



# Resource Renewal Institute

25 Years. Innovations for a Sustainable Future.

September 9, 2021

Honorable Debra Haaland  
U.S. Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

Our organization recently became aware of an interview with a former employee of the Mendoza Dairy located at B Ranch at Point Reyes National Seashore. A dairy ranch worker for twenty years, he describes the intolerable living and working conditions that he and his family endured, and suggests that the same is true for other vulnerable agricultural families at the park.

This is the latest in a number of egregious lease violations that have come to light over the last few months, including [illegal dumping](#) and [bulldozing of sensitive riparian habitat](#). We now know that the Park Service is turning a blind eye not only to ranchers' environmental abuses but to their outrageous labor practices that pay poverty-level wages, rent out unsafe housing and provide no workers' benefits or rights.

We think if you take the time to review the interview with this former employee and his daughter ([found here](#)), you will be as moved and outraged as we are.

The Park Service's proposed General Management Plan Amendment (Alternative B), set to be adopted by this Monday, September 13, neglects to even mention the treatment of in-park agricultural workers, let alone set standards for their working and living conditions.

It is time for the Park Service to break its ties with the ranchers' culture of extraction at Point Reyes – both human and environmental – and return to its true mission. In these final moments before the Record of Decision sign off, we urge you to reject this cruel and unsustainable plan.

Sincerely,

Deborah Moskowitz, MPH  
President  
Resource Renewal Institute