	
San Mateo	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	3%	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%	0	0%
Milagra Ridge	0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0	
Mori Point	0		0		0		1	3%	0		1	2%	0		0	
Sweeney Ride	0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0	
Cattle Hill	0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0	
	37		16		53		40		26		66		35		11	

Items highlighted in Orange are questionable; I couldn't find evidence to the support in the Ranger/USPP law enforcement that was provided in my FOIA. Also, the Park Service could not provide a listing of the law enforcement case number that support the counts.

Appendix 3: Highlights of Relevant Personal Background

- Lived in the Bay Area for 17 years and am an avid outdoors and nature lover that has frequented many National Parks, National Forests, and most of the parks in the Bay Area. Before Ella, a dog, joined the family, I visited National Park Service parks including Yosemite, Yellowstone/Grand Tetons, Lassen, Glacier, Grand Canyon, Redwood, Point Reyes, Pinnacles, Zion, Bryce, Death Valley, Canyonlands, Channel Islands, Denali, Dinasaour, Sequoia/Kings Canyon, Mesa Verde, Muir Woods, Natural Bridge, Padre Island, Rocky Mountain, and SF Maritime. Since Ella joined the family, we have not been to a park, other than the GGNRA, that is managed by the National Park Service because dogs are not allowed beyond the main park corridor (e.g. the campgrounds and parking lot and superficial trails). Not being able to visit the National Parks is one of the hardest things about having a dog as a part of the family.
- Frequent the GGNRA dog-friendly sites almost daily for 5 years since Ella, an Aussie, joined our family with most GGNRA visits to Sweeney Ridge, Mori Point, Fort Funston, and Milagra Ridge. Before getting Ella, Sweeney Ridge was the only one of these GGNRA sites that I had visited more than once in 12 years in the Bay Area. Instead we tried to always go to new open spaces during our weekend hikes with Sweeney Ridge and Sawyer Camp / San Andreas / Canada Road trails being standard hikes/runs/bike that we did 4 or 5 times a month. We also had gym memberships which we no longer have since we can't exercise Ella and go to the gym. We find hiking so much more rewarding with Ella; we interact with so many more people because having a dog, like having a small child, facilitates social interactions that rarely happened without a dog
- Spent the past four months canvassing the GGNRA and other dog-friendly locations talking to people with dogs and raising awareness of the GGNRA plan. This included many discussions regarding the experiences and needs of people with dogs
- Co-author of the SaveOffLeashDogs Call to Action weekly email regarding the GGNRA dog management plan and active member of the SaveOffLeash coalition with primary responsibility for grass roots organizing for San Mateo County, SFDog, and Ocean Beach Dog
- Member of the Peninsula Australian Shepherd Club, the Australian Shepherd Club of America, Ace Dog Sports, and the Bay Team (an agility organization)
- Over 20 years of experience as an auditor in public accounting firms and corporations and a Masters in Accounting Information Systems and a Bachelors in Agricultural Economics/Accounting
- Graduate of the SF SPCA Dog Training Academy, a six week intensive program taught by Dr. Jean Donaldson, a nationally recognized dog behaviorist
- SFSPCA volunteer trainer responsible for addressing more significant behavioral issues such as reactivity, fear, rude behaviors, and puppy socialization
- Grew up on a farm with a virtual zoo of animals related to this plan including dogs, horses, mules, deer, quail, geese, and ducks and in a rural areas with significant wildlife populations
- Read the 2200 Page DEIS and visited all but 3 of the 21 sites included in the plan plus visited the new lands at Rancho Corral de Tierra in Montara
- Analyzed the 2001 to 2010 GGNRA Law Enforcement Access data headers and the 2007 to 2008 pet-related cases in the ranger/USPP detailed description PDFs
- Reviewed the available GGNRA inventories and monitoring reports provided by the GGNRA related to a Freedom of Information Act request
- Rely on the GGNRA for daily walks to help prevent morbid obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and breast cancer , which is prevalent in my family as well as stress relief
- Rely on GGNRA to responsibly care for Ella, our dog, and for ensuring that she is a healthy and safe dog for the community and for those visiting our home
- Committed environmental advocate for addressing real issues that make the world a healthier and happier place for all our interconnected beings. Member of the Sierra Club