

Emails between Corey Goodman and:
NPS employees Gary Machlis, Patrick Walsh, Kurt Fristrup, and Damon
Joyce, and
DOT VOLPE employee Cynthia Lee,
concerning Goodman's request to obtain key relevant data from the PORE
004 microphone as cited in the published VOLPE 2011 report

From: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>

Subject: Re: PORE Graphs

Date: April 20, 2012 7:26:44 PM PDT

To: Patrick_Walsh@nps.gov

Cc: Kevin_Killeen@nps.gov, damon_joyce@nps.gov, Kurt_Fristrup@nps.gov,
gary_machlis@nps.gov

Dear Dr. Walsh,

Thank you for your letter. Your response is not acceptable and is in conflict with DOI policies.

My first request for the audio files from microphone PORE 004 was to Cynthia Lee at the Department of Transportation on Monday April 2. It has now taken 18 days to inform me that I am required to submit a FOIA request to obtain the audio data from a published paper.

The DOI Scientific Integrity Policy and Code of Scientific and Scholarly Conduct provide a clear framework for this request and directs NPS to provide relevant data so as not to hinder the scientific and scholarly work of others.

NPS cooperation and collaboration was extended in a professional and collegial fashion up until a week ago. Suddenly, and without explanation, responses to emails and inquiries were abruptly stopped on Friday April 13.

Why did it take seven days and five emails to various scientists across NPS to get an answer to my request of Friday April 13 (that was itself a repeat of a request from several days earlier)? From the outset, I asked about the availability of the audio recordings from the PORE 004 microphone. I have stated, in several communications, that I am prepared to work with NPS staff to manage the data transfer as efficiently as possible. I have repeatedly asked about the size and time period covered by audio files, and whether we could target the request to make it more manageable. I have been prepared to request files for individual hours or sets of hours, reducing the overall size of the data transfer. NPS has not responded. My offer to work with NPS staff has been ignored – not answered.

Thus, I ask you once again: what is the time period and size of the individual files? That is a question that scientists can best answer, not a FOIA officer. I have offered repeatedly to provide a very focused and specific request once I am provided that information.

My experience with NPS and/or DOI FOIA requests is that FOIA has been used as a tool to block access, not grant it. In the recent past, my requests have taken six to twelve months to be processed – and the responses have been incomplete or non-responsive.

Dr. Fristrup and Mr. Joyce were being professionally responsive and cooperative up until last Friday morning (one week ago). I was very thankful to them for their assistance.

But then last Friday they went silent, and it has taken one week, three emails to them, and two emails to the NPS Scientific Integrity Officer Dr. Machlis to get your reply directing that I must now submit a formal FOIA request for these data.

Surely you must know that you have given me a political and not a scientific response. Why the change in behavior? Why violate the DOI Code of Scientific and Scholarly Conduct?

Your change of behavior represents a double standard. Last week your scientists were willing to share published data. Now one week later, I am told I must file a FOIA request to obtain the rest of the data I requested. Why?

I have not requested 60,000 megabytes of data. That is a straw man argument. As for others who submitted a request for data under FOIA, that is between you and them. I am a scientist, am doing scientific and scholarly analysis, and have asked you as scientists to please share your published data.

My request to your team is to please tell me the time period and size of individual audio files. This should take only a moment. I will then quickly respond with specific dates and times once we all know the file size. The files can be sent to me in a similar fashion as how Mr. Joyce transferred the other data last week. That worked very smoothly and efficiently.

Would you please immediately send the information about the data? I will work with you and your staff to make the request more efficient. I request that you confirm that the requested individual files will then be promptly provided.

If you will not honor my request, would you please tell me why and under whose direction you are acting.

Thanks very much.

Corey Goodman

From: Patrick_Walsh@nps.gov
Subject: Fw: PORE Graphs
Date: April 20, 2012 5:46:20 PM PDT
To: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>
Cc: Kevin_Killeen@nps.gov

Dr. Goodman,

While we were able to quickly provide you with the VOLPE 004 data in response to your original request because the data were readily available and relatively easy to transfer, the PORE 003 data you are requesting now

are substantially larger files (possibly up to 60,000 megabytes) and will take more staff time and effort to compile and transfer. As such, we are going to treat your request for these records as a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. By copy of this e-mail, I am forwarding your request to the NPS Pacific West Region FOIA Officer, Kevin Killeen, who will be sending a follow up message to you with a tracking number and other information.

It has come to our attention that others have submitted a request for this data under FOIA, so we will be looking for the most efficient way to make these files available to all.

