

## Marin IJ Readers' Forum for Oct. 24



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### **Ranches fence people and elk out of our park**

It was sad this past weekend to see so much damage from overgrazing at Point Reyes National Seashore and that wildlife — like native tule elk — and people are kept out of so much of the park by cattle fences.

Millions of public dollars were spent to buy these ranches for the public's seashore and millions more are being spent to subsidize the ranches — some of which operate on an industrial scale — at a time when the park service is seriously understaffed and park maintenance budgets are cut. Now, in addition to their cows, ranchers are pressing the park service to allow them to raise commercial chickens, rabbits and sheep. These are sure to attract native predators like foxes, badgers, bobcats and coyotes. What then?

When you visit the national seashore take a look at the land — our land. It might lead you to wonder what, and who, is this national park for?

— *Susan Ives, Mill Valley*