

# Golden Gate National Recreation Area



## Redwood Creek Watershed Vision for the Future

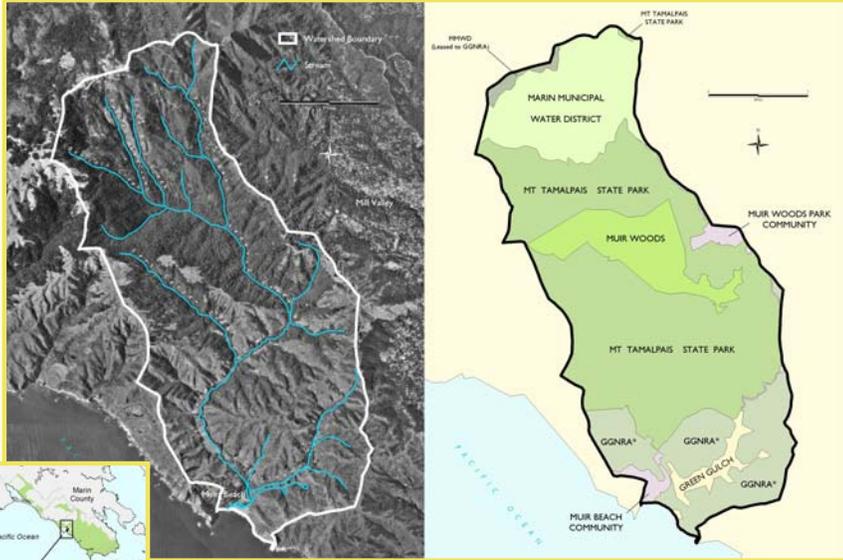


Presented at the Joint Ventures: Partners in Stewardship 2003

# Watershed Location and Land Ownership



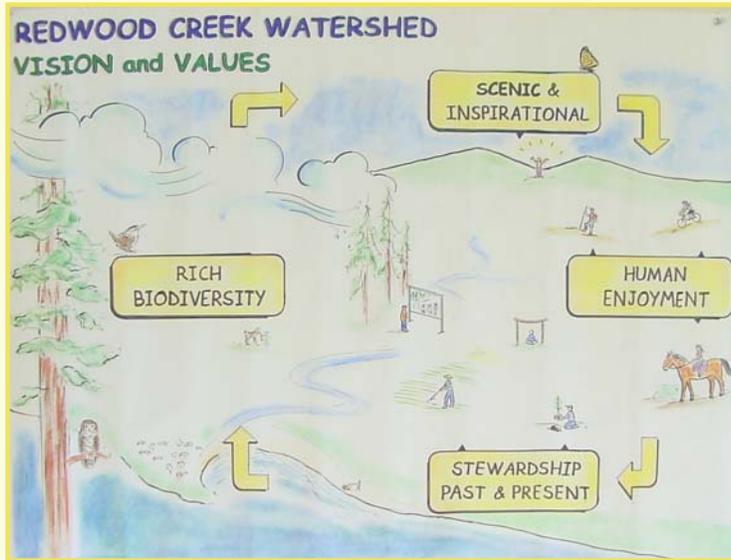
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# Values to Protect



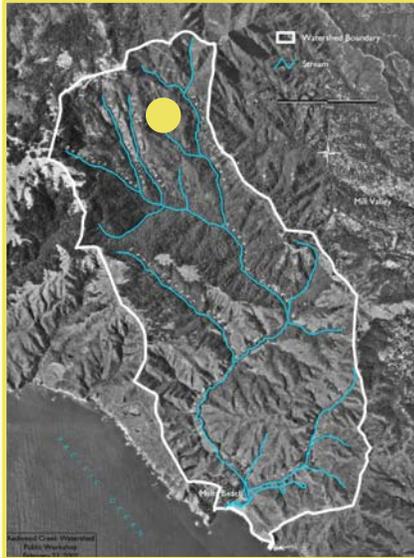
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# Hardwood Forest, Grassland, and Chaparral



