

Table 2-5: Natural Sound Disturbance

Descriptor	Description & Standard	Monitoring	Process for Evaluation
Very High	Natural sounds are often interrupted by motorized noise including loud noise. Motorized noise may be audible up to 50% of any hour, and there may be up to 50 motorized noise intrusions per day that exceed natural ambient sound. Motorized noise does not exceed 60dBA.	Sound monitoring would be conducted on a continuous basis using remote monitors. Long-term monitoring and attended monitoring would take place at locations of particular concern or where it has been determined that management action is necessary to meet standards. Other locations would be randomly sampled.	Indicators and standards would be used as benchmarks for five years while additional information is gathered through the initial stages of the monitoring program. After five years, the NPS would propose changes to either the indicators or standards through a public process. Relative differences between categories (Low, Medium, High, Very High) would be retained during the revision process.
High	Natural sounds are frequently interrupted by motorized noise, including some loud noise. Motorized noise may be audible up to 25% of any hour, and there may be as many as 25 motorized noise intrusions per day that exceed natural ambient sound. Motorized noise does not exceed 60dBA.		
Medium	Natural sounds predominate in this area, but there are infrequent motorized intrusions, a few of which may be loud. Motorized noise may be audible up to 15% of any hour, and there may be as many as 10 motorized noise intrusions per day that exceed natural ambient sound. Motorized noise does not exceed 40dBA.		
Low	Natural sounds predominate in this area and motorized noise intrusions are very rare and usually faint. Motorized noise may be audible up to 5% of any hour, and there is no more than 1 motorized intrusion each day that exceeds natural ambient sound. Motorized noise does not exceed 40dBA.		
<p>Notes: “Audible” means audibility to a person of normal hearing. Maximum sound levels assume the measurement device is more than 50 feet from the noise source. For comparison, 40dBA is the overall sound level inside a typical residential home. 70dBA is the sound level of a vacuum cleaner as perceived by the user.</p>			