

Message

From: Leong, Kirsten [kirsten_leong@nps.gov]
Sent: 3/25/2015 1:07:32 PM
To: Merkle, William [bill_merkle@nps.gov]
CC: Glenn Plumb [glenn_plumb@nps.gov]; Jay Goldsmith [Jay_Goldsmith@nps.gov]; Denise Louie [Denise_Louie@nps.gov]; Sallie Beavers [sallie_beavers@nps.gov]; Daphne Hatch [Daphne_Hatch@nps.gov]
Subject: Re: looking for technical assistance for Resource Monitoring Plan with our Dog Plan

Hi all,

Were you looking for internal or external technical assistance? I've just been working with Sarah Reed from Wildlife Conservation Society on presenting a seminar on recreational impacts on wildlife for the April 24 Interactions of Society and the Environment Seminar Series (I'll make sure to send you an invitation when that goes out--it will be about a week in advance). Her work was recently picked up in a New York Times article: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/15/opinion/sunday/leaving-only-footsteps-think-again.html?emc=eta1&r=0>

It sounds like what you're looking for would fit well with her line of research. We're also coincidentally waiting for a plane together to head to Berkeley today.

If you'd like, I'm happy to put you in touch with her directly. We might even see if there's a time to connect this week?

Kirsten

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On Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 4:08 PM, Merkle, William <bill_merkle@nps.gov> wrote:

Hi,

We are looking for recommendations for technical assistance for developing a natural resource monitoring plan that will be implemented in association with our Dog Management Plan EIS and rulemaking that should come out this summer or Fall. Any suggestions?

I think the goal is to document whether dog impacts to key indicator resources are within the range proposed in EIS--and ideally to document some increases in resource condition with better management of dogs.

Our NR staff has suggested focussing most of the monitoring on compliance with new regulations (e.g. dogs not entering closed areas, dogs not off leash in on leash areas). In addition, video monitoring of some areas may allow us to monitor compliance and some resource issues such as dogs chasing shorebirds or digging vegetation.

Some challenges:

We don't have good baseline information on most resources in relation to current low levels of dog management.

Our Dog Plan will close many of our sensitive habitat areas to dog use, and have few trails where dogs will be allowed.

It is challenging to tease out the effects of people vs. dogs in some cases--and control sites are likely going to be challenging.

We have limited funding for implementing the program and it would be designed as more of a monitoring program than an intensive research program that might be necessary to tease out effects from low frequency events.

Our next steps are to tease out areas that we think would be important to monitor and resource indicators for those areas.

I would appreciate any feedback (or volunteers).

Best, Bill

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