

Handout #6B

Meeting Summary

Butte Regional HCP/NCCP

Stakeholder Committee Meeting

July 1, 2009, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

BCAG Conference Room

Stakeholder Committee Attendees

Jeff Mott (CSU Chico)	Pat Kelly (Sierra Club)
Mary Daniels (Butte Co. Ag. Dept.)	Colleen Cecil (BC Farm Bureau)
Suellen Rowilson (CNPS)	Virginia Getz (Ducks Unlimited)

Resource Agencies Attendees

None

Steering Committee and Staff Attendees

Jane Dolan (BCAG/ Supervisor)

Paul Cylinder (SAIC)

Chris Devine (BCAG)

Holly Wilson (SAIC)

Monica Hood (SAIC)

Jim Estep (SAIC Team)

Interested Public Attendees

Chris Swift (Restoration Resources)

Rob Capriola (Westervelt)

Greg McKenzie (Dove Ridge)

Associated Documents/Handouts:

Agenda packet including:

1. Table 1. Acreage calculations for Land Cover Type by Conservation Acquisition Zone (CAZ).
2. Table – Butte Regional Conservation Plan Habitat Preservation Objectives for Covered Species – Factors Used to Establish Habitat Preservation Objectives
3. Table - Extent of Existing Covered Species Habitats within Conservation Acquisition Zones
4. Table - Habitat Conservation Objectives for Selected Species Expressed as a Percentage of Existing Covered Species Habitats by CAZ
5. Table - Extent of Permanent Impacts on Covered Species Habitats Based on Species Habitat Models within UPAs
6. Example of Impact Assessments for Selected Covered Wildlife and Plant Species
7. Proposed Approach to Assessing Impacts of Covered Activities Implemented Outside of UPAs
8. Biological Objectives for Selected Covered Species
9. Acronyms/Glossary

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10. Species' Habitat Models Figures

11. Meeting Notes from June 2009 Stakeholder Meeting

Meeting Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. General Plan Updates
3. Habitat Objectives for Species by CAZ
4. Habitat Impact Acreages, Table of Impacts
5. Meeting Notes from June 2009 Stakeholder Meeting
6. Action Items and Next Meetings

General Plan Updates

- Chris Devine indicated no recent updates to County General Plan.

Other Updates

- Chris also identified that Caltrans has requested to be a permittee so a list of Caltrans projects will be added to the covered activities.

Table 1 and Table of Butte Regional Conservation Plan Habitat Preservation Objectives for Covered Species

Table 1 from last meeting was briefly discussed (acreage calculations for Land Cover Type by CAZ), as well as a reminder of the discussion at the last meeting about the factors on the Butte Regional Conservation Plan Habitat Preservation Objectives for Covered Species table and the Bald Eagle example. The four factors listed in table that were used to determine the objectives were discussed and it was identified that in most cases species are habitat limiting but for some species other stressors are as great as habitat loss (e.g., toxic contaminants). The discussion included a