

Carl_Zimmerman Eco Tourism Questions2.txt

From: Carl_Zimmerman@nps.gov
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2006 7:28 AM
To: podowd@comcast.net
Cc: Allison_Turner@nps.gov
Subject: RE: Eco Tourism Questions

Ms. O'Dowd:

The costs I provided are our best estimate of the overall cost for running our contraception program (only). The personnel component includes a portion of the annual salary of a biological technician (Allison Turner), a portion of her supervisor's time (horse program manager), and a portion of my time as the park's natural resource manager). A small part of the personnel cost also includes administrative overhead.

The bulk of the personnel cost reflects the time spent by Allison doing four primary tasks required for the contraception program: 1) the actual process of contracepting the horses - a twice a year operation requiring Allison to track down all of the candidate mares and administer the vaccine using a dart rifle. (we do not conduct round-ups) This task requires 30-35 work days a year. 2) Pregnancy testing. A variable portion of the female population is assessed in the fall of the year to determine whether or not they will receive contraception the following spring. The assessment is performed using fecal samples acquired through field observation and collection. On average, this task requires approximately 10 work days per year. 3) Monitoring. In order to manage the contraception program basic demographic, identity and locational information is needed for the horse population. Six population surveys are conducted annually and require, on average, approximately 40 work days per year. 4) Information management. Data and information resulting from the previous three items is entered, processed, analyzed and reported on an annual basis, requiring approximately 20 days per year.

The transportation component is the annualized cost of a four-wheel drive vehicle to conduct the contraceptive work described above. The cost includes the pro-rated cost for acquisition (5 year replacement cycle), maintenance, repairs, and fuel.

As I noted in my original message, not all of the volunteer costs associated with our horse management programs are tracked. The same applies for the contraception program - the figures I provided do not include the contributions and costs associated with volunteer assistance. For example, Jay Kirkpatrick assists with the annual spring contraceptive darting, but the majority of his costs are not born by the NPS and are not included in our estimates.

I have attached a generic position description for a Biological Technician. We use this description for several wildlife-related positions at Assateague.

I hope this answers your questions

(See attached file: Bio Tech Description.doc)

Carl S. Zimmerman
Acting Superintendent
Assateague Island National Seashore
7206 National Seashore Lane
Berlin, MD 21811
(410) 641-1443, extension 213
(410) 641-1099 Fax

"Patience O'Dowd"

Carl_Zimmerman Eco Tourism Questions2.txt
<podowd@comcast.n To: <Carl_Zimmerman@nps.gov>
et> cc:
Subject: RE: Eco Tourism Questions

03/16/2006 02:05

AM MST

Please respond to
podowd

Hello Mr. Zimmerman,

Thank you much for this information. I wonder if you could tell me a little bit more about the staff.

The personnel cost, is that all for one person? Yr round? Fly in, Duties? (I am assuming darting and related paper work? Round-up? I think I remember you don't need to round up to dart where you are.)

The transportation, is that flying someone in (Dr Kirkpatrick?) and associated hotels?

If there is any contracts and/or job description, could I see it/them?

Thanks Much
Patience O'Dowd co founder
Wild Horse Observers Assoc. (WHOA)
A non-profit corp
PO Box 932
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505-867-5228
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-----Original Message-----

From: Carl_Zimmerman@nps.gov [mailto:Carl_Zimmerman@nps.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2006 1:50 PM
To: podowd@comcast.net
Cc: Allison_Turner@nps.gov
Subject: Re: Eco Tourism Questions

Dear Ms. O'Dowd:

Thanks for your interest in Assateague Island National Seashore. This message responds to your request to Allison Turner regarding our management of the feral horses inhabiting National Park Service lands on Assateague Island.

Unfortunately, most of the information you've requested is either not applicable to our situation at Assateague or is not available. Horse management is but one small component of our overall resource and visitor use management program. With a few exceptions, we do not track expenditures of money and manpower in ways that are amenable to teasing out what portion of, for example, our vehicle maintenance and

fuel costs are directly related to horse management activities. And in all cases, personnel with responsibilities for some aspect of horse management are also involved in numerous other management programs or park functions.

The following are the only areas where I can provide specific responses to your questions:

Herd size: Currently 149. Since 1990, the population has ranged from 142 to 175.

Contraceptive costs: Since 1994, an average of 70 mares per year have been treated with the PZP contraceptive vaccine. The current cost for a single dose of vaccine is \$21.00 (our source is ZooMontana; not the Humane Society, although HSUS holds the FDA license for the drug). The following is our best estimate of the current annual expenses associated with the contraception program. Please note that this is only for the contraception program and not the overall horse management program:

Personnel:	\$33,500.
Transportation:	\$5,200.
Equipment and supplies	\$1,000.
Vaccine:	\$1,500.
Total	\$41,200.

Volunteers: We utilize volunteers in several aspects of horse management. The most significant, in terms of number of hours per year, is our "pony patrol" program in which trained volunteers patrol park roads and campgrounds to mitigate inappropriate interactions between horses and humans, and educate visitors about the horses. Since 1997, an average of 1,400 hours of volunteer time have been committed to this activity. Our other uses of volunteers are highly variable year to year and not as closely tracked.

Income: The only income directly attributable to the horses are proceeds from our Foster Parent program (participants receive a photo, certificate, lineage info, newsletter, etc.). The annual income from this program (after deducting associated costs) ranges from \$10-15,000. The park also charges a general entrance fee but there is no way to determine the proportion of visitors entering the park for the dominant purpose of viewing the horses. I suspect that it is a relatively minor percentage by comparison to those seeking opportunities for beach recreation.

I hope you find this information of value. If you have any further questions, please contact either Allison or myself.

Sincerely,

Carl S. Zimmerman
Acting Superintendent
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