

Sierra Nevada Network Lake Monitoring Protocol

SOP 11. Post-season Procedures

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Revision History Log

Previous Version #	Revision Date	Author	Changes Made	Reason for Change	New Version #

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This SOP describes the end-of-season procedures that are carried out once sampling is complete for both extensive and index sites.

1. Field Season Debriefing

The protocol lead conducts a post-season debriefing session with all crew members. The purpose is to discuss the season and any departures from protocol (missed sites, samples, etc) and identify successes and areas that require improvement. Trip routes (e.g., travel time, difficulty, alternate routes) are discussed and documented.

The protocol lead follows standard seasonal check-out procedures on the technicians' final day.

2. Post-season Data Procedures

- Crews verify that all data is accounted for and complete.
- All data sheets and field notebooks are photocopied or scanned and the originals are filed.
- Location information is typed up in a word document and stored on the network.
- Photos are downloaded, renamed, and organized properly.
- GPS points are downloaded and saved.

3. Post-season Equipment Procedures

1. Crews clean and return all personal and group backpacking equipment.
 - a. Ensure equipment is in good condition and make repairs when necessary.
 - b. Clean out backpacks and wipe with a damp paper towel.
 - c. Inventory first aid kit and make a note of missing items.
 - d. Dry and prepare drinking water filter for winter storage per manufacturer instructions.
 - e. Unzip and air out sleeping bags.
 - f. Set up and air out tents, remove any debris, and ensure they are completely dry. Patch any holes in tents and stuff sacks.
 - g. Thoroughly clean pots and stove. Take stove apart, soak in white gas for a couple hours, and then reassemble.
 - h. Wipe out bear canisters.
2. Crews return, clean, and store sampling equipment for the winter.
 - a. Remove batteries from electronics.
 - b. Rinse hand-pump thoroughly with lots of DI water.
 - c. Bleach YSI cable without touching probe.
 - d. DI rinse (triple rinse with DI water; soak overnight; triple rinse again; soak overnight; triple rinse) cubi containers, 1-liter HDPE bottles, filter holders, and syringes.

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- e. Set equipment in a clean and protected location and allow to air dry completely. To protect from dust loosely cover with paper towels.
 - f. Pack equipment into labeled Rubbermaid containers stored at the Sequoia and Kings Canyon I&M office.
3. Crews inventory all sampling equipment. Broken equipment is fixed or replaced. The crews submits a list of equipment to the protocol lead that requires replacing.
 4. Crews prep new sample bottles for next season. Triple rinse, soak for several days, triple rinse, and then allow to air dry thoroughly.

4. Post-field Season Data Entry And Documentation

Field observations and results are entered into the SIEN Water Database. Refer to SOPs 12–13 for data entry procedures.

The protocol lead documents logistics and strategies from the season that may be used as a reference for future field season planning (routes, mileages, approximate time taken, etc.).