

Jemez Mountain Trail Run SUP
Interdisciplinary Team Meeting Notes
October 26, 2016

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Clarifications to project description

- There is a max of 250 people for the whole event, but probably fewer than 50 for this race.
- The course enters the preserve down the buried phone line corridor to the VC04 to the VC09 and exiting the preserve.
- This route was a displacement after Las Conchas fire (2011). Before that the race did not come onto the preserve.

Effects of human-wildlife interactions on:

Humans

- Injured or killed by bear, mountain lion, falling tree, etc.
- Mitigations
 - People wear bear bells (noise maker)
 - Notification by organizer that people are in bear country
 - Sign at the entrance to the preserve
 - Hazard tree removal

Elk

- Displacement of calves, calves not fed for an entire day
- Increased predation by coyotes, bears both at the time and for a couple weeks afterwards
- Right at the beginning of calving season (when race is scheduled) is better than two weeks later. Race can't be earlier due to snow and mud.
- Rincon de los Soldados and Valle de los Posos are prime calving locations.

Mountain lion

- They can frequent the VC09 area.

Bears

- Disturbed by runners
- Possibly killed due to attack on human
- Feed on abandoned/weakened elk calves

General mitigation ideas

- Wildlife biologist uses GPS data to check on large mammal movements/locations, surveys for elk. Bears and mountain lions move a lot, so this may have limited effectiveness.

Benefit to VALL

- Runners are potential partners
- Potential for education
- Need to be consistent in conditions or restrictions put on various activities
- Broad mandate to promote recreation, relevancy, and engagement with the outdoors
- Don't need to exclude people from the landscape
- Greatest good for the greatest number – is this event worth it?
- Are we OK with losing some elk? The population is large. Are we managing at an individual or population level?

Cumulative, indirect and delayed impacts

- All the activities (including those by staff, researchers, the livestock program, etc) between mid-May and mid-June cumulatively impact elk calf survival.

Safety

- Is not an option.
- If people need to have bear bells, should the race happen at all?
- VALL will clear hazard trees along route.

Needs

- SOP for handling incidents