4312-FF

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-PWR-PWRO-11822]

[PPWODIRED0]

Designation of Potential Wilderness as Wilderness, Point Reyes National Seashore

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public that all uses in Point Reyes National Seashore that are prohibited by the Wilderness Act (Pub. L. 88-577) have ceased and certain Federal lands that were previously designated as potential wilderness are, upon publication of this notice, designated as wilderness.

DATES: The designation is effective [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Law 94-567, approved October 20, 1976, designated 25,370 acres in Point Reyes National

Seashore as wilderness and further identified 8,003 acres as potential wilderness additions in

maps entitled "Wilderness Plan, Point Reyes National Seashore", numbered 612-90,000-B and

dated September 1976. The maps showing the wilderness area and potential

wilderness additions are on file at the headquarters of Point Reyes National Seashore,

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956. Although Section 1 of Public Law 94-567 identified the number

of acres of wilderness and potential wilderness, the maps filed with the committee as required

under Section 2 of the legislation confirms that the actual acreage of the lands and waters was

24,200 acres of wilderness and 8,530 acres of potential wilderness.

Section 3 of Public Law 94-567 provided a process whereby potential wilderness additions

within the Point Reyes National Seashore would convert to designated wilderness upon

publication in the Federal Register of a notice that all uses of the land prohibited by

the Wilderness Act (Pub. L. 88-577) have ceased. On November 18, 1999, a notice was

published in the Federal Register that 1,752 acres of potential wilderness had converted to

designated wilderness as a result of the cessation of prohibited uses. 64 FR 63057.

Public Law 94-567 identified much of Drakes Estero as potential wilderness, and not as

designated wilderness, due to the presence of a commercial shellfish operation in the estero. The

authorizations for the commercial shellfish business operating in Drakes Estero expire on

November 30, 2012. Accordingly, all uses prohibited under the Wilderness Act within Drakes

Estero have ceased as of 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2012. Drakes Estero is entirely in federal

ownership. Pursuant to Section 3 of Public Law 94-567, publication of this notice hereby effects

the change in status of 1,363 acres of Drakes Estero, more or less, from potential wilderness to

designated wilderness. A map showing this change is on file at the headquarters of

Point Reyes National Seashore, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956.

With publication of this notice, the total designated wilderness within Point Reyes National

Seashore encompasses 27,315 acres, more or less. The potential wilderness remaining within the

national seashore consists of 5,415 acres, more or less. The remaining potential wilderness will

remain as such until publication of a notice that uses conflicting with the provisions of

the Wilderness Act have ceased.

Note that the total wilderness acreage cited in the November 18, 1999, notice was based on the

acreage reported in Section 1 of Public Law 94-567. The total wilderness acreage cited in this

notice is based on the maps filed with the committee under Section 2 of Public Law 94-567 and

the May 1978 survey of the Point Reyes Wilderness. The National Park Service believes that the

acreage calculation based on the maps and survey is more accurate than the acreage reported in

Section 1 of the Act.

Note further that in Public Law 99-68, approved on July 1985, Congress designated that

the wilderness area of Point Reyes National Seashore was to be known as the "Phillip Burton

Wilderness." Drakes Estero is hereby added to the Phillip Burton Wilderness.

Dated: November 30, 2012.

Jonathan B. Jarvis

Director, National Park Service

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