Request for Session Proposals - APPL 2013 Partnership Convention & Trade Show

The deadline of June 22 is fast approaching!

The Association of Partners for Public Lands is currently accepting proposals for keynote sessions, 90-minute and 75-minute concurrent sessions, educational workshops, and educational field trips for our convention in Portland, Oregon, March 10–14, 2013.

Don’t miss out on this opportunity to present your ideas and to address challenges unique to public lands agencies and their non-profit partners!

For more information and the online submission form, visit www.appl.org.

The Pioneering Research Group presents a new paper in the IRIS series

Ecosystem Protection in the National Park System -
http://warnell.forestry.uga.edu/nrrt/nsre/IRISWild/IRISNat2rpt.pdf

If you wish to see the other IRIS Reports, go to http://warnell.forestry.uga.edu/nrrt/nsre/IrisReports.html

If you have any technical difficulties, please let me know. If you enjoy this article, please let us know.

Shela Mou
USDA Forest Service
320 Green Street, Athens, GA 30602-2044
706-559-4262
http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends

Canoeing & Kayaking for People with Disabilities book

Courtesy of American Trails

Canoeing and Kayaking for People with Disabilities presents strategies that give people of all abilities the opportunity to discover the challenge, freedom, and renewal found in paddling. The book was written by adaptive paddling pioneer Janet A. Zeller with a team of experts. Zeller presents best practices based on her years of experience as a paddler with a disability and the experiences of other instructors and recreation and health care professionals.

For more information: https://aca.site-ym.com/store/view_product.asp?id=714198
FHWA issues new report on value of investing in bicycling and walking infrastructure

Courtesy of the PBIC Messenger

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has issued a new report: "Report to the U.S. Congress on the Outcomes of the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program SAFETEA-LU Section 1807," detailing how investment in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in four pilot communities impacted participation in bicycling and walking.

The report notes several findings, including:

- A 49 percent increase in the number of bicyclists and 22 percent increase in the number of pedestrians in the pilot communities between 2007 and 2010.

- An estimated 32 million driving miles were averted between 2007 and 2010.

- Additional nonmotorized trips in the four pilot communities in 2010 reduced the economic cost of mortality by an estimated $6.9 million.

- The pilot communities saved an estimated 22 pounds of CO2 in 2010 per person, or a total of 7,701 tons.

Click here to read the full report: www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/ntpp/2012_report/

CycleTracks App and Cyclist Trip Modeling in San Francisco

Courtesy of the PBIC Messenger

Background

The San Francisco County Transportation Authority is the Congestion Management Agency (CMA) and long-range transportation planning entity for the City and County of San Francisco. The TA administers and oversees the delivery of the "Proposition K" half-cent local option sales tax. As such, they analyze, design, and fund improvements for roadway and public transportation. The TA also owns SF-CHAMP, San Francisco's official travel forecasting model (1).

Problem

The San Francisco County Transportation Authority (the "Authority" or TA) uses an activity-based model (SF-CHAMP) for long-range transportation planning in order to predict future travel patterns for the city. In general, modeling the bicycling mode is challenging at best and impossible at worst due to a lack of data on these travelers. The lack of data on bicyclists in most regions arises from the data collection process itself. Typically, a randomized travel survey is administered that rarely captures a sufficient amount of trips by bicycle for the purposes of modeling bicyclist behavior. The activity-based model, SF-CHAMP, had historically relied on annual or bi-annual spot location bicycle counts at 32 different intersections (2), which had enabled forecasting of the quantity of bicycle trips but not those trips distribution across the road network (3).

Solution

Billy Charlton, Deputy Director for Technology Services at the TA, led the development of a smartphone app for iPhone and Android, CycleTracks, that allows users to track their cycling route, distance, time traveled, trip purpose, and personal characteristics (if they so choose). CycleTracks collects these data anonymously and integrates them with current trip data for automobile and transit modes. The app development was partially funded by a Caltrans State Planning and Research Grant. Elizabeth Sall, Senior Transportation Planner with the TA, led the team that incorporated the CycleTracks data into SF-CHAMP.

