



Johnson, Robert <robert_johnson@nps.gov>

Fwd: Exotic Invaders Film Premier and Panel Discussion

1 message

Clarke, Alice <alice_clarke@nps.gov>
To: Robert Johnson <robert_johnson@nps.gov>

Fri, Aug 21, 2015 at 9:30 AM

see Katie's summary below.

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create the next generation of park
visitors, supporters, and advocates.**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Pedro Ramos** <pedro_amos@nps.gov>
Date: Fri, Aug 21, 2015 at 7:25 AM
Subject: Re: Exotic Invaders Film Premier and Panel Discussion
To: "Corrigan, Katherine" <katherine_corrigan@nps.gov>
Cc: Tylan Dean <tylan_dean@nps.gov>, Carol Mitchell <carol_mitchell@nps.gov>, Alice Clarke <alice_clarke@nps.gov>, Justin Unger <justin_unger@nps.gov>, Mary Plumb <mary_plumb@nps.gov>, Linda Friar <linda_friar@nps.gov>Outstanding summary! Thank you Katie for a great job covering the event with me and thanks to all involved for all the good work leading to event. Good work - thank you!
Pedro

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 21, 2015, at 1:51 AM, Corrigan, Katherine <katherine_corrigan@nps.gov> wrote:

Hi, all-

I just wanted to send a message to let you know how the Exotic Invaders film premier and panel discussion went last night. Pedro, please feel free to chime in.

The audience was a mixture of python authorized agents and "hunters", researchers, state and federal agency representatives, our partners, and the general public. I would guess that less than 100 people attended the event. Not sure that I recognized anyone from the media there. I tried to have conversations with folks, peruse for notepads or name tags, but really didn't see anything from a media standpoint.

From a Public Affairs standpoint I felt like it went very well. The panel discussion was an excellent example of several different agencies working together to share a collaborative message. All the panel participants were engaged, showed interest in the discussion and the public's concerns, and were working together to discuss the issues of invasive species as a whole. Other topics included future plans for python management, and a lot of discussion on future invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, and outreach and education.

Here were some highlights from panel members:

- We need to invest in education and to make sure we've learned from our challenges with pythons....to get in the mode of early detection and rapid response.
- The barrier to the solution is not geographic boundaries. Followed by a discussion of interagency collaboration to come up with a solution set for collaborative work across geographic boundaries.
- Detectability rate is our biggest challenge.
- It isn't an issue of science versus removal. If we are able to increase our detectability through science, then our removal rates will increase.
- Discussion of the Everglades Comprehensive Invasive Species Area.
- More science, more funding is needed.
- Need to partner science and hunting.
- Can't tackle the management of pythons without public support.
- May need ways to incentivize python capture and removal- i.e. Lionfish-FWC Round-up.
- Difference between a *prize*-given for categories (biggest snake/most snakes caught) and is on specific lands versus *bounty* given dollar amount per head for any area.
- Sea-level rise, climate change, invasive species are all part of the greater Everglades restoration. Exotic/Invasive species management is paramount to our success.
- Addressing what is happening now:
- Hiring Invasive Species-Python position, USGS 365 python project, expanding access and engagement in EVP, opportunities for public education and outreach,
- Toxicant project-toxicants that only affect pythons-not sure of its effectiveness and is a very expensive project.

Big Picture:

- Some species are on the brink of extinction and could be wiped out by pythons. Eradication may not be possible. Control/managing might be the only option.
- Invasive and Exotic Species are like an oil spill-Need a system to detect quickly-as soon as possible, identify the threat/potential threat, conduct rapid response-if it is necessary to go get it. Don't need to study it for two years-just go get it based on the potential threats.

What will invasive species/management look like in 5 years?

- See value from our investments, helped in tackling the problem

- Greater early detection/rapid response
- Better handle on Burmese pythons
- More invasive species, but better early detection/rapid response.
- More engaged and educated public
- More responsible pet owners
- More public helping in the efforts-responsible pet owners, talking with local govt, working to help on projects.
- Strong local, state, and federal partnerships.
- More reporting through I'vegot1
- More Everglades restoration
- Better predictive screening and associated legislation for preventing/managing invasive species.

Topics to revisit again:

- Should we pay hunters for their time energy and resources? Is their room in state and federal budgets?
- Discussion during the event: If we get to a point that bounty will make a difference in the removal rate, we may consider it, but we are far out from determining that a correlation could be made between a bounty and removal rates. Detectability needs to be improved first.
- Is it possible to fund a Tribe of Indians from India-Auruelas to come teach detection methods in the U.S. \$30,000-\$40,000?
- How are we working to predict the next invasive species before they are imported?
- Details of the Python Challenge? Still in the planning phase. More details available in September 2015.

Other loose ends to determine:

- How will we address availability for media inquiries? Will we provide a media event? 4-part sessions with the media- Four sessions could be python training, filming in the field, panel phone conference with the experts, science of pythons at the lab--This could be set up on a rotation of different sessions within one day and rotate the media through the different sections.
- How will we provide our authorized agents with training for working with the media/media interactions? Media training for authorized agents?

Lastly, thank you to everyone who put in time in the preparation for this event. I know a lot of folks shared previous experience, gave input/guidance, reviewed, editing, and summarized information for talking points, It was a collaborative effort-Thank you.

Hope this is helpful. I will be monitoring media coverage and will let you know if I see any coverage of the film screening and panel discussion.

Also, I will be on scheduled leave Friday morning, but I will be back in the office Friday afternoon. My phone is forwarded to my cell phone if anyone needs to reach me. Please feel free to contact me and leave a message and I will return your call asap. Mary Plumb will be available in the office to respond to media inquiries in the morning, but then will be out of the office in the afternoon.

Talk to you soon.

Sincerely,

Katie Corrigan

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