Regarding the other requests in your 4/13/2012 e-mail, please provide a description of the records you are requesting from NPS to the FOIA Officer, Mr. Killeen, and we will do our best to locate them for you.

Sincerely,

Patrick Walsh
National Park Service
Natural Resource Stewardship & Science
Environmental Quality Division
303-987-6620

From: Gary_Machlis@nps.gov
Subject: Re: update
Date: April 19, 2012 5:30:09 AM PDT
To: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>

Hi Corey,
I have received your emails and review each carefully as it comes in. We are following DOI policies on allegations of scientific misconduct.

Thanks,
Gary

Dr. Gary Machlis
Science Advisor to the Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001
email: gary_machlis@nps.gov
phone: 202.219.8933

From: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>
Subject: PORE 004 data
Date: April 18, 2012 1:28:05 PM PDT
To: damon_joyce@nps.gov, Kurt_Fristrup@nps.gov
Cc: Richard Steffel rsteffel@environcorp.com

Damon and Kurt,

You never responded. When will I be getting the audio recordings used for the VOLPE 2011 report?

Thanks very much.

Best,

Corey

From: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>
Subject: Re: update
Date: April 18, 2012 1:26:29 PM PDT
To: gary_machlis@nps.gov

Hi Gary,

I haven't heard from you. When will I be getting the audio recordings using in the published VOLPE 2011 report?

Are the emails, data, drafts, and documents properly secured?

Best,

Corey

From: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>
Subject: update
Date: April 16, 2012 3:01:34 PM PDT
To: gary_machlis@nps.gov

Hi Gary,

I am working on completing the submission to you and others and will have it at the end

of this week or early next week.

In the meantime, I have two requests.

First, I requested the VOLPE soundscape data from FAA, and they referred me to NPS acoustic scientists at Fort Collins. The two key scientists, Dr. Kurt Fristrup and Damon Joyce, were terrific and cooperative in responding to my requests, supplying me with data, and answering my questions. Then on Friday, and again today, they have stopped responding. Not a peep. I am still waiting for the audio recordings -- something I requested from the outset. I am just concerned, given their change of behavior, that they might have been told not to respond. You and I are both waiting on me to finish this up. Any help you can provide in getting me the audio data for the published report would be much appreciated.

Second, I hope that in the intervening weeks, you are making sure that emails and data and drafts of reports etc. are locked down. I'm sure you will want to make sure that the integrity of your investigation is not compromised. Please provide assurance that you have taken appropriate measures.

Best,

Corey

From: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>
Subject: Re: PORE Graphs
Date: April 15, 2012 1:45:52 PM PDT
To: damon_joyce@nps.gov, Kurt_Fristrup@nps.gov
Cc: Richard Steffel <rsteffel@environcorp.com>

Damon and Kurt,

Thanks very much for being so helpful. Was still hoping to get further data from you.

In particular, would very much like to get access to audio recordings for specific periods of time. How are they catalogued? By the hour? How large are the files? Once you provide the basic information, I will request several. Thanks.

Also, could you please provide the metrics for how many airplanes flights occurred in the 59 day period, or as a measure of a given period of time, at PORE 004?

Thanks very much.

Best,

Corey

From: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>
Subject: Re: PORE Graphs
Date: April 13, 2012 12:07:57 PM PDT
To: damon_joyce@nps.gov
Cc: Richard Steffel <rsteffel@environcorp.com>

Damon,

I realized that you had sent me all of #2 below -- all of the SPLAT analysis. Thank you. I was flying back last night and looked too quickly. Sorry. Please do send the PORE 003 data, and please let me know how I can get specific audio recordings, whether I ask for a specific hour, or however.

Best,

Corey

From: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>
Subject: Re: request for information concerning the investigation of allegations of misconduct
Date: April 13, 2012 7:03:18 AM PDT
To: gary_machlis@nps.gov

Gary,

Thanks for your letter last Friday. I just wanted you to know that I am working on the required materials for a complete submission and should have it for you early next week. I'm trying to get some additional information together to finish off the submission.

Thanks,

Corey

From: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>
Subject: Re: PORE Graphs
Date: April 13, 2012 6:47:29 AM PDT
To: damon_joyce@nps.gov
Cc: Richard Steffel <rsteffel@environcorp.com>

Damon,

Thanks again. You have been extremely helpful.

While trying to understand the NPS DEIS for Drakes Estero and its soundscape analysis, I have become very impressed with your team in Fort Collins and the group with which you collaborate at Volpe. Excellent science. Makes a lot of sense.