Click here to read the rest of the story: http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/871151/2339faf319/1497131963/8d0b892e41/

For more information: Terra Curtis, Graduate student, Department of City and Regional Planning, University
Four Innovative Approaches To Support A Strong Future For Your Byway  
*Courtesy of the America’s Byways Resource Center*

by Rob Balmes, Byways Specialist

National, state, and tribal scenic byway organizations are encouraged to be innovative, and embrace a comprehensive approach to the development of their respective byway corridors. The four approaches referenced here can help you to build a sustainable and vibrant future for your byway.

1. **Context-Sensitive Solutions**
Context-Sensitive Solutions is a community-based and interdisciplinary approach to the development of transportation projects. Each project is unique and reflects the natural and human-made context of the surrounding environment.

Context-sensitive solutions website: [www.contextsensitivesolutions.org](http://www.contextsensitivesolutions.org)


2. **Green Infrastructure**
Green Infrastructure is a concept that reflects an integrated strategy to plan and manage natural lands, resources and human landscapes to conserve their function and natural significance.

Green Infrastructure website: [www.greeninfrastructure.net](http://www.greeninfrastructure.net)


"Sustainable Design for Byways" by David Cutter in the Journal for America's Byways, Volume I, Issue 3, June 2012, which will mail in June and remain available as a PDF via the National Scenic Byway Foundation.

3. **Livability**
Livability is a concept based on the desires by communities to improve the quality of life in urban, suburban and rural environments. Scenic byways can serve as a means to create more livable corridors by supporting balanced transportation options, safer roadways, vibrant activity centers, arts and culture, and more accessible attractions.

FHWA Livability Initiative: [www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability)

FHWA Livability Fact Sheets: [www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability/fact_sheets](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability/fact_sheets)

4. **Placemaking**
Placemaking is all about creating a sense of place in public spaces. Edward McMahon, a renowned national leader on sustainable development, explained in the Planning Commissioners Journal (Fall 2010), "A sense of place is a unique collection of qualities and characteristics – visual, cultural, social, and environmental – that provide meaning to a location. Sense of place is what makes one city or town different from another, but sense of place is also what makes our physical surroundings worth caring about."

Project for Public Spaces: [www.pps.org/articles/what_is_placemaking](http://www.pps.org/articles/what_is_placemaking)

Digitizing the Outdoors: Can Gaming be the Gateway to Nature?
Courtesy of the National Wildlife Federation

Children today are spending alarming amounts of their time indoors and in front of screens—7.5 hours per day on electronic devices.

Research suggests that ADHD and other behavioral issues are lessened when children spend time in the outdoors. Most notably, Richard Louv, author of The Last Child in the Woods and architect of the term Nature Deficit Disorder has argued that “an environment-based education movement—at all levels of education—will help students realize that school isn’t supposed to be a polite form of incarceration, but a portal to the wider world.”

One complaint from children, however, is the outdoors are "boring," which is a far cry from it being a "portal to the wider world." As a kid I used the outdoors as a way to get away from the trappings of schoolwork and housework. Unlike kids today, I used the outdoors as my outlet–instead of using an electric outlet as my escape.

It's possible however, that I am aging and just can’t understand what the “kids are into these days.” But if the rise in childhood obesity, ADHD, and other health issues are any indicators of the 21st century childhood realities—I’ll hold tight to my fort-building, Red Rover, hide-and-go-seek 20th century kid fun!

Is it possible though that kids today don’t have to choose between the delight of a swinging screen door to the outdoors and the allure of the digital screen? Can we find a way to meld these two dichotomous worlds? Recently, the Obama Administration followed the lead of the Bipartisan Policy Center and held an event on how we can combine 20th century outdoor ideals with the new 21st century electronic leisure time.