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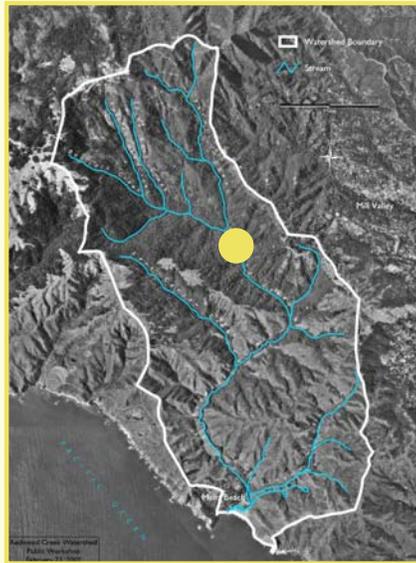


- full range of ecosystem components represented in a small area

# Old-growth Redwood Forest



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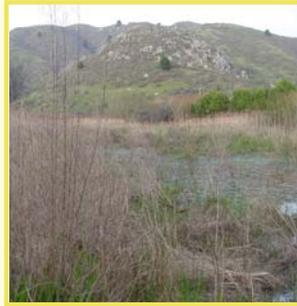
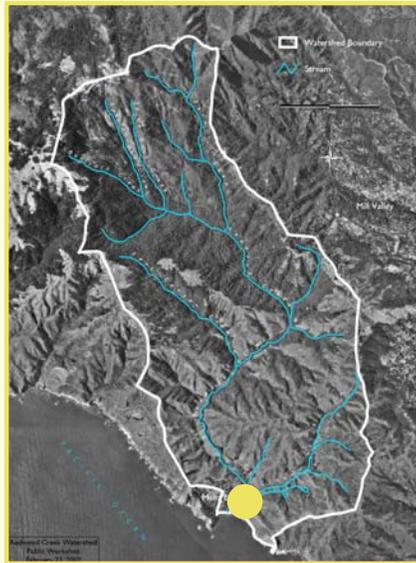




# Wetland and Dune



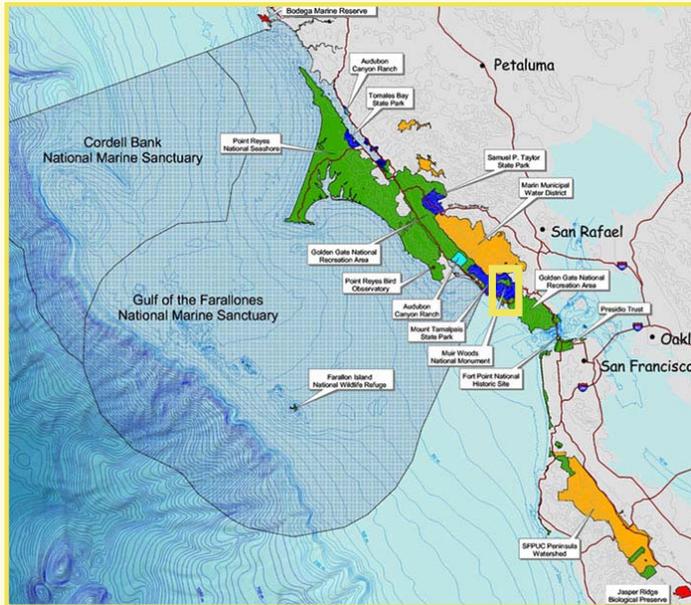
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# Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve



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- part of an international biosphere reserve
- relatively undisturbed environment
- high center of endemism, blends flora of central and north coast

## Scenic and Inspirational Values



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Muir Woods National Monument

**Beauty, Smells**  
**Open space, Rural quality**  
**Solitude**  
**Views**  
**Wildness**

# Scenic and Inspirational Values



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Muir Woods National Monument



View from Mt. Tamalpais

**Beauty, Smells**  
**Open space, Rural quality**  
**Solitude**  
**Views**  
**Wildness**

# Human Enjoyment



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Muir Woods NM



Muir Beach



Mountain Theater

**Accessible to a large and diverse population**  
**Recreation Hiking, Bicycling, Horseback riding,**  
**Wildlife viewing, beachgoing**  
**Creative arts**  
**Resident quality of life**  
**Opportunity for safe family recreation**

# Legacy of Stewardship



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William Kent and John Muir



Modern Stewards at Golden Gate

**“Birthplace” of the conservation movement**  
**Opportunities to work together as a community**  
**Active volunteer program**  
**Educational opportunities**