I appreciate the time you have taken to help me. You've given me a good education of what you do and how you do it. I've also read your materials on the internet. I come back now with some more questions and requests concerning the PORE data.

There are some specific audio events I would now like to analyze. As a start, I am trying to better appreciate the impact of airplanes on the soundscape.

(1) please send me the PORE 003 data just as you previously sent the PORE 004 data;

(2) do you have a SPLAT analysis of the entire two month period for PORE 004? Is the SPLAT data easy to send, or should I request specific days or hours? Is the SPLAT data already annotated for airplanes?

(3) How do I get access to audio recordings for specific events or specific periods of time? How are they catalogued? By the hour? How large are the files? How long or how short a time period can I or should I request?

(4) Did you measure or catalogue how many airplanes fly overhead in a given period of time? Are there any tables or graphs of airplane events and how loud they are at the four PORE microphones. Airplanes generated an increase overall of around 1.5 dBA so presumably there must be a lot of events.

Thanks very much.

Best,

Corey

From: damon_joyce@nps.gov

Subject: PORE Spectrograms

Date: April 12, 2012 4:08:56 PM PDT

To: Richard Steffel <rsteffel@environcorp.com>, Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>

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Download File: PR4_2010_02_07hi.zip

24,647.75 KB, **Fingerprint:** 523ff34ff2cfd828dfe90ce9b2bf51ae

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From: Damon_Joyce@nps.gov
Subject: Re: PORE Graphs
Date: April 12, 2012 4:07:59 PM PDT
To: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>
Cc: Richard Steffel <rsteffel@environcorp.com>

We have several ways of detecting aircraft; looking at the visual signature in a spectrogram and tagging it, or listening to a subsample of corresponding audio data, and accounting for the percent time audible.

I'm also sending a link to the spectrograms. Aircraft have a very a distinct "blob" shape, with a mid frequency muffling from ground reflection. Look for the prominent event at 02h on 2009-07-30: that's a jet. The corkscrew looking thing at 14h is a prop driven aircraft.

As to the wind issue: our systems log 1-sec wind speed as well. We exclude seconds with excessive wind; Volpe has a way of backfilling those data.

-Damon

Damon Joyce
Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division
National Park Service
1201 Oakridge Dr. Ste. 100
Fort Collins, CO 80525
970.267.2116

Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>
To: Damon_Joyce@nps.gov
04/12/2012 04:26 PM

Cc: Richard Steffel <rsteffel@environcorp.com>
Subject: Re: PORE Graphs

Damon,
Thanks very much. Very helpful. How do you filter or detect airplanes?
What is the profile you look for? How do you subtract them?
And how do you detect the level of wind for an hour?
Thanks,
Corey

From: Damon_Joyce@nps.gov
Subject: PORE Graphs
Date: April 12, 2012 1:33:58 PM PDT
To: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>
Cc: Richard Steffel <rsteffel@environcorp.com>

Here are our standard set of graphics for the PORE data, as well as the metrics summary file we normally produce.

The metrics are median values of percentiles, and any second with 5m/s wind has been excluded (the whole hour was thrown out if 25% of the hour was too windy).

E.g., The "Median Hour Metrics" reported L090 for 00h value is the median L90 percentile value for all the midnight hours..

(See attached file: METRICS_PR4.txt)(See attached file: PR4_graphics.zip)

-Damon

Damon Joyce
Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division
National Park Service
1201 Oakridge Dr. Ste. 100
Fort Collins, CO 80525
970.267.2116

From: Kurt_Fristrup@nps.gov
Subject: Re: access to VOLPE PORE 004 microphone data
Date: April 11, 2012 2:04:56 PM PDT
To: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>

Cc: Patrick_Walsh@nps.gov

Corey,

We have a variety of standardized plots. When my programming colleague returns, I will find out what we can generate rapidly and which tools would be easy for you to run.

Kurt Fristrup
970 267 2102

Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>

To: Kurt_Fristrup@nps.gov

04/11/2012 02:38 PM

Cc: Patrick_Walsh@nps.gov

Subject: Re: access to VOLPE PORE 004 microphone data

Kurt,

Thanks very much. I did receive it. Just downloaded. Running off to a board meeting so won't get to look until later tonight. Will get back to you tomorrow if I have any problems understanding. I presume I might need to write some code to plot it. Have you already done so? Are there hourly plots (second by second), or just the raw data?

Thanks again.

Best,
Corey

From: Kurt_Fristrup@nps.gov

Subject: Re: access to VOLPE PORE 004 microphone data

Date: April 11, 2012 1:35:43 PM PDT

To: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>

Cc: Patrick_Walsh@nps.gov

Corey,

You should have received an email message through our Accelion file transfer service that gives you access to a copy of the data. If you have not received this message, or if you encountered some other difficulty, please let me know.

