

Natural Area Impact –

More camping – can't tell what is “not unsuitable”

Can't expect timely enforcement.

Bitter Experience few days camping - decades of work

hundreds of volunteers

Leaves denuded -- erosion, stream & lake runoff, invasive like disturbance

Soil compaction long lasting hard for desirables to establish

Ground cover trampled and gone

Shrubs and cut or dug out

Cut tree branches won't grow back -girdling, roots damaged

All natural area valued only small part restored and areas are kept natural for reasons. Provide:

Climate moderation

Carbon sequestration

Storm water flow reduction

Air and water filtering and cleansing

Wildlife habitat

Human Health and enjoyment

Psycho-Social well-being, crime reduction property value and more

Allow people to tolerate living in dense city, reduce need to travel to experience nature, reduce urban sprawl

Dismayed that authors of the legislation unnecessarily pit concern for homeless against natural areas.

Pope Francis encyclical *Laudato Si* combined valuing nature with care for our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Encourage reading it and closing with some relevant quotes.

“Many people today sense a profound imbalance which drives them to frenetic activity and makes them feel busy, in a constant hurry which in turn leads them to ride rough-shod over everything around them. This too affects how they treat the environment.”

“Neighborhoods, even those recently built, are congested, chaotic and lacking in sufficient green space. We were not meant to be inundated by cement, asphalt, glass and metal, and deprived of physical contact with nature.”

“Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good....”