

NPS Report to Muir Beach CSD – October 2017

1. NPS Public Meeting on November 28, Tam Valley Community Center 6 - 8 pm

Learn about the reservation system for Muir Woods starting up in January 2018! A concessionaire to manage the reservation system and parking has been selected, the shuttle system to support it starts up weekends year round in January, another/parallel system for the commercial buses will be implemented in May 2018 and other projects such as the parking lot/trail and bridge projects, water/wastewater upgrades are also moving ahead. Learn more at www.nps.gov/muwo

2. Trails...closure of Redwood Creek Trail to equestrians official for safety. The trail as a loop from start at Highway One to Miwok and other trails is open but the far east bridge remains "out" til next summer. Work on Heather Cut-off will resume this fall. Fire Roads in area have received significant overhauls for safety, emergency access and to better handle water during storms.

3. Reminder: Redwood Creek to where it flows into the ocean is closed to people, dogs, horses, fishing and watercraft per Superintendent's compendium for protection of natural resources. This closure has been in place for a long time but is also for public health since there is no filtering, cleaning or natural flushing to keep the waters safe.

4. Frogs, otters, salmon and turtles all returning to Muir Beach area...the most recent was the reintroduction of 8 native western pond turtles, with more growing up and soon ready to return in a cooperative rearing program with SFZoo! Thank you for reporting any sightings, keeping a distance and when viewing. Also, this is an area where people dump unwanted pets...not good for the pet and harmful to the native species making a home there. Darren Fong reports that recent summer fisheries sampling was completed at Redwood Creek. Juvenile steelhead were in high abundance while coho were less abundant, but distributed upstream beyond Muir Woods and up in the Green Gulch tributary! This was the year class that was presumed extirpated, but jumpstarted with the release of 106 4-year old Redwood Creek adults from Warm Springs Hatchery. Tissue samples have also been collected to help determine the success of the jumpstart program and another batch of fish are scheduled for release back into their home stream this winter. Also returning: monarch butterflies!

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"The power of imagination makes us infinite"John Muir