Kurt Fristrup
970 267 2102

From: damon_joyce@nps.gov
Subject: PORE SPL data
Date: April 11, 2012 12:13:28 PM PDT
To: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>, kurt_fristrup@nps.gov

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Here are the PORE 1-sec LEQ data (in hourly CSV files) translated from Volpe's binary data form

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Available until: **11 May 2012**

Download File: NVSPL_description.zip

290,566.00 KB, **Fingerprint:** 29dd2d6ffd30cd93d92f97dbf2281fab

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From: Patrick_Walsh@nps.gov
Subject: Re: access to VOLPE PORE 004 microphone data
Date: April 11, 2012 12:21:48 PM PDT
To: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>
Cc: Kurt_Fristrup@nps.gov

Dr. Goodman,
Dr. Kurt Fristrup of the NPS Natural Sounds Program is in the process of translating the data from the original binary format to a text format so it is accessible to others. ENVIRON has requested the data as well. Dr. Fristrup is arranging to transfer the files to you via an NPS ftp site later today. A separate e-mail with instructions for accessing the files on the ftp site will be sent to you.

In response to your other question, yes, it is my understanding that all sound measurement data collected by Volpe at all national park units has been or will be transferred to NPS. This is standard practice.

Regards,

Patrick Walsh
National Park Service
Natural Resource Stewardship & Science

From: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>
Subject: access to VOLPE PORE 004 microphone data
Date: April 11, 2012 9:37:03 AM PDT
To: Patrick_Walsh@nps.gov

Patrick,

Cynthia Lee said I should contact you. Starting on April 2, I have been trying to get access to the primary data from the VOLPE PORE 004 microphone from both July 2009 and January 2010. These data played a major role in the VOLPE 2011 report on PRNS.

I am a little puzzled as to why data collected by the DOT for a DOT report is not being made available by DOT, but rather by NPS. Moreover, it is unclear to me whether the data has or has not been transferred from DOT to NPS. Please clarify what is going on with the data. Are the data from all of the FAA studies of NPS parks transferred to NPS?

I would like access to both the sound level data as well as the sound recordings. While I realize that the sound recording files are probably quite large, the sound measurement data should be relatively easy to transfer. Would you please do so as soon as possible. In terms of the sound recording files, if it made transfer easier, I would be glad to specify a series of 8 days worth of data I would particularly like the recordings from.

Please let me know how best to proceed, and give me a sense of timing.

Thanks very much for your assistance.

Best wishes,

Corey

Corey S. Goodman, Ph.D.

From: Cynthia.Lee@dot.gov
Subject: RE: a question about a study you authored
Date: April 9, 2012 5:01:21 AM PDT
To: Corey Goodman <corey.goodman@me.com>

Dr. Goodman,

Thank you for your correspondence. Plots showing decibel level over time (daily and

hourly) were provided in Appendix A, Section A.4 of the report. The PORE data were submitted to NPS upon completion of our study. NPS is making arrangements to send data to those requesting a copy. Please contact Patrick Walsh in the Denver Environmental Quality Division of NPS at 303-987-6620.

Cynthia

From: Corey Goodman [mailto:corey.goodman@me.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 10:14 AM
To: Lee, Cynthia (VOLPE)
Cc: Corey Goodman
Subject:
Re: a question about a study you authored

Cynthia,

You never responded to my note from Monday. I once again request access to the primary data from the Point Reyes study. Will you please let me know in what format the sound recording data from PORE 004 exists, and how I might obtain a copy.

Thanks very much.

Best,
Corey

Corey S. Goodman, Ph.D.

On Apr 2, 2012, at 12:23 PM, Corey Goodman wrote:

Hi Cynthia,

I am a professor at UCSF and am interested in the study you co-authored by the NPS on "Baseline Ambient Sound Levels in Point Reyes National Seashore" (FP-01 JD857).

Could you let me know what number and when I might reach you to ask about your study?

In particular, I am interested in some of the daytime (7 am to 7 pm) measurements from the Drakes Estero (PORE 004) microphone. I'd like to know how I would get your primary data for four particular days in January 2010 during your 30 day recording from that microphone. Can you simply send me some sort of graph or spreadsheet that shows decibel level vs. time? Please let me know what is available.

Thanks very much.

Best,
Corey

Corey S. Goodman, Ph.D.
corey.goodman@me.com
650 922-1431 (mobile)