

Endangered Species Dialogue Program

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Essential question: What does it mean to live with other species, or to have them go extinct?

NOTE: This program outline includes options for shorter Phase 2 or Phase 3 dialogues, or full Phase 4 dialogue, depending on the situation, available time, setting and audience interest.

1. **Intro (3 minutes)**
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Introduce topic: “Species on the Edge” with a focus on California condors; condor story is one of near-extinction, of hope, and of conflict
 - c. Describe the program: how it’s similar to and different from a traditional ranger talk
 - d. Why dialogue? We can learn from each other; we make decisions on endangered species as a society, not alone; it’s a rare opportunity to talk together
 - e. Group agreements: listen with an open mind & respect; step up, step back
2. **Phase 1 (Building community):** Think of a moment with an animal that made a memory for you; what has stayed with you? (5-7 minutes)
 - a. Pair share
 - b. Share out (2-3 people)
3. **Common (shared) experience:** Interpretive talk on condors (7-10 minutes)
 - a. My moment with condors on the Navajo Bridge (weave in condor lifeways and adaptations)
 - b. Loss: What brought condors to the brink
 - c. Hope: Captive rearing and the passion of people who made it happen
 - i. Where condors stand now
 - d. Conflict: Challenges in the environment (focus on lead ammunition)
4. **Phase 2 (Sharing the diversity of our experiences):** What is a species you wouldn’t want to live without?
 - a. Wagon wheel (or carpet of ideas or graffiti wall) (5 minutes)
 - b. Brief large-group conversation
5. **Transition:** NPS mandate and link to endangered species at other NPS sites
6. **Exit strategy—to end the dialogue here:** *Wrap up with a focus on how Grand Canyon is working to protect condors, where folks can see condors, and an invitation to learn more at the Visitor Center.*
7. **Phase 3 (Exploring beyond our own perspectives):** (7-10 minutes)
 - a. How should we be dealing with endangered species as a society? (Large-group dialogue)
 - i. Alternate questions: What reassures you about our relationship with other species? What discourages you?
 - b. Statement: Humans have an obligation to ensure their own survival first, rather than the survival of other species. (Vote with your feet or forced voting, plus conversation)
 - i. Alternate statements: Species have no intrinsic value, except as it relates to human survival. (Or species have intrinsic value, whether or not it relates to human survival.)
8. **Exit strategy – to end the dialogue here:** *Acknowledge the complexity of the issue and thank visitors for exploring it together; encourage visitors to continue the conversation among*

themselves, mention places to learn more and your willingness to stay afterwards and continue the conversation. If you must end the dialogue at Phase 3, it's important to allow/encourage visitors who want to continue the conversation to stay and do so with you and with each other. Try not to abruptly leave visitors at this stage with no opportunity for synthesis or hopeful, purposeful outlook.

9. Phase 4 (Synthesis and closure): (5-7 minutes)

- a. Is there anything you've heard or thought about during this conversation that you would want to share with someone else? (Popcorn)

10. Conclusion:

- a. [Weave the threads of the dialogue and shared experience together, and include something like the following]: Thank you for joining in the conversation today. I'll be here afterward, if you want to continue our conversation. If you'd like more information about the condor and other endangered species, please drop by the visitor center and ask. By talking together today, we are contributing to the story of the condor and of this national park. Your voices are an important part of that story and will help decide what happens next.