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09/28/2006 05:32 PM
PDT

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cc:
Subject: Fw: dog risk factors

See message below

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----- Forwarded by Shirwin Smith/GOGA/NPS on 09/28/2006 05:30 PM -----



Bill Merkle
09/28/2006 03:58 PM
PDT

To: Shirwin Smith/GOGA/NPS@NPS
cc: Daphne Hatch/GOGA/NPS@NPS, Chris Powell/GOGA/NPS@NPS
Subject: dog risk factors

Shirwin,

Can you forward this document on to the NEPA team? It is related to the Management Principles associated with various risk factors. We wanted to keep some of the sensitive windows out of the document to avoid having people argue for seasonal use of these habitats or resources outside those seasons.

-Bill



GGNRA Management Principles DATES_v1_9.26.06.doc

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GGNRA Management Principles: general guidance on resource protection

Sensitive plants: The park protects the habitat of sensitive plant species. Approved projects in rare plant habitat need to have rehabilitation plans that minimize or avoid impacts to the greatest extent possible, in addition to revegetation and weeding plans to ensure habitat recovery.

Amphibians:

California red-legged frog: Protect the wetlands used by frogs for breeding and other portions of the life cycle. Restrict vegetation removal around wetlands used by frogs.

Reptiles:

San Francisco garter snake: Restrict use of vehicles and heavy equipment on fire roads through garter snake habitat. Restrict ground disturbing activities within garter snake habitat. Protect wetlands where garter snakes forage.

Birds:

Bank swallows: At Fort Funston, seasonal closure above the bluffs where bank swallows construct burrows and from bluff-face out 50 feet from April-early August depending on when bank swallows are present. The 12-acre closure, above the bluffs, is permanently closed to use.

Northern spotted owls: Prohibit management activities (general maintenance, trail maintenance, brush removal, scheduled events (e.g. Dipsea race), prescribed fire, and rifle range use) that would raise noise levels above ambient levels (estimated at 40 dB) within ¼ mile of a known spotted owl nest site or spotted owl habitat during the breeding season from February 1—July 31 (Communication from USFWS 4/13/1994).

Marbled murrelets: Prohibit management activities (general maintenance, trail maintenance, brush removal, scheduled events (e.g. Dipsea race), prescribed fire, and rifle range use) that would raise noise levels above ambient levels (estimated at 40 dB) within ¼ mile of a known marbled murrelet nest site or murrelet breeding habitat during the breeding season from April 1—August 5, with a further restriction on activities from between two hours before sunset to two hours after sunrise from August 6-September 30 (Communication from USFWS 4/13/1994).

Western snowy plovers: Projects involving heavy equipment on beaches (e.g. sand movement) with known populations of snowy plovers are restricted to times when plovers are not on the beach. Plover presence on the beach is determined by surveys, with plovers tending to use Ocean Beach from July through April into early May. Vehicles on the beach are instructed to drive at low speeds in the wet sand at the water's edge.

Landbirds: Primary strategy is to schedule projects with vegetation removal outside nesting season, from March 1—July 31. Prohibit cutting of vegetation (>8 inches in

stature) during the breeding season without prior nest surveys. If nests are found during surveys, buffers are established based on species and site characteristics to protect the birds through fledging and a post-fledging period around the nest site. See Vegetation Cutting SOP (dates have been amended).

Raptors: Primary strategy is to avoid tree removal during raptor nesting season, from January 1—July 31. Trees cannot be removed during the nesting season without prior nest surveys for these birds—survey work is preferred in the January 1—March 1 time period before smaller landbirds begin to nest in trees. If nests are located, buffers are established based on species and site characteristics to protect the birds through fledging and a post-fledging period around the nest site.

Mammals:

Marine mammals: Park follows guidance of Marine Mammal Protection Act. General guidance is to remain at least 300 feet from marine mammals to avoid harassment or take (developed in conjunction with Point Reyes National Seashore and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary).

Bats: Park attempts to protect bat roosts, and conducts surveys prior to removal of structures that may contain bats.

Invertebrates:

Mission blue butterflies: Protect habitat from public and staff. Work in habitat is done only by trained individuals during the non-flight season (e.g. removal of non-native plants). Flight season for butterflies is from about February through July 4. Typically enforce a 100 foot buffer surrounding butterfly habitat to protect habitat from maintenance or development projects.

San Bruno elfin butterflies: Currently only known from same areas as mission blue butterfly. Protections are largely the same, though flight season is not defined.

General Watershed Protections: Protect wetlands and watersheds per NPS Management Policies and Director's Orders. Prohibit ground disturbing activities during the rainy season. The park requires specific erosion and rehabilitation plans for projects involving ground disturbance. The park also requires storm water management. The goal is to avoid the contamination or degradation of waterbodies, and soils and geologic resources.