

West Chichagof Yellow Cedar / Wilderness Solitude Monitoring Study

Summer 2013 Project Report

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Project Summary:

The 2013 Alaska expedition was a collaborative effort between Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation (ASC), Sitka Conservation Society (SCS) and Stanford University. This project had two primary initiatives: (1) locate, document and collect data loggers which were installed in yellow cedar forest sites on West Chichagof Island the previous year, and (2) document disruptions to wilderness solitude as part of a Wilderness Characterization Study.

This project utilized eight field personnel on and around West Chichagof Island in Southeast Alaska. Team members included, Gregg Treinish, Jordan Holsinger, McCain McMurray, Jamie Walton, Thomás Ward, Mike Belitz, Jennifer McNew, and Andrei Stanesco. Team members located all 42 data loggers from 21 sites installed the previous year and brought them back to be downloaded and analyzed by Lauren Oakes, PhD candidate at Stanford University. Team members also documented 34 observations of disturbances to wilderness solitude, including location and time, during the field campaign.

Data loggers were installed the previous year through a collaboration with Stanford University in order to track both ground and canopy temperature in old, moderate and recent-dead stands of yellow cedar as well as healthy forests in order to understand the causes of yellow cedar decline in SE Alaska. Loggers were left in place for a year and collected during this project for download and analysis. Information about loggers and their collection can be found in Table 1 including site information, logger ID's and time and date of collection.

The team also collected data for wilderness solitude monitoring studies conducted through the

USDA Forest Service and SCS. These observations document disturbances to the solitude of wilderness areas and help to understand the magnitude of human impact on otherwise wild areas. Team members collected 34 observations of disturbances including boat and plane traffic in the vicinity with a ranking of the observer's perception of impact. Recorded data includes time and date, location, type and rank of disturbance (high, medium or low) as well as the weather conditions and number of people observed in conjunction with the disturbance. This data is summarized in Table 2. Team members also ranked their overall perception of human impact on the wilderness area during their time there.

Documentation of the trip including photos and video can be found both on [ASC's blog](#) as well as [National Geographic's Explorers Journal](#). These accounts share the experiences of data collection and time spent on and around West Chichagof. Additional photographs can also be found in our online album.

Table 1. Data logger collection information

| Date | Site | Logger ID | | Tree Number | Time Collected | Notes |
|-----------|------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------------|--|
| | | Tree | Ground | | | |
| 7/8/2013 | M-08 | 9941017 | 9941013 | 71 | 1616 | |
| 7/8/2013 | M-05 | 9949006 | 9949015 | 81 | 1819 | |
| 7/9/2013 | M-10 | 10172996 | 9949000 | 827 | 1123 | |
| 7/9/2013 | R-06 | 9787824 | 9787823 | 923 | 1315 | |
| 7/9/2013 | M-03 | 9949002 | 9949008 | 810 | 1351 | |
| 7/10/2013 | O-01 | 9787810 | 9787816 | 174 | 1415 | |
| 7/10/2013 | O-03 | 9949014 | 9949692 | 534 | 1626 | |
| 7/13/2013 | | 2405523 | 9949009 | 712 | 1705 | forgot to write down site number |
| 7/14/2013 | H-08 | 9787817 | 9787819 | 743 | 1227 | |
| 7/15/2013 | H-03 | 9949020 | 9949001 | 792 | 1327 | |
| 7/15/2013 | H-02 | 9949644 | 9949004 | 996 | 1539 | |
| 7/18/2013 | H-04 | 2405519 | 2405524 | 409 | 1137 | |
| 7/9/2013 | M-09 | 10172991 | 10172995 | | 1125 | we did not note tree number |
| 7/9/2013 | R-08 | 9949010 | 9949012 | | 1400 | we did not note tree number |
| 7/10/2013 | O-14 | 2405527 | 2405526 | | 1335 | we did not note tree number |
| 7/10/2013 | O-04 | 10172298 | 9949007 | | 1500 | we did not note tree number |
| 7/13/2013 | R-11 | 9949018 | 994901 | 897 | | timenot noted, late afternoon; tree logger found on ground at base of tree |
| 7/15/2013 | R-01 | 9949019 | 9949005 | 591 | 1255 | |
| 7/15/2013 | R-04 | 2405517 | 9949003 | 19 | ~1430 | exacttimenot noted - about 1430 |
| 7/18/2013 | H-13 | 2405522 | 2405529 | 73 | ~1130 | exacttimenot noted - about 1130 |
| 7/18/2013 | H-15 | 9787825 | 9787826 | 64 | ~1430 | exacttimenot noted - about 1430 |