# Issues to Address



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Natural Resources



Cultural Resources



Visitor Experience



Resident Communities

# Loss/Degradation of Habitat



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**Coho salmon and steelhead**  
*Oncorhynchus kisutch, O. Mykiss*  
Status: threatened



**California red-legged frog**  
*Rana aurora draytonii*  
Status: threatened



**Northern spotted owl**  
*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*  
Status: threatened

Total species count:

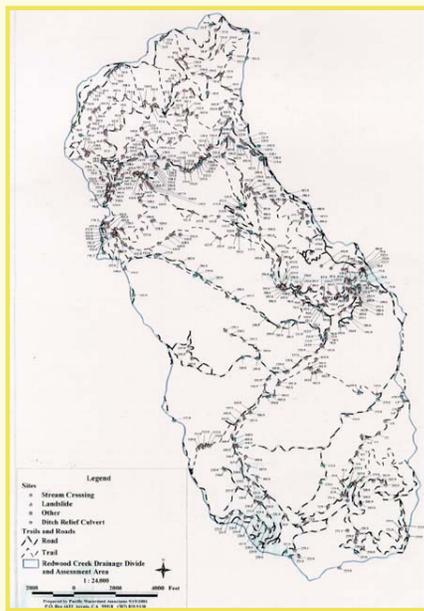
8 native fish, seven amphibians, 8 reptiles

194 birds, 31 mammals

# Erosion and Sedimentation



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Dipsea Trail



Redwood Creek

invasive plants  
Erosion from roads and trails/stream  
crossings  
sedimentation  
effects of fire suppression (plant  
communities/fuel loading)

## Invasive Species/Disease



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**Cape Ivy and other  
invaders**



**Sudden Oak Death**

invasive plants  
Erosion from roads and trails/stream  
crossings  
sedimentation  
effects of fire suppression (plant  
communities/fuel loading)

# Cultural Resources



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Muir Woods National Monument



Golden Gate Dairy

# Traffic Congestion and Crowding



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crowding

traffic congestion

lack of public transit

Poorly signed/confusion trails

Disconnects in trails and trail uses

Conflicting uses on some trails

crowding

traffic congestion

lack of public transit

Poorly signed/confusion trails

Disconnects in trails and trail uses

Conflicting uses on some trails

crowding

traffic congestion

# Flooding and Water Supply



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Pacific Way/Muir Beach



Pacific Way/Muir Beach

water supply and quality  
septic  
crowding, traffic congestion  
flooding on local roads  
emergency services

## The Goal



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To develop a consensus-based framework for coordinated and effective management of the Redwood Creek watershed.



# Who's Involved?



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## Agency Partners

- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Marin Municipal Water District
- National Park Service
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Marin County
- Muir Beach Community Services District



# Who's Involved?



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## Public

- Public workshops
- Website ([www.redwoodcreek.org](http://www.redwoodcreek.org))
- Site walks
- News articles
- Presentations to groups
- One-on-one within community



# Who's Involved?



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## Vision Team

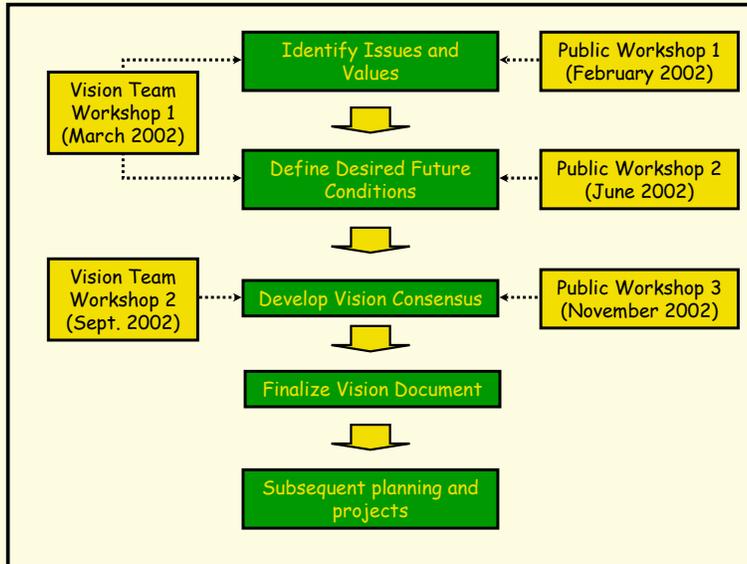
- Marin Community Foundation
- Mt. Tam Interpretive Association
- Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory  
Conservation Science
- University of California – Davis
- University of California – Berkeley
- California Department of Fish and  
Game
- National Park Service
- Muir Beach resident
- Local author
- Landscape architect
- Historical architect



