

## INTRODUCTION

The Fire Management Plan (FMP) for Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) is an operational manual containing the standards, practices and guidelines in use by the Fire Management Branch of the Law Enforcement Division of GGNRA for conducting actions within the 15,700 acres of primary jurisdiction (see Figure 1, GGNRA Lands). The legislative boundary of GGNRA is much larger than the area of primary jurisdiction and covers 74,816 acres in Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties. The majority of these lands are administered by agencies other than the National Park Service (NPS) such as the California State Department of Park and Recreation, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (San Francisco Watershed Lands), the Presidio Trust<sup>1</sup>, the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division and the Marin Municipal Water District. An additional 15,400 acres of GGNRA lands on Bolinas Ridge in Marin County are managed by Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) under an agreement between PRNS and GGNRA; this area is covered in the PRNS FMP.

For purposes of the FMP, GGNRA will be used to refer to the 15,700 acres directly managed by the NPS through GGNRA and those parcels that will soon pass to the management of GGNRA. The latter category includes Cattle Hill and Pedro Point in the San Mateo County adjacent to the City of Pacifica.

The FMP provides a framework for prioritizing, developing and implementing the fire management group's prevention and fuels reduction programs, conducting prescribed burns with resource benefit objectives and advance planning for response to wildland fires within the jurisdictional area. The FMP was built upon guidance provided by the fire management section of the NPS Management Policies (2006) and current Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (2001). Federal wildland fire policy stresses the importance of the protection of the lives and safety of firefighters and the public, public and private property, and the protection, restoration and rehabilitation of the natural and cultural resources on federally-managed lands.

The fire management strategy to be implemented by this FMP was the subject of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the NPS that underwent public review and comment, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As part of the NEPA process, conformance requirements for the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Coastal Zone Management Act were met.

FMP goals and specific strategies were developed and assessed for potential impact during the NEPA process, which concluded with signature of the Record of Decision

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<sup>1</sup> The Presidio Trust manages the interior acres of the Presidio of San Francisco (Area B); the NPS manages the coastal areas (Area A). However, Congress made both management areas a part of GGNRA.

INTRODUCTION

(ROD) by the NPS Pacific West Regional Director on February 24, 2006. Mitigation measures included in the FMP EIS or recommended by the regulatory agencies for conformance with the Endangered Species Act regulators were adopted by the NPS as part of the ROD and are now incorporated into this operational FMP for GGNRA and included as Appendix D. The mitigation measures will be assigned to FMP projects by the interdisciplinary team review required for each project by NEPA project review and NHPA quintex review, processes that ensure regulatory conformance. Conformance requires that the impacts of implementing the fire management program remain within the levels anticipated during the NEPA process and do not result in impacts on the environment greater than those assumed when the ROD was adopted.

The FMP is organized to present the current strategies and tactics for the range of actions undertaken by the GGNRA Fire Management Branch. Program operations addressed include preparedness, prevention, suppression, fuels management, rehabilitation, fire communication and education, monitoring and fire and fuels research. The FMP is written to be used as a reference by GGNRA staff as they plan and implement fuel reduction, resource protection and rehabilitation projects and strategize for and conduct suppression actions.