Earlier this month the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy held a briefing entitled Outdoor Mobile Games and Public Lands. The room was filled with an usual set: gaming experts and environmentalists. Generally, these two groups have been at odds (or at least haven’t worked closely together very often), with many environmentalists blaming the gaming industry for the uptick in the sedentary indoor child trend. But if we are to really understand the 21st century childhood–game designers are the experts to court.

Both groups discussed the need for collaboration. “Games could help turn a regular park into a storybook” said one game aficionado. It can’t be negated that the popularity of the Olympic National Forest went through the roof once the movie Twilight was released—that’s the power of media, and arguably the power of games. Several agencies across the US government currently fund game development and research programs, but there has been little coordinated effort to target games that get kids to public lands. Seventy-one percent of tweens (kids ages 12-14) play games on a mobile device and that number is only growing.

Digitizing the outdoors is a new trend that’s gaining traction even at the nation’s largest conservation organization. The National Wildlife Federation has entered into the electronic market with several offerings for virtual exploration into nature using the iPad as well as their geo-caching “nature treasure hunt,” a Nature Find website and digitizing their famous Ranger Rick magazine among other electronic advancements.

If we could entice these tech savvy kids with the natural world through games, not only could we begin to reverse the sedentary indoor childhood trend, but build conservation stewards of tomorrow—one click at a time.

For more information: http://blog.nwf.org/2012/05/digitizing-the-outdoors-cangaming-be-the-gateway-to-nature/

Fairways Under Fire - Are little-used public golf courses worth the space?
Courtesy of the Trust for Public Land

By Peter Harnik and Ryan Donahue

The unforgiving waves of the Pacific Ocean have not been kind to the golf course in San Francisco’s Sharp Park. Of its 18 original holes, designed by renowned architect Alistair MacKenzie, only 11 remain. The rest fell victim to a winter storm in 1938. Though renewed with a seawall three years later, the course is today still subjected to annual inundations that render it unplayable for months.
Sharp Park’s erosion at the hands of unstoppable forces is an apt allegory for the state of golf today. The waves, however, have been social and economic, and even courses far from the ocean have been battered. Through a surprising misalignment of supply and demand, the decade of the 2000s was characterized by the frenzied construction of golf that no longer turn a profit or even cover costs. San Francisco’s debate over investing $11 million in another seawall for Sharp Park is emblematic: What is the future of golf in crowded, park-hungry cities?

Urban public golf courses are already parks—in a sense. They’re green and beautiful, and the ecological processes of their trees, shrubs, and lawns help clean the air, slow the raindrops, and shelter wildlife. But for most humans, they have barriers that are as real as a sand trap. Unlike other parks, golf courses require entry fees ($36 is the national median weekend fee at municipal courses), expensive equipment, and a working knowledge of a complicated game. And though they represent large properties—typically between 100 and 150 acres—they are almost invariably off-limits to the public.

“Continuing to invest in golf courses that are not financially self-sustaining at the cost of other urban recreation is completely unjustifiable,” says Meredith Thomas, the director of San Francisco’s Neighborhood Parks Council. In cities with tight budgets and little open space—San Francisco is the second-most densely populated big city in the country—parks are expected to serve multiple demands in small spaces. Golf courses, in contrast, says Thomas, are “pretty much the definition of sprawl as far as parkland goes,” especially since “other forms of recreation like field sports and off-leash dog areas are bursting at the seams.” Underutilized and unsustainable golf courses, she concludes, “are counter to San Francisco’s definition of livability.”

Click here to read the rest of the story: http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe-fairwaysunderfire-golf-2011.pdf

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Conduct Visitor Surveys at Recreation Areas This Summer

WASHINGTON, June 1, 2012 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announced today that it will conduct visitor surveys this summer at more than 30 of its lake sites nationwide. Beginning June 5 through September 10, 2012, visitors exiting USACE-managed recreation facilities will be asked about their length of stay and overall experience. Participation in the survey is voluntary.

