

Wildlife Subcommittee notes from February 9, 2004 meeting

Randy Mullen, Bob Armstrong, Bob Grochow, Ron Berg, and Karla Hart met. The main topic of discussion was the committee's role and "constituency" relative to the task force as a whole.

The concensus was that it is the wildlife committee's responsibility to identify sensitive areas on the basis of wildlife needs and leave the discussion about prioritizing or allocating uses to the entire task force. In other words, we should not exclude a sensitive area from consideration for protections because of perceptions that it would create controversy.

There was also agreement that we should not limit our consideration to areas under city jurisdiction and that it is appropriate to make recommendations to other land managers (e.g. state and federal).

We discussed the distinction between professional hazing of birds and other wildlife in the airport vicinity and informal hazing that takes places through dog walkers. Professional hazing takes places in a manner designed to move the birds AWAY from the runways and only takes place when the hazers know that there are no planes about to take off or land. Informal hazing from the dike trail may push wildlife (especially waterfowl on the finger ponds) towards the runway and float pond and takes place indiscriminately so could put waterfowl into the air in the flight path of a plane.

We will be meeting again on Friday, February 13 at 12:15pm at the downtown library conference room. To revisit our charge, progress to date, and tasks remaining:

Areas in Juneau have sensitive habitats, wildlife migrations, nesting and rearing grounds, or are popular wildlife viewing areas.

The wildlife subcommittee is tasked with

- 1) reviewing literature relating to wildlife and dogs
committee members have familiarized themselves with the topic
- 2) identifying sensitive areas (and seasons if relevant) in the Juneau area
The committee has identified and is prioritizing wildlife sensitive areas at this time three priorities are Mendenhall Wetlands (from all access points, year round but most critical shore migration April-May and July-mid-August), Eagle Beach (year round), and Mount Roberts (spring-fall) above the tram.
- 3) developing proposed guidelines
Kathy Hocker has drafted "Trail Dog: Hiking with your dog in wildlife country" - attached
- 4) identifying what further information might be needed to make an informed decision or recommendation
needs to be discussed
- 5) drafting recommendations for full committee to consider

To avoid polarization, at this time the committee has agreed to identify priority wildlife sensitive areas and seasons and explain why each is a priority, rather than make recommendations. We see that it should be the role of the full task force to weigh wildlife and viewing considerations against other uses.

- 6) drafting measurements of success for review in fall 2004
to be done