

Managing Visitor Use in Protected Areas

Held on October 26-27, 2016

Audubon Society of RI, 12 Sanderson Rd, Smithfield, RI

10 AICP credits offered

Resource managers are challenged with balancing changing public demands with the careful management of the resources under their care. This workshop helped participants to better understand, monitor, and manage visitor use to maintain healthy resources and high-quality visitor experiences. They were introduced to a step-by-step decision-making process used to identify unacceptable visitor use impacts and explored a range of helpful strategies and tactics to address them.

Participants learned how to:

- Recognize the human dimensions of protected areas management
- Apply recreation and visitor use management planning frameworks
- Identify visitor use issues, including visitor-resource and visitor-visitor impacts
- Craft a clear problem statement
- Develop measurable indicators for monitoring impacts and set standards for impact acceptability
- Implement visitor use monitoring methods and management strategies and tactics

This course is taught by expert instructors from NOAA's Office for Coastal Management.

Target audiences: State and federal agency staff, employees of non-profit conservation organizations, land trust members and others involved in managing protected lands and waters

For questions please contact Jennifer West at jennifer@nbnerr.org or 401-222-4700, x 7413.

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Wednesday, October 26

8:30	Sign in and refreshments
9:00	Welcome, introductions, and overview Human Dimensions of Visitor Use Management
10:30-10:45	BREAK Planning for and Managing Visitor Use on the Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge - Charlie Vandemoer, Manager, RI National Wildlife Refuge Complex Local/Regional Issue Identification
12:00-1:00	LUNCH Introduction to Visitor Use Planning and Management Problem Specification and Example Scenario Issue Identification
2:45-3:00	BREAK Managing Recreation User Conflicts - Bob Paquette, Chief of Parks and Recreation, RI Department of Environmental Management Indicators & Standards Applying the Process to Local Issues – worksheet 1, Specifying the problem
5:00	Adjourn

Thursday, October 27

8:00	Refreshments
8:30	Welcome and review of day one Management Strategies and Tactics Applying the Process to Local Issues – worksheet 2, Selecting and prioritizing management actions
10:45-11:00	BREAK Working with Neighbors as Best as We Can - Scott Ruhren, Senior Director of Conservation, Audubon Society of RI Balancing the Needs of Wildlife and People - Cheryl Wiitala, Preserves Manager, The Nature Conservancy RI Applying the Process to Local Issues – worksheet 3, Implementation planning
12:00	Thank you and adjourn