Table 2. Wilderness solitude monitoring observation

| Date | Location | Time | Weather Conditions | Planes | | Boats | | # People Seen | Perception of Impact (H,M,L) | Comments |
|-----------|----------------|------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | | | <1/4 mile | >1/4 mile | <1/4 mile | >1/4 mile | | | |
| 7/11/2013 | Waterfall Cove | 1030 | partly cloudy | | | X | | 0 | M | |
| 7/12/2013 | Waterfall Cove | 1400 | partly cloudy | | | X | | 1 | H | Boater anchored. Dingy to shore to check if we were okay. He was out sightseeing |
| 7/8/2013 | Falcon Arm | 1900 | N/A | | | | X | 0 | M | |
| 7/10/2013 | Slocum Arm | 1115 | N/A | X | | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/10/2013 | Waterfall Cove | 1045 | N/A | | X | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/11/2013 | Waterfall Cove | 830 | N/A | | X | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/11/2013 | Waterfall Cove | 1207 | N/A | | X | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/11/2013 | Waterfall Cove | 1448 | N/A | | X | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/13/2013 | Slocum Arm | 1707 | N/A | | | | X | 0 | L | |
| 7/14/2013 | Ford Arm | 1000 | N/A | | | X | | 0 | M | |
| 7/14/2013 | Ford Arm | 1015 | N/A | | X | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/14/2013 | Ford Arm | 1143 | N/A | | X | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/15/2013 | Ford Arm | 1122 | N/A | | X | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/15/2013 | Ford Arm | 1000 | N/A | | X | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/15/2013 | Ford Arm | 1215 | N/A | | X | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/15/2013 | Ford Arm | 1230 | N/A | | | | X | 0 | L | |
| 7/15/2013 | Ford Arm | 1530 | N/A | | X | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/15/2013 | Ford Arm | 1540 | N/A | | | | X | 0 | M | |
| 7/15/2013 | Ford Arm | 1555 | N/A | | X | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/15/2013 | Ford Arm | 1600 | N/A | | | | X | 0 | M | |
| 7/16/2013 | Ford Arm | 855 | N/A | X | | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/16/2013 | Ford Arm | 920 | N/A | | | | X | 0 | L | |
| 7/18/2013 | Klag Bay | 1115 | N/A | | | | X | 0 | M | |
| 7/18/2013 | Klag Bay | 1155 | N/A | | | X | | 10 | H | |
| 7/12/2013 | Waterfall Cove | 830 | partly cloudy | X | | | | 0 | H | flew directly overhead |
| 7/12/2013 | Waterfall Cove | 1823 | partly cloudy | | X | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/13/2013 | Slocum Arm | 1130 | N/A | | | X | | 0 | L | |
| 7/13/2013 | Slocum Arm | 1300 | N/A | | X | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/13/2013 | Ford Arm | 1330 | N/A | | | | X | 0 | L | 2 boats |
| 7/15/2013 | Slocum Arm | 830 | partly cloudy | | X | | | 0 | L | |
| 7/16/2013 | Ford Arm | 820 | partly cloudy | X | | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/19/2013 | Klag Bay | 930 | partly cloudy | X | | | | 0 | M | |
| 7/19/2013 | Klag Bay | 1030 | partly cloudy | | | X | | 0 | H | large yacht passed directly in front |
| 7/19/2013 | Klag Bay | 1030 | partly cloudy | | | | X | 0 | L | 2 yachts together |
| | | | | 5 | 14 | 6 | 9 | 11 | 4H, 23M, 6L | Totals |

| Overall please rate your perception of impact to solitude in this area (H,M,L) and why. | | |
|---|--------------|--|
| Name | Rate (H,M,L) | Comments |
| Gregg | | |
| Jamie | H | low flying planes are pretty annoying |
| Jordan | M | Only encountered slight impacts daily with a few exceptions. Hearing a plane once or twice a day or seeing a boat off in the distance is hardly noticable. |
| Mike | M | Very few boats were seen and the occasional float plane would not be too noticable if one was not listening for them. |
| Jennifer | | |
| McCaig | H | Very few interactions with other parties (maybe 2?) over the course of two weeks on Chichagof. |
| Andrei | | |
| Thomas | | |