



Biological Resource Management Division



Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area Intertidal BioBlitz 2008. Researchers and volunteers explore Peddocks Island on a quest to discover all life in the intertidal zone.

Background

The Biological Resource Management Division (BRMD) provides scientific expertise and technological assistance to support the sound management, protection, and preservation of biological resources and related ecosystem processes in national parks. BRMD staff work with individual parks, the park system, and National Park Service (NPS) leadership, and public and private partners on emerging biological issues including climate change and energy development. BRMD is organized into five branches: Human Dimensions of Biological Resource Management, Development and New Initiatives, Restoration and Adaptation, Wildlife Conservation, and Wildlife Health. A division within the Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Directorate (NRSS), BRMD maintains offices in Fort Collins, Colorado and Washington, D.C.

Human Dimensions Branch

The Human Dimensions branch addresses the critical interface between the human and ecological components of biological resource management. It provides system-wide policy guidance, technical assistance, and consultation for understanding the impacts of biological resources and associated management actions on the public, and impacts from the public on biological resources and management.

Human Dimensions: Applied Social Science—The Human Dimensions of Biological Resource Management Program uses applied social science to help managers describe, predict, affect, and learn from stakeholder thought and action towards biological resources and their management in parks, thereby improving the sustainability, durability, and acceptability of biological resource management decisions.

Biodiversity Discovery – Through All Taxa Biodiversity Inventories, Bioblitzes, and other efforts, many parks are working with citizens and scientists to discover, catalog, and learn more about the vast array of life in parks. By improving the understanding of biodiversity in parks, NPS can better ensure that these protected ecosystems are able to withstand disturbances such as climate change and disease.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – The IPM program incorporates a science-based decision making process that is effective for addressing all pest issues in any environment. It develops Service-wide policy and guidance, provides real-time technical assistance, technical training for pest prevention, and tracks proposed and actual pesticide use.

Development and New Initiatives Branch

Partnerships are a critical component of the stewardship of national park resources and are vital to the NPS. NRSS is always seeking new and productive partnerships that increase the level of care given to preserve our natural heritage in our national parks. The Partnership Program of NRSS helps build partnerships by providing targeted partnership/philanthropy development, and technical assistance on fundraising, agreements and volunteer activities.

More Information

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Lake Mead Exotic Plant Management Team.

Restoration and Adaptation Branch

The Restoration and Adaptation Branch provides policy, tools and technical guidance necessary to restore disrupted ecological processes and degraded ecosystems, and to manage ecosystem resources for anticipated impacts of global change. The branch includes expertise in plant ecology, vegetation inventory, remote sensing, soil ecology, restoration, invasive plant management, and botany.

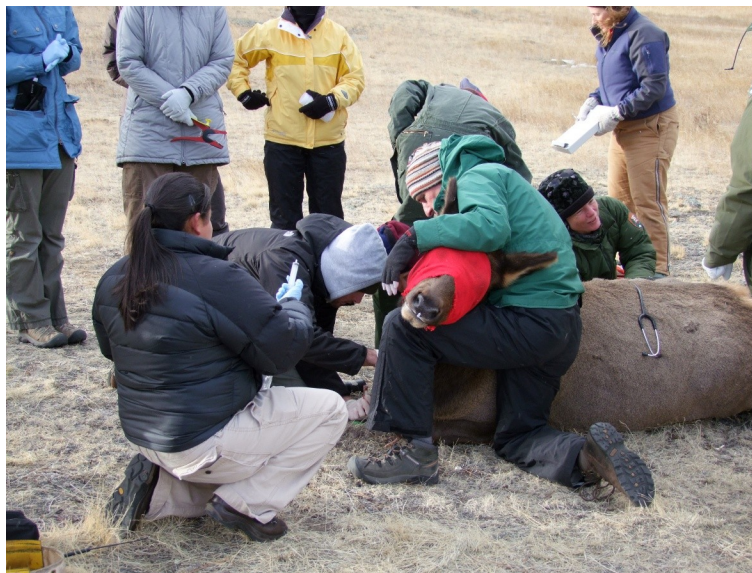
Vegetation Inventories - Vegetation inventories in more than 270 national park units are used to develop standardized maps and associated data sets of vegetation and other land-cover within parks. The inventory of these resources helps park managers conserve biodiversity, manage challenges such as exotic species, insect outbreaks, and diseases, and understand resources and processes such as wildlife habitat relationships and wildland fires.

Exotic Plant Management - The NPS is working to manage invasive plants in parks through national and local programs, each based upon the following strategies: cooperation and collaboration, inventory and monitoring, prevention, early detection and rapid response, and treatment. At the national level, NPS has fostered a successful invasive plant management program with the creation of 16 Exotic Plant Management Teams that provide highly trained mobile assistance throughout the National Park System.

Endangered Species - The Endangered Species Program works to stabilize and recover more than 460 federally listed threatened and endangered species found in national park units. Program staff work with parks to prevent the extinction of species, restore populations that have been lost from parks due to human activities, provide support on §7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act, and track the status and recovery progress of endangered species in parks.

Wildlife Health Branch

The Wildlife Health Branch provides professional veterinary consultation and technical assistance to aid parks in conserving wildlife by identifying and achieving wildlife health goals. The Branch works closely with the NPS Office of Public Health to promote the concept of One Health which advocates cooperation between veterinary and human medicine to combat diseases that are shared between people and other animals. The Branch provides technical assistance to parks and policy recommendations to the NPS Directorate on a wide range of wildlife health issues including: wildlife disease surveillance, moni-



BRMD Wildlife Health Program personnel offer training to park biologists in wildlife immobilization and sample collection during the WHP Wildlife Anesthesia course.

toring, and management, disease outbreak investigation, field anesthesia, fertility control, and animal welfare and also works with parks to facilitate communication with states, other federal agencies, and professional organization on wildlife health issues.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee -- The Branch provides leadership and required veterinary oversight for the NPS Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The NPS IACUC was established in 2010 to implement requirements of the Animal Welfare Act for animals used in research, teaching, and exhibition. The Committee provides guidance information to parks and regions and reviews research protocols to assure that use of animal is acceptable and well-justified.

Wildlife Conservation Branch

The Wildlife Conservation Branch provides professional and scientific wildlife management consultation, technical assistance, and policy guidance to manage native and exotic wildlife species in parks.

Landscape Ecology - The Landscape Ecology Program collaborates with parks, partners in other agencies and entities, and across NPS programs to build understanding and coordinate landscape-scale adaptation and mitigation actions. The program also provides guidance on issues arising from climate change related to wildlife, habitats, and corridors.

Migratory Species Program - Through engagement with scientists from around the world, the Migratory Species Program is developing a long-term strategy to address issues facing migratory species that use park lands. Preserving migratory species in our parks requires collaboration with other agencies, private landowners, NGOs, and countries as migration takes many species across park and political boundaries. For example, Park Flight, a cooperative program between the United States and Latin America, protects breeding, migration, and wintering habitats, and promotes a proactive migratory bird conservation program within NPS.

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) - PARC is a partnership of representatives of science, education, species conservation, land management, industry, commerce, and pet and field hobbyists, dedicated to the conservation of reptiles and amphibians. It addresses the widespread declines, extinction, and range reductions of amphibians and reptiles, with a focus on taxa in the US.