

Handout #2

Meeting #35 Summary

Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP)

Stakeholder Committee Meeting

March 2, 2011, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

BCAG Conference Room

Stakeholder Committee Attendees

Richard Price (Butte Co. Ag Comm.)	Woody Elliott (CNPS)
Colleen Cecil (Butte Co. Farm Bureau)	Suellen Rowlinson (CNPS)
Robin Huffman (Butte Env, Council)	
Desi Hatton (Butte Env, Council)	

Resource Agencies Attendees

Nina Bicknese (USFWS)	Jenny Marr (DFG)
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Steering Committee and Staff Attendees

Chris Devine (BCAG)	Pete Rawlings (SAIC)
	Jon Hilliard (SAIC)

Interested Public Attendees

Greg McKenzie (Restoration Resources)	Jamison Watts (No. CA Regional Land Trust.)
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Associated Documents/Handouts

Agenda packet including:

1. BRCP Schedule (Handout #1)
2. Meeting Notes from November 2010 Stakeholder Meeting (Handout #2)

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions and Agenda Review
2. Update on Status of BRCP Chapters and Process for Developing Remaining BRCP Components – PowerPoint Presentation – Pete Rawlings
3. Updated BRCP Schedule Review (**Handout #1**) – Chris Devine
4. Meeting Notes from December 2010 Stakeholder Meeting (**Handout #2**)
5. USFWS/DFG/NMFS Items for Discussion
6. Action Items and Next Meeting Agenda
7. Action Items and Next Meeting Agenda

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Introductions and Agenda Review

The agenda was distributed and the names of attendees were introduced.

Update on Status of the BRCP Chapters and Process for Developing Remaining BRCP Components

SAIC presented a PowerPoint presentation (hardcopies provided) that outlined the current status of BRCP Chapters and the pending Independent Science review process for the HCP/NCCP. Specific comments and discussion regarding the Chapter updates were as follows:

Chapter 2, Covered Activities

It was asked if BMP's and Avoidance and Minimization Measures would be part of the Covered Activities in this section. Pete Rawlings replied that these items would be elsewhere in the document (Appendix and Conservation Strategy), but cross references could be provided.

Chapter 3, Ecological Baseline Conditions

SAIC noted this chapter was being updated for remapping and explanations of methodology for Vernal Pools and Vernal Swale Complex, along with additional information provided in Appendix A. It was asked how the species accounts relate to Chapter 3. It was indicated that Appendix A will have species accounts and habitat models, in support of the information covered in Chapters 3 and 5. Additional "signposting" can be provided in the document to clearly explain the relationship between the Appendix and Chapters.

The species habitat models are the primary tool for developing the Conservation Strategy and conducting the impact assessment.

Chapter 5, Conservation Strategy

It was asked if species-specific goals and objectives will be added in this Chapter. SAIC indicated that species-specific goals and objectives will be added for species conservation needs that are not addressed by the landscape- and natural community-level goals and objectives. Chris Devine noted that the BRCP will address covered species at multiple levels – the broad landscape level, the more-focused community level, and lastly the individual species levels. The USFWS stressed the need to clearly demonstrate the connection between the various levels of analysis relative to individual species, to avoid confusion in the future when USFWS has to write support documentation for Section 10 take permits ("you need to connect the dots").

Chapter 8, Implementation Costs and Funding Sources

SAIC explained that EPS is preparing implementation costs for the BRCP, timed to 5-year increments, and a funding fee structure. Chris Devine said BCAG is meeting with BRCP Permittees to discuss the first draft of the funding plan prior to release for public review. The first administrative draft of the BRCP planned for release June 2011 may not include details of the funding plan (Ch. 8), but it would be provided in the later drafts. It was noted that education of the public on the funding plan is very important, and it may be necessary to engage local media to accurately disseminate the information. It was indicated that the community needs to be educated on the benefits of taking a holistic HCP/NCCP approach to addressing listed species

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and natural areas, and efficiencies that can be realized by doing a concurrent Clean Water Act Section 404 compliance strategy along with the BRCP. It was recommended that the US Army Corp of Engineers should be added to the list of participants in the BRCP and that Clean Water Act compliance strategy be described in the BRCP.

Chapter 10, Integration of Science in BRCP Development

SAIC noted that the Independent Science Advisors will be reconvening soon to review Chapter 5 (Conservation Strategy). Clarification on the makeup and function of the Independent Science Advisors was also provided in response to questions.

Appendices

It was noted that a natural communities-covered species matrix would be helpful, and should be added to Chapter 3. SAIC noted the crosswalk would be too detailed for Chapter 3, but again suggested that additional “signposting” cross-references could be provided in the Chapters and the Appendices. DFG indicated they have prepared “habitat lost vs. habitat conserved” matrix in NCCP’s that is later used as part of the actual permit issued by Fish and Game.

Updated BRCP Schedule Review (Handout #1)

Chris Devine explained the draft schedule for the preparation and release of the administrative draft and draft HCP/NCCP documents relative to upcoming meetings of the Stakeholder Meeting. It was asked if the January-February 2012 public workshops would include the scoping for the EIS/EIR for the BRCP. Chris Devine stated the schedule for EIS/EIR scoping had not been determined, but agreed it made sense to track the scoping with workshops on the HCP/NCCP, but possibly at different meetings. The possibility of doing the EIS/EIR scoping at the time of release of a second administrative draft HCP/NCCP was also discussed.

Meeting Notes from December 2010 Stakeholder Meeting (Handout #2)

No comments or changes.

USFWS/DFG/NMFS Items for Discussion

None.

Action Items and Next Meeting Agenda

The date of the next Stakeholder Committee meeting is April 6, 2011. Planned discussion will include updates to BRCP chapters and the strategy for Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting.