

The George Wright Society Biennial Conference on
Parks, Protected Areas and Cultural Sites
Oakland, California, USA
March 29-April 3, 2015

The Role of Universities in Protected Area Management

Concurrent Session 113

Thursday, April 2, 2015 3:30-5:30

Workshop Leader:

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Universities can be important actors and stakeholders in PA management

- They can manage protected areas on land they own
- They can fully co-manage PAs owned by other entities
- They can manage specific aspects or programs at PAs
- They can carry out research and monitoring projects
- They can provide technical assistance on PA planning and management
- They can train the current workforce through induction & in-service training
- They can use as living laboratories for their own undergrad and grad teaching
- Their students, faculty and staff can serve as volunteers, interns & seasonals
- They are the “prep school” for future PA managers, partners and influencers

Examples from Colorado State University

- We own and manage Pingree Park which is our field campus and the Colorado State Forest Service is part of the university and manages the Colorado State Forest together with Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Our faculty, staff and students conduct research including long term monitoring at nearby city, county, state and federal PAs
- Our History Department helps produce administrative histories and does interpretive plans for parks
- Many of our students are volunteers, are employed as seasonals or do research at protected areas
- We have been part of a consortium with other universities, NPCA and NPS to provide in-service training to NPS staff

More examples from CSU

- We work with USNPS, USFS and other partners to use US parks and protected areas to train current PA managers from around the world
- We lead or provide input into management planning processes
- We partner to provide environmental education programs for local schoolchildren
- Our work extends to innovative approaches to conservation such as corridors, environmental service payments, collaborative conservation, public-private partnerships, and other themes
- We are known as the “ranger factory” and continue to produce new graduates at the undergrad, MS and Ph.D. levels in technical fields related to PA management
- We led a workshop on the topic of the role of universities in PA management at the World Parks Congress and are involved in the IUCN-led effort to development a global capacity development strategy for PAs

Examples from other universities and PA management agencies

Give a brief testimonial about how your conservation agency works with universities or how your university is involved in PA management:

Paul McLaughlin, USNPS, Rocky Mountain National Park

Peter Newman, Pennsylvania State University

Robert Burns, West Virginia University

Yu-Fai Leung, North Carolina State University

Ken Cline, College of the Atlantic, Maine

Ken, Scotts Bluff National Monument

Laverne Ragster, University of the Virgin Islands

Ish Ishwaran, HIST-China

Carena Van Riper, University of Illinois

Tom Gilbert, US Biosphere Reserve Association

And others...

Work groups: How can universities do more to support PA management?

- Divide into 4 groups
- Name a facilitator and recorder and decide who will report back
- Record clearly the names, emails and institution affiliation of group members
- On no more than 2 sheets of paper in large block letters, come up with:
 - 10 innovative ways and means that universities can do more to help consolidate management and protection of existing PAs and build capacity to manage the growing global PA estate on land and at sea a
 - 5 barriers to expanding the role of universities in PA management
- Work for 45 minutes (4:00-4:45) in corners of the room or outside
- Report back for no more than 5 minutes each group at 4:45