“This survey will give us vital baseline information, which we will use for budgeting and planning purposes,” said Mary Coulombe, Chief of USACE Natural Resources Management Office. “We want to learn more about our visitors’ recreation habits to better plan for new trends in the ways our guests spend their leisure time at our parks. The findings will also help us ensure that the recreation facilities at our lakes are operating efficiently to maximize visitor outdoor opportunities and enjoyment.”

Interns from the Student Conservation Association will conduct the interviews with visitors. The survey has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

USACE routinely conducts visitor interviews at its lake and river projects in an effort to gauge visitors' experiences and concerns.

USACE is the nation's largest federal provider of outdoor recreation, managing more than 400 lake and river projects in 43 states and hosting more than 370 million visits per year. With 90 percent of these recreation areas within 50 miles of metropolitan areas they provide a diverse range of outdoor activities close to home and to people of all ages.

For more information: www.corpslakes.us/VisitorSurvey

Announcing America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places

Courtesy of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Today, the National Trust for Historic Preservation unveiled its 2012 list of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.
This year, our list includes the Sweet Auburn Historic District in Atlanta, the birthplace of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Joe Frazier’s Gym in Philadelphia, longtime training center for the recently deceased boxing legend and U.S. Olympian; and Terminal Island in Los Angeles, a major shipbuilding center during WWI and II, and still one of the nation’s busiest ports. See the whole list.

For 25 years, our list of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places has spotlighted over 230 important historic places throughout the nation facing destruction or irreparable damage. And in 25 years, only a handful of sites have been lost, thanks in great part to loyal and generous support from National Trust members and friends.

For more information: http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/11-most-endangered/

Berks County parks department plans to mow less, save money, improve environment

Courtesy of bctv.org

As part of environmental education programming, and to save money on fuel costs and efficiently use existing manpower, the County of Berks Parks and Recreation Department is introducing a new multi-year low-mowing program.

The initiative, still in the test phase, will reduce, but not eliminate, mowing some areas of Berks County parks. Maintenance staff will continue to mow and manicure open lawns, high-use public areas, recreation facilities and picnic grounds.

By modifying the mowing cycles and patterns on less than 1 percent (8-9 acres) of the county park lands, department officials expect the following financial benefits:

- An estimated 87 percent savings in fuel cost in 2012, from $4,570.30 to $599.22.
- An estimated 85 percent savings in manpower costs in 2012, from $44,100 to $6,595.50.

The savings accrued in manpower hours will allow maintenance staff to be redeployed to building maintenance and other park improvements.

Environmental advocates, such as the Berks County Conservancy and Natural Lands Trust, encourage ecosystem improvements, like the creation of streamside buffers and meadows.

The parks are expected to have a positive environmental impact from the low-mow program including:

- Increased wildlife habitats and native nesting sites for birds.
- A natural impediment for geese.
- Improved water quality, slower water run-off and less soil erosion.
- A natural facilitation of native wildflowers and plants.

The program will be phased in over several seasons and adjusted as needed.

For 2012, the department is applying the program in very limited areas, such as unused meadows, wet areas, steep slopes, ditches and sensitive habitat areas.

Parks staff is evaluating the mowing cycle weekly, biweekly, monthly and seasonally changing mowing heights, removing invasive plants and monitoring.
NRPA now offering streamlined CPRE Certification

Do you want to get your CPRE? Do you have all the qualifications for the CPRE except your CPRP Certification?

NRPA is now providing a single application for those who have the CPRE qualifications but are not currently CPRP certified. This allows you to take both exams and receive a discount.

Coming Soon: New Agency and University Packages for CPRP and CPRE!


Questions? Email the certification team: certification@nrpa.org

Job Announcement – USDA Forest Service

Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist (Recreation)

SALARY RANGE: $63,945.00 to $83,126.00 / Per Year
OPEN PERIOD: Thursday, June 07, 2012 to Monday, June 18, 2012
SERIES & GRADE: GS-0401-11
POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time - Permanent - No time limit
PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 11
DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy(s) in the following locations: Big Bear City, California
WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Status Candidates (Merit Promotion Eligibles)
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 12-05120052-9322G-JC

This vacancy is also advertised under announcement number 12-05120052-9322DP-jc, open to all US Citizens.

