

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Sandra Hamilton](#)
Cc: [Doug Wetmore](#)
Subject: Fw: Trip Report K Noon
Date: 10/14/2010 10:02 AM
Attachments: [CAHA Trip Rpt FINAL sent 9-10-10.docx](#)

Sandy,

See below FYI.

Kevin Noon is an NPS PhD wetland scientist. I don't know if his report would be of any use in responding to the comments about vegetation removal (Collazo, etc.) or not, but thought I'd pass it along. We can at least say we had a scientist with the appropriate background evaluate the situation.

I believe the folks associated with the Collazo study were wildlife biologists, not plant or wetland ecologists, so their recommendation that ORV driving be used to counteract plant succession would likely have been more of a statement of concern about habitat loss (especially if available habitat were not protected from human disturbance as was the case at the time), than a well informed, scientifically valid expert recommendation on how best to manage against the natural process of plant succession (which not only is difficult to do, as we learned from disking up to 90 acres near the big Salt Pond for six years, but also has significant conflicts with NPS policy).

In thinking about what might be the most productive approach to improving in the Cape Point/South Beach area, I think any credible wildlife biologist would say there is plenty of good PIPL nesting habitat in the area, sufficient to allow an increase in nesting activity, as long as it is "available" and protected from human disturbance at the right time of year. Based on discussions with staff, I do believe that chick foraging habitat (low energy wet sand, MOSH, etc.) could be a limiting factor some day since in recent years we have already sometimes seen broods competing for the same foraging site around the small Salt Pond and its drain onto the beach. If we do any habitat improvements in the Cape Point area, what would be most productive would be to focus on improving chick foraging habitat (not nesting habitat) at some other location (e.g., west) to supplement what is naturally maintained around the small Salt Pond. In other words, if we do anything it should be to address the limiting factor.

For what it is worth, we'll review Kevin's report during the off-season and start thinking about what may be the most practical and effective approach to take (i.e., a project) and how to approach the related compliance and/or permitting issues.

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----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 10/14/2010 11:27 AM -----

**Kevin
Noon/DENVER/NPS**

09/10/2010 10:50 AM

To Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Bill Jackson/FTCOLLINS/NPS@NPS, John Wullschleger/FTCOLLINS/NPS@NPS, Gary Rosenlieb/FTCOLLINS/NPS@NPS, Joel Wagner/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Larry Martin/FTCOLLINS/NPS@NPS, Kris Parker/FTCOLLINS/NPS@NPS, Darrell Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Margaret Carfioli/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Cherry Green/Atlanta/NPS@NPS, Mark Ford/Atlanta/NPS@NPS, Doug McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS

cc

Subject Trip Report K Noon

Mike,
Please find attached my May 3, 2010 trip report. I will consider the technical assistance request still open so please call if I can be of further assistance with implementing options or with other wetland issues you might have at CAHA.
Kevin



CAHA Trip Rpt FINAL sent 9-10-10.docx

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