

Golden Gate National Recreation Area NRCA Scoping Meeting Notes

1-4 PM, May 21st, 2014

Attendees:

Bill Merkle, Rachel Townsend, Susie Bennett, Carolyn Shoulders, Kristen Ward, Alison Forrestel, Stephen Skartvedt, James Bartolome, Sarah Allen, Darren Fong, Daphne Hatch, Tori Seher, Anne Eschtruth, Michelle Hammond, Daniel George, John Battles, Ben Becker, Maria Alvarez

Overview:

The main purpose of this meeting was to determine the priority focal resources for the GOGA NRCA and allocate effort/assign leads to each.

Review of NRCA format, standards, and guidelines:

An NRCA is: A spatially explicit multi-disciplinary synthesis of existing scientific data and knowledge, from multiple sources, to help answer the question: what are current conditions for important park natural resources?

All NRCAs share standard elements related to study design and reporting products. All NRCAs:

- are multi-disciplinary in scope; though breadth and number of resources evaluated remains a project level decision
- employ hierarchical indicator frameworks;
- identify or develop reference values for comparison against current conditions;
- emphasize spatial evaluation of conditions and GIS products;
- summarize key findings by park areas
- report on current conditions across the entire park, though for practical reasons some park areas will be excluded from consideration
- rely on existing data from NPS and other sources
- follow national NRCA guidelines and standards for study design and reporting products.

Review of Pt. Reyes plan:

The focal resources selected for the PORE NRCA are:

- Coastal dunes
- Breeding landbird diversity
- Salmonids (steelhead, coho)
- Forests
- Rare plants
- Grasslands
- amphibians and reptiles (CRLF)

Standard symbol set for condition assessment:

Because the updated NPS guidelines for all NRCAs strongly suggest incorporating the standard symbol set for resource condition reporting (i.e., red light/green light) even for reports initiated prior to 2014, both PORE and GOGA agreed to include these metrics in the draft report for each resource. The final decision to include these symbols will be made during the first review of the draft report.

Spatial Scaling:

GOGA will scale up analyses by ~~natural zones~~ land use zones in the park's new GMP with an emphasis on zones with significant natural resources. -and PORE by land use zones.

Selected Focal Resources:

The selected resources for GOGA include (see Table 1 for overlap with PORE):

- threatened and endangered plant species
- breeding landbird diversity (if no current I and M report)
- California red legged frogs
- salmonids
- forests
- invasive plants
- freshwater wetlands and riparian
- shorebirds?
- landcover and use; fragmentation

Susie's Modified Table 1. Priority resource elements as defined by ranking of PORE and GOGA. Level 1 refers to the classification of the resource in the NPS Ecological Monitoring Framework. The highlighted resources were ranked first by both parks.

Resource Element	General Category	Rank	\$	Notes
<i>T&E Plant Species</i>	<i>Vegetation/terrestrial</i>	3		
<i>Breeding landbird diversity</i>	<i>Vertebrates/birds</i>			<i>Overlap with PORE</i>
<i>California red legged frog</i>	<i>Vertebrates/land</i>	4		<i>Reverse overlap</i>
<i>T&E salmonids (steelhead)</i>	<i>Vertebrates/fish</i>			<i>Overlap with PORE</i>
Forests (Bishop pine, Doug fir, bays, oaks, redwood)	Vegetation/terrestrial			Overlap with PORE
Invasive plants	Vegetation/terrestrial	1/2		
Freshwater wetlands and riparian	Vegetation/terrestrial	6		Just map, integrate into fragmentation
Shorebird and waterbird –Beach watch repeat analysis from 10 years ago???	Vertebrates/birds	5		Could do internally
Land cover and use, habitat connectivity/fragmentation/edge	Spatial Ecology	1/2		Overlap other topics
GOGA Only	GOGA only, Chap 2?	Shared	Shared, treat separately	

Action items:

1. Need to develop a plan and team for the red-legged frog. This is a GOGA priority with a PORE second

2. Shorebirds -- need to work on data discovery from Beach Watch regarding status of shorebirds for GOGA. Tom Flanigan (?) did a previous report for GOGA for dog management plan and made use of the data.
3. Need to follow-up with Alison regarding plan and data available for invasive status and spread in GOGA (Anne)
4. Michelle needs to follow-up with Bill Merkel and Dave Press (?) regarding details of breeding bird analysis with Point Blue data. Need to clarify the scope.
5. T&E plants: Need to follow-up with Alison and identify a UC lead.
6. Need to touch base with Stephanie Carlson about including the salmonid info for GOGA in her analysis. Darren (GOGA) and Mike (PORE) are the contacts.
7. Need to arrange a meeting with David Saah and Stephen, Darren, and Kristen about fragmentation analysis for GOGA.

Follow-up Details:

The UC team will submit a draft work plan to GOGA by July 1st.