JOB SUMMARY:
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist (Recreation), GS-0401-11:

Applications for this position are being processed through an on-line applicant assessment system that has been specifically configured for USDA Forest Service applicants. Even if you have already developed a resume in USAJOBS, you will need to access this on-line system to complete the application process. To obtain information about this position and TO APPLY, please click on https://www.avuecentral.com/casting/aiportal/control/toVacancy?referenceCode=CKNVA.

DUTIES:
Plans and administers recreation program activities.

Performs the administrative and human resource management functions relative to the staff supervised. Plans, schedules, and assigns work to subordinates. Establishes guidelines and performance expectations for staff members; provides feedback and periodically evaluates employee performance. Provides advice, counsel, and/or instruction to staff members. Recommends or approves appointments, selections, or reassignments to positions appropriate to the selection authority delegated. Effects disciplinary measures as appropriate to the authority delegated in this area. Carries out Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policies and program activities.

Develops forestry land management plans that are consistent with multiple-use resource management objectives, sustained yield management of forest resources, and intensive management of forest resources. Plans provide for consideration of the many forest land resources, including timber, soil, land, water, wildlife and fish habitat, minerals, forage, and outdoor recreation including wilderness. Land use plans provide strategies and analysis of the probable environmental, economic, and social effects of implementation of each plan or program.

Provides information about agency policies, procedures, and guidelines regarding forest resource management.
Job Announcement – USDA Forest Service

Social Scientist/Natural Resources Specialist (Recreation)/Landscape Architect

SALARY RANGE: $57,408.00 to $74,628.00 / Per Year
OPEN PERIOD: Friday, June 01, 2012 to Friday, June 29, 2012
SERIES & GRADE: GS-0101/0401/0807-11
POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time - Permanent - No time limit
PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 11
DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy(s) in the following locations: Tucson, Arizona
WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Status Candidates (Merit Promotion Eligibles)
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 12-03050005-3408G-CL

JOB SUMMARY:
A career with the Forest Service will challenge you to manage and care for more than 193 million acres of our nations most magnificent lands, conduct research through a network of forest and range experiment stations and the Forest Products Laboratory, and provide assistance to State and private forestry agencies. It's an awesome responsibility but the rewards are as limitless as the views.

Applications for this position are being processed through an on-line applicant assessment system that has been specifically configured for USDA Forest Service applicants. Even if you have already developed a resume in USAJOBS, you will need to access this on-line system to complete the application process. To obtain information about this position and TO APPLY, please click on https://www.avuecentral.com/casting/aiportal/control/toVacancy?referenceCode=MXGWF.

DUTIES:
Plans and administers recreation program activities.
Plans for the allocation of land uses and the physical development of land expanses.
Develops, reviews, and analyzes data related to social services programs in order to make improvements to guidelines and policies that will maximize program effectiveness.

For more information: https://my.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/318017200

Job Announcement – Bureau of Reclamation

Resources Manager, GS-0401-12 (MPP-LL)

SALARY RANGE: $68,809.00 to $89,450.00 / Per Year
OPEN PERIOD: Thursday, May 31, 2012 to Friday, June 15, 2012
SERIES & GRADE: GS-0401-12
POSITION INFORMATION: Full-time - Permanent
PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 12
DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy(s) in the following locations: Sonora, CA
WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Current Federal employees serving under competitive service career or career-conditional appointments, former Federal employees with reinstatement eligibility, VEOA eligible veterans or persons eligible for non-competitive appointment under special appointing authorities (such as 30% Disabled Veterans).
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: BR-MP-2012-132B

JOB SUMMARY:
Reclamation is a contemporary water management agency. Reclamation is best known for Hoover Dam on the
Colorado River, Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River, Shasta Dam on the Sacramento River, and Folsom Dam on the American River. Today we are the largest wholesaler of water in the country and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western United States. Visit: http://www.usbr.gov/

View our DVD titled “Traditions, Talent, and Teamwork” at: http://www.usbr.gov/pmts/hr/Video
Want to work for a contemporary water management agency whose mission is to assist in meeting the increasing water demands of the West while protecting the environment and the public’s investment? Join the staff of the Bureau of Reclamation as a Resources Manager. Manage natural and cultural resources for water and land associated within the New Melones facilities. This position is located with the Bureau of Reclamation, Central California Area Office, New Melones Recreation Resources Branch, New Melones Lake, Sonora, CA. For more information on the Sonora area visit: http://www.tcchamber.com/.

