

From: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer
To: [Gunther, Kerry](#)
Subject: RE: Chapter 3 comments
Date: Monday, August 01, 2016 8:55:58 AM

Kerry,
Please let me know if this proposed language meets the needs and concerns of the NPS.

Changes to EXISTING developed sites on public lands OR NEW SITES are acceptable as long as these changes OR NEW DEVELOPMENTS: 1) do not increase the number of overnight USE sites and/or result increased overnight human presence at EXISTING OR NEW sites; 2) are for the purpose of visitor safety, environmental protection, or enhanced visitor services such as outhouses, picnic sites, parking areas, or interpretative displays; and 3) that appropriate sanitation and human/bear conflict minimization efforts are associated with any such changes or enhancements.

*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: Wednesday, July 27, 2016 12:42 PM
To: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer
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

--

Kerry Gunther
Bear Management Office
P.O. Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Phone: 307-344-2162
Fax: 307-344-2211