

Action Thresholds for Homeless Camps on Conservation Lands

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Public Use:	How frequent is public use of the property? Are there any trails? Is there parking/outhouse/infrastructure? Do we host restoration/volunteer/education events on the property?
Public Health Concern:	Weigh the degree of homeless/illegal activity against the amount of public use. Is there hazardous waste present (needles, human waste, bodily fluids)? Is there obvious illegal substance abuse taking place? Are there any weapons present? How close is the property to areas of special concern (schools, libraries etc.)? How much garbage/litter is present? Is the garbage attracting rodents?
Camper Health:	Do the campers appear to be in imminent danger? Proximity to busy road, train tracks, steep slope, river/floodplain etc.? Obvious extreme substance abuse? Proximity of human waste? Proximity of food waste and rodents?
Nuisance Level:	What is the perceived nuisance level from the surrounding community point of view? Is there criminal activity beyond illegal substance abuse (chopping stolen bicycles etc.)? Known needles or human waste present? Abundance of garbage/debris? Is there imminent work scheduled for the site (resto/vol. event)? How close is the site to schools etc.? <u>Code violations?</u>
Environmental Degradation:	How badly are the encampments degrading the natural resources? What is the level of vegetation destruction/soil compaction? Proximity to wetlands? Is litter/human waste impacting the environment?
Children Present:	If yes, must call law enforcement immediately!
Weapons Present:	If yes, must call law enforcement immediately!
Hazardous Waste Present:	Needles, human waste, bodily fluid. If yes, must post signage stating known hazardous materials present and keep any volunteers XX-yards away from known hazardous waste.
Debris Present:	Is there an extreme amount of camp debris beyond standard level of litter? This will effect cleanup cost/effort, <u>and attract more illegal dumping.</u>
Restoration Efforts:	Have we performed any restoration efforts on this site in the past? If yes, we may act quicker in removing camps as to protect our restoration investment in the property.
Acquisition/Funding Rqmts.	How did we acquire the property? Are there any requirements/obligations to maintain public access etc.?
Other Notes:	
Recommended Action:	Increased monitoring visits. Post more signage. Fencing where practical. Call local law enforcement. Call social service providers. Clear camps in conjunction with local law enforcement & social services. Clean up camp debris (extremely expensive if hazardous waste present, difficult to find contractors). How to prevent new camps from establishing? Hire security patrol.