Additional vacancies may be filled from this vacancy announcement.

DUTIES:
This position will be filled as either a Resource Manager, GS-0401-12 or a Park Manager, GS-0025-12. See vacancy announcement BR-MP-2012-132A to apply for the Park Ranger discipline.

-Plans, administers and manages natural resources, recreation resources, and park facilities at New Melones Lake.

- Assumes overall responsibility for all administration and planning activities for the assigned facilities and resources.

- Assures resource protection and resource conflict anticipation, avoidance, and resolution are emphasized in work planning and the accomplishment of daily activities.

- Serves as an on-site Reclamation spokesperson and facilitator for issues impacting the Lake.

- Works closely with citizen groups, concessionaires, county governments and boards of supervisors, other public agencies, etc.

- Develops and implements a public relations program with users, user groups, local individuals, groups and agencies.

For more information: https://my.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/318010300

Job Announcement – National Park Service

Outdoor Recreation Planner

SALARY RANGE: $50,923.00 to $80,093.00 / Per Year
OPEN PERIOD: Monday, June 04, 2012 to Monday, June 18, 2012
SERIES & GRADE: GS-0023-09/11
POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time - Permanent
PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 11
DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy(s) - Fort Collins, CO or Lakewood, CO
WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: United States Citizens
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: WO-COAB-12-667168-DE

JOB SUMMARY:
Experience your America and build a fulfilling career by joining the National Park Service. Become a part of our mission to unite the past, our cultures and our special places, to establish important connections to the present and build a rich and lasting legacy for future generations.
This is a Career/Career-Conditional full-time appointment.

Number of Vacancies: We expect to fill 1 vacancy at this time. The duty station will be Lakewood OR Fort Collins.

Full Performance Level: GS-11
Travel, transportation, and relocation expenses will be paid if the person selected for the position is from outside the local commuting area and is otherwise eligible for reimbursement of relocation expenses under the Federal Travel Regulations.

Please read the entire announcement before you apply.

DUTIES:
The successful applicant will be employed in the Planning and Information Branch of the Water Resources Division (WRD), Natural Resources Stewardship and Science, of the National Park Service. The Water Resources Division is responsible for assisting parks in protecting and enhancing water resources and water-dependent aquatic habitats within the National Park System including lakes, streams, wetlands, floodplain, riparian systems, aquifers and springs, watersheds, and ocean and coastal resources. The activities of the Division include formulating policy recommendations, issue analysis and strategy development, water and natural resource planning and resource condition assessment, conducting special technical studies and regulatory/policy/strategy reviews, identifying and mitigating external and internal influences to park water quantity and quality, locating water supplies for administrative and visitor use, wetland and floodplain delineation, compliance and restoration, quantifying and protecting park water rights, inventory and monitoring park water quality, inventory and protecting coastal and marine resources and habitats, interagency coordination and partnership, public education and outreach, and participating in the water resources initiatives of the department, NPS leadership, other agencies, and state and local governments.

The successful applicant will serve as the division’s expert for General Management Plans, Foundation Documents and other planning reports in the Park Service’s Planning Framework. They will also coordinate with the Environmental Quality Division on the review of actions potentially impacting park resources and support the division’s experts in Natural Resources Condition Assessments, Resources Stewardship Strategies and Climate Change Scenario Planning.

For specific area and housing information or information directly pertaining to vacancy status, contact: Patrick Mangan 303-969-2956.

For more information: https://my.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/318020200