

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Parks and Recreation

BOARD AGENDA # *B-3

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE May 4, 2010

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

(Information Attached)

SUBJECT:

Approval for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Department of Zoology, to Survey, Inventory, and Collect Class Arachnida, Order Solifugae at Frank Raines Regional Park Beginning May 5, 2010, and Ending June 20, 2010

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the request from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Department of Zoology, to survey, inventory, and collect Arachnida Solifugae at Frank Raines Regional Park.
2. Authorize the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Department of Zoology research staff to camp in areas not officially designated as campgrounds.
3. Authorize the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Department of Zoology research staff to set up and leave up to two pitfall trap arrays in remote areas of Frank Raines Regional Park.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2010-261

On motion of Supervisor O'Brien, Seconded by Supervisor DeMartini

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, DeMartini, and Vice Chairman Monteith

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: Grover

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

Approval for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Department of Zoology, to Survey, Inventory, and Collect Class Arachnida, Order Solifugae at Frank Raines Regional Park Beginning May 5, 2010, and Ending June 20, 2010

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED):

4. Direct the Denver Museum of Nature & Sciences, Department of Zoology, to adhere to the requirements set forth by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

DISCUSSION:

A request has been received from the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Department of Zoology, to survey, inventory, and collect the camel-spider or sun scorpion (Arachnida, Solifugae) at Frank Raines Regional Park beginning May 5, 2010, and ending June 20, 2010.

Frank Raines Regional Park was chosen because of its like similarities to open, sandy desert habitats including undisturbed and undeveloped habitats. Researchers will be traveling through central California during the summer of 2010 to collect solifuges. Other parks include Mt. Diablo State Park, Henry Coe State Park, Stafford Lake County Park, Toro Regional Park, Garrapata State Park, Carnegie State Off-Highway Vehicle Park, Prairie City State Off-Highway Vehicle Park, Pinnacles National Monument, Death Valley, and Joshua Tree National Park.

Based on the environment needs for this project, specific area cannot be determined prior to the first visit. The first visit consists of scouting for an area suitable for the project, setting up two pitfall trappings, and documenting the site's activities over a period of time. The traps set will be left on site 45 to 60 days before researchers return to collect specimens. Because of the remote location of the project, camping outside of a designated campground was requested.

The Solifugae is the sixth most diverse order of arachnids and are dominant predators. Little research has occurred over the last 50 years. The purpose of the proposed research throughout California is to collect and inventory camel spider diversity in sites near localities that have been previously collected yet have only been identified as areas through historical records. Few species have been reported or collected for many years. This study will shed light on the possible extirpation of the species. It must be noted that no species of arachnid order Solifugae is listed as threatened, endangered, or of concern. Target species within Frank Raines Regional Park is the *Eremobates spissus*.

Because the camel-spider is secretive and difficult to locate, only 2 to 10 individual spiders will be collected per site through live trapping. This collecting effort will not detrimentally impact the populations of any species. Live trapping is carried out at night when solifuges are active. Researchers camp at the site and set up lanterns to attract the solifuges. Researchers will also use hand search methods whereby a search is conducted under rocks and other debris that solifuges use to hide during the day. Additionally, two pitfall trappings will be established using 10 meter Y-shape drift fences. Each pitfall allows for 20 traps to be established. These will be left onsite up to 4 weeks when researchers will then return to pick up the traps.

The Department supports this research project providing the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Department of Zoology, adhere to the following requirements:

Approval for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Department of Zoology, to Survey, Inventory, and Collect Class Arachnida, Order Solifugae at Frank Raines Regional Park Beginning May 5, 2010, and Ending June 20, 2010

- The Denver Museum of Nature & Science shall provide the Department of Parks and Recreation a Certificate of Insurance a Certificate of Insurance with a minimum of \$1 million liability coverage and shall provide accompanying endorsements naming Stanislaus County as an additional insured. The Certificate of Insurance shall be provided no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 5, 2010.
- An Organization Hold Harmless Agreement is required. The original must be completed and returned no later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, 2010, or by scheduled set-up of the research area if arrival date is later.
- Individual Hold Harmless Agreements must be completed for each person in the research team who will be involved in the collection of data and camping at Frank Raines Regional Park and returned no later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, 2010, or by scheduled set-up of the research area if arrival date is later.
- A valid State of California Department of Fish and Game Scientific Collecting Permit is required.
- Tread Lightly ethics and stewardship of the land shall be followed. More information on Tread Lightly can be found at <http://www.treadlightly.org>.

POLICY ISSUE:

The Board of Supervisors should determine if approving the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Department of Zoology Research Project is consistent with its priority of effective partnerships.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There are no staffing impacts associated with this item.

CONTACT PERSON:

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