# The Process



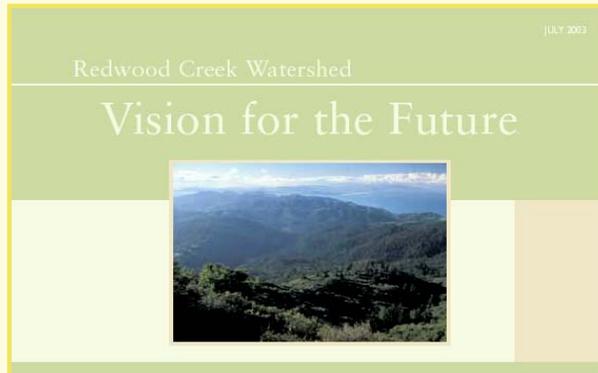
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# The Outcome



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- Preface/Context
- Overarching Vision Statement
- Guiding Principles
- Desired Future Conditions

# Overarching Statement



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Photo: Charles Kennard

Frank Valley

*“The Redwood Creek watershed exists as an intact ecosystem that offers opportunities for people to learn about, experience, and protect a rich blend of nature, rural character, and cultural history in an urbanized area.”*

# Guiding Principles



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Photo: Charles Kennard

Frank Valley

1. Land management agencies, local communities, and the public **work together** to build support for and implement the watershed vision.
2. The watershed is managed as a **model of the interdependency** of all resources and beings, acknowledging the presence and activities of people historically and currently.
3. The **natural beauty and rustic character** of the landscape is maintained.
4. **Sustainable land** management and resource use practices are used to ensure natural and cultural resources protection, resident quality of life, and quality of visitor experience.

# Guiding Principles



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Photo: Charles Kennard

Frank Valley

5. An **adaptive, scientifically based** approach provides the foundation for informed resource decision-making and management of the watershed's resources, and scientific research in the watershed is encouraged and supported.
6. **Education** is provided as a foundation for future watershed protection and stewardship.
7. Opportunities for human and cultural experiences and **interaction with the natural environment** are fostered.
8. People are active **stewards** of the watershed, and land management agencies provide an example for and promote stewardship of the watershed's resources by watershed residents and visitors.

# Desired Future Conditions



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Photo: Charles Kennard

Frank Valley

- Natural Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Resident Community
- Visitor Experience
- Infrastructure, facilities, and services

## Desired Future Conditions: Natural Resources



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Muir Woods NM

1. The watershed is managed as an **intact, continuous, and linked system** from the ridge tops to the ocean, with all parts contributing to the health of the whole.
2. Ecosystem management in the watershed is founded on the restoration and protection of **natural processes and disturbance regimes**, such as fire and flooding.
3. **Native plant communities** are healthy and comprise a mosaic of diverse cover types, including native grasslands, chaparral, riparian woodland, hardwood and redwood forests, and wetlands.

## Desired Future Conditions: Natural Resources



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Muir Woods NM

4. Restoration and protection of a **full range of natural geomorphic and hydraulic functions** (such as sediment transport, channel migration, and recruitment of large wood) in Redwood Creek from its headwaters to the Pacific Ocean support complex instream and floodplain structure that, in turn, supports a diverse community of native aquatic and riparian-dependent species.
5. Aquatic ecosystem health is not impaired by **water diversion or water quality** degradation.
6. Invasion by and the adverse effects of **non-native plant and animal species** on the ecosystem are reduced or reversed, and imperiled habitats are restored.

## Desired Future Conditions: Natural Resources



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AMERICA



Muir Woods NM

7. **Special status** and locally rare plant and animal species are protected and, where appropriate, their populations are expanded.
8. Human-caused **erosion** on watershed lands does not impact fish and aquatic habitat.
9. **Native wildlife populations** are viable and diverse, and key habitats and habitat linkages (i.e., corridors) are protected and restored.
10. Potential negative impacts of surrounding **land uses** are minimized.

## Desired Future Conditions: Cultural Resources



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Mountain Theater

1. Residents and visitors are connected to the human history of the Redwood Creek watershed — its heritage as the ancestral homeland of the Coast Miwok, its role in agriculture in western Marin County, and its place in the history of recreation and the environmental conservation movement — through the preservation and interpretation of historically significant properties embodying this history.
2. Archaeological sites in the watershed are identified, preserved, and interpreted.

## Desired Future Conditions: Cultural Resources



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Mountain Theater

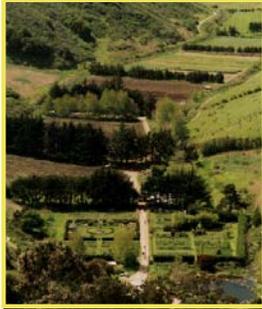
3. The **Coast Miwok heritage** in the watershed is maintained and enhanced through cooperation with the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria, the tribe descending from the Coast Miwok inhabitants of the watershed.
4. The public agency landowners in the watershed work cooperatively to **identify, preserve, and interpret archaeological sites, artifacts, structures, and cultural landscapes** of historic significance on public lands in the watershed.
5. Historically significant **structures** are preserved, rehabilitated, and re-used, where opportunity allows and as appropriate.

# Desired Future Conditions: Resident Community



EXPERIENCE  
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AMERICA

Photo: Jim Bones



Green Gulch Farm



Muir Beach community

1. Resident communities are an **integral part of the watershed** and have minimal impacts on the natural environment.
2. Local residents are active **stewards** of the watershed and implement sustainable resource practices in their communities.
3. Watershed visitor traffic, parking, and recreation have minimal **impacts on local communities**.
4. Domestic **water supply** needs are met while minimizing impacts to natural resources.
5. **Sustainable agriculture** minimizes impacts on natural resources and provides visible connections to food production and our agricultural history.

## Desired Future Conditions: Visitor Experience



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Muir Woods NM

1. Visitor experiences that are **unique** to this watershed are encouraged.
2. The watershed provides a **range of visitor experiences** from wild to structured and from solitary to shared
3. Access to the watershed and recreational opportunities are provided for a range of trail users through a well-designed, comprehensive **trail system**.
4. Visitor uses and use levels are **compatible with protection** of natural and cultural resources of the watershed and visitor enjoyment.
5. **Public education** about watersheds, watershed management, and resource sustainability is provided through a range of programs both within and outside of the watershed.

## Desired Future Conditions: Visitor Experience



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Muir Woods NM

6. Visitors to the watershed are active **stewards** of watershed resources as volunteers, educators, students, land managers, and citizen experts.
7. People visit the watershed in a manner that **minimizes traffic congestion** and its related negative impacts to communities and watershed resources.
8. Visitor use **rules and regulations** for each land management agency in the watershed are made **readily available** and understandable for park visitors.
9. **Visitor services** are adequate to support visitor experience but are **kept minimal** to protect the natural and cultural resources and rural character of the watershed.

## Desired Future Conditions: Facilities and Infrastructure



EXPERIENCE  
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AMERICA



Photo: Charles Kennard

1. **Water use** throughout the watershed is **monitored**, and its effects on the watershed's creeks and aquatic resources are understood.
2. **Infrastructure and its maintenance** are appropriate to the anticipated use and public safety, while minimizing impacts on natural and cultural resources.
3. Infrastructure **management is coordinated** among responsible agencies, businesses, utilities, and residents.
4. **Emergency services** are provided throughout the watershed.

## Next Steps



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- Multi-agency Watershed Assessment
- NPS Fire Management Plan
- Multi-agency Comprehensive Transportation Management Plan
- NPS General Management Plan Update
- Restoration Implementation (Big Lagoon, Road Obliteration, LWD installation)

# NPS Role and Motivation



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## ROLE

- Initiator
- Project Manager/Task Master
- Facilitator
- NOT decision-maker

## MOTIVATION

- Complex resource issues and land ownership
- Recognition of need to address issues at (at least) the watershed-level
- Need to develop context and consensus to support on-going and pending planning

## Lessons Learned



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- Don't say "Vision Team"
- Reach out, then reach out some more
- Keep it SIMPLE
- Keep the process short
- Be ready for the long haul, multiple phases

# The Process



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