Planning for Visitor Use and Wildlife Protection in Grand Teton National Park

October 2014
Introduction to Moose-Wilson corridor
Key Planning Considerations
Planning context
Key Planning Topics
Data Collection Efforts
Planning
Next steps
Moose-Wilson Corridor
Moose-Wilson Corridor
Key Planning Considerations

Fundamental Resources and Values

• Scenery
• Geologic Processes
• Ecological Communities and Wildlife
• Aquatic Resources
• Cultural History and Resources
• Natural Soundscapes and Acoustic Resources
• Visitor Experience in an Outstanding Natural Environment
Recent changes in the corridor

- Increase in potentially dangerous wildlife
  - Grizzly Bears
  - Moose
  - Black Bears

- Increased motor vehicle and bicycle traffic
  - Complicated management of wildlife
  - Increased human – wildlife interactions

- Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve
  - Transferred from private to public
Key Planning Topics

Issus and Opportunities

• Human Wildlife Interactions
• Historic Character
• Bicycle and Motor Vehicle Use
• Visitor-Related Resource Impacts
• Visitor Experience
DATA COLLECTION EFFORTS

- Utah State University – Transportation
- Pennsylvania State University – Visitor Survey
Transportation Data

Summer 2013 & 2014

- Vehicle Use
  - Levels, Types, Movement Patterns, Parking Lot Accumulation
  - Tube Counters
  - GPS Tracking

- Bicycle Use
  - Levels, Stopping Behavior
  - Counters
  - GPS Tracking

Winter 2014

- Levels, Types, Parking Lot Accumulations
- Photo Documentation of Activities
Visitor Data

Summer 2014

• Visitor Survey
  – Trip Planning
  – Activities
  – Visitor Experiences
  – Potential Issues
    • Human Behaviors Toward Wildlife
  – Management of the corridor
PLANNING
DATA INTEGRATION
Visitor Use Management Process
Visitor Use Management Process

WHY
Determine why the park was established as a unit of the NPS system

WHAT
Identify desired conditions and related direction for visitor use management

HOW
Manage visitor use to achieve and maintain desired conditions over time

- Park purpose, significance, FRVs, ORVs
  - Guidance from previous park plans, including desired conditions
    - Assessment of visitor use knowledge, including issues and opportunities
      - Visitor use management goals and objectives
        - Existing conditions assessment
          - Indicators & Thresholds
            - Management strategies, including visitor capacities, where needed
              - Monitoring & research related to indicators and thresholds
                - Adjust management strategies, including capacities, as needed
Visitor Use Management Process

Data Efforts & Plan Development

• Assessment of Visitor Use Knowledge, Issues and opportunities
• Visitor use management goals and objectives
• Existing Conditions Assessment
• Indicators and Thresholds
• Management Strategies (including visitor capacity)
• Monitoring & research related to indicators and thresholds
NEXT STEPS

http://www.nps.gov/grte/parkmgmt/mwccmp.html