

Request for Presentation and Poster Proposals

San Francisco Bay Area National Parks 2017 Science and Natural Resources Symposium

Meeting Our Mission: Connecting Science, Management, and Communities in the Bay Area National Parks

May 11, 2017

Golden Gate Club, Presidio of San Francisco

On May 11th, the San Francisco Bay Area Network of national parks will host its 7th Science and Natural Resources Symposium. This day-long event brings together park staff, volunteers, and partners from a wide range of disciplines to share science-related research, management, and outreach efforts taking place in support of the National Park Service mission:

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Regardless of what is happening in the world around us, this mission remains the same. However, striving to meet these lofty goals requires adaptability in the face of political, natural, and demographic changes that may be beyond our control. It compels us to use the best available science to inform resource management. It challenges us to go beyond what we have done in the past to engage new audiences in new ways. And, it calls for us to consider how we work with others for the benefit of all.

This year's event will highlight examples of the many ways the San Francisco Bay Area National Parks are working to meet their mission. Priority will be given to presentations that offer specific examples of projects or initiatives that have been used to inform park resource management; stories of lessons learned, challenges, and successes; and innovative ways to engage audiences and share our work.

With this in mind, we are soliciting proposals for presentations in the following formats:

- 3-minute "lightning talks"
- 10-minute presentations
- A 30–45-minute interactive session, panel, or workshop
- 24" x 36" (max) posters

Please see the requirements for submitting a proposal for each format below.

Proposals are due by February 20, 2017 to michelle@oherron.co.

3-minute Lightning Talks:

These short, focused presentations are an excellent way to give a sense of the scope and scale of the many kinds of work being done to help meet the National Park Service mission.

You may wish to consider this format for resource management, research, monitoring, outreach, or education work that you would like to let people know more about, but that perhaps do not have much data yet, or do not have significant new findings to share in a longer presentation.

Please submit a **450-word** (max) abstract describing the program or project you would like to present.**

10-minute Presentations:

Please submit a **450-word** (max) abstract for a presentation under one or more of the following themes:**

Theme 1 - Successes and challenges in “preserving unimpaired” in a changing environment

- **Understanding the past**
e.g, geology, paleontology, historical ecology, traditional ecological knowledge
- **Bringing back what’s been lost, maintaining what’s here now**
e.g, restoration, extirpated species, reintroductions, biodiversity considerations, visitation pressures, invasive species management, monitoring, stewardship programs
- **Managing for changes beyond our control**
e.g, climate change, climate adaptation, carbon footprint reduction, drought, ecological succession, erosion, coastal or ocean processes

Theme 2 - Cooperating with partners and extended benefits

- **Going beyond our geographic and institutional boundaries**
e.g, innovative partnerships, landscape connectivity and corridors, large-scale planning or program efforts

Theme 3 - Enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations

- **Sharing what we know – tools and technologies**
e.g, new technologies, data visualization, communicating complex subjects graphically, infographics, tools to enrich visual depictions of data, conceptual diagrams
- **Reaching and inspiring our audiences**
e.g, education, interpretation, and science communication; the politics of climate change communication; making park science relevant and accessible; building relationships and communities; engaging youth, new partners, and diverse audiences

A 30–45-minute interactive session, panel, or workshop

We welcome proposals for an interactive session on any of the above themes. Please submit an **800-word** (max) abstract**, describing the proposed topic, format, interactive elements, and any materials, space, or audio-visual capacity needed.

Posters:

The 2017 Poster Challenge: Create a poster that describes the **one** thing you'd like people to know or understand about your program or project.

Maximum size 24" x 36"

Please submit a **450-word** (max) abstract describing the program or project you would like to present in this format.**

****Please keep the following selection criteria in mind when crafting your abstract:**

- Your audience is a mix of scientists, managers, educators, interpreters, and volunteers. Make sure that your presentation or poster is accessible to a broad audience.
- Your presentation or poster must include a clear “so what” message. For example, how this project is relevant to park resource management, can be or was used in public outreach or education, etc.
- [The National Park Service Centennial and its “Find Your Park”](#) campaign have been an important focus of the agency in the past year. If applicable, please clearly indicate how these concepts apply to your project or program.
- Climate change is another topic at the forefront of park management. Please be sure to call out any climate change considerations that may have been a part of your project.
- Presenters from agencies and organizations outside of the National Park Service are welcome to submit an abstract; however, please make sure to include how your project or program is applicable to resource management or science on park lands.
- Information about past symposia, including agendas, presentation abstracts, and power point presentations may be found at http://www.sfnps.org/science_symposia.

Contact Michelle O’Herron at michelle@oherron.co or (415) 517-7589 if you have any questions, or would like to discuss an idea for a potential presentation or poster. Additional information about the symposium will be posted at http://www.sfnps.org/science_symposia.