From: Servheen, Chris
To: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer
Subject: Re: Chapter 3 comments
Date: Thursday, July 28, 2016 3:42:12 AM

BTW, I think we can let USFS do the same - no increase in campsite numbers while increasing visitor services.
C

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 27, 2016, at 8:53 PM, Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer <jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu> wrote:

> Hate to bother you again while in Paris but as you know we're on this crazy timeline for Strategy revisions. The park service seems to want to get away from the 1998 baseline. Originally they presented it as an administration problem which I pointed out was already addressed. Now they seem to want more leeway on developed sites. In my opinion this would create problems for several reasons. First, if we let the park service have an exception then the Forest Service will want the same exception. Second, I'm not sure how we would defend it.
>
> Thoughts?
>
> Thanks!
> Jennifer
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Gunther, Kerry" <kerry_gunther@nps.gov>
> > **Date:** July 27, 2016 at 12:42:56 PM MDT
> > **To:** "Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer" <jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu>
> > **Subject: Re: Chapter 3 comments**
> >
> > Jennifer
> >
> > Up to this point we have complied with the standard and have not exceeded the 1998 baseline. However with visitation increasing significantly almost every year (we will likely set a new record again this year), we see a point in the future where the public may demand to have some additional infrastructure for visitor use (not admin use), such as restrooms with running water, restaurants, and parking lots, and these will become increasingly difficult to build within the existing development foot-prints. NPS managers tend to like to have options to make good decisions and the 1998 Base-line Standard pretty much removes those options. Since we have such a good

record of protecting bear habitat (22% of park is seasonally closed to recreational use) and preventing human-caused grizzly bear mortalities (we almost never remove a bear unless it kills and eats someone), can the Conservation Strategy language build in a little more trust for us in regards to habitat issues, as it does with the states in regards to managing grizzly bear population issues? PJ and I have a meeting with Dan Wenk early next week to discuss this issue, and determine what he can and can't live with as far as habitat commitments.

Kerry

On Wed, Jul 27, 2016 at 8:13 AM, Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer <jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu> wrote:

> Kerry,
>
> Has YNP already made changes so that the 1998 baseline is no longer applicable? I want to make sure that I clearly understand the concern that NPS has with the 1998 baseline. As we previously discussed, there is an exception to the baseline for administrative purposes when mitigation is not possible. I have added the proposed changes to the language that clarify that change is both in capacity and acreage.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Jennifer
>
> Jennifer Fortin-Noreus, Ph.D.
> Postdoctoral Researcher
> Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
> University of Montana
> University Hall, Room 309
> Missoula, MT 59812
> phone: (406) 243-4994
> jennifer.fortin-noreus@umontana.edu
>
> _____
> From: Gunther, Kerry [kerry_gunther@nps.gov]
> Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 1:30 PM
> To: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer
> Subject: Chapter 3 comments
>
> Jennifer,
>
> Here are my comments on Chapter 3. I do not yet have concurrence on the 1998 baseline standard. The NPS has a proven record of keeping human-caused mortalities to an absolute minimum despite very high visitation. Since we have proven we can do it, is this

> standard really necessary for NPS lands. It really restricts our management capabilities. We are 21% of the PCA but less than 5% of the human-caused mortalities occur on the lands we manage.
>
> --
> Kerry Gunther
> Bear Management Office
> P.O. Box 168
> Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190
>
> Phone: 307-344-2162
> Fax: 307-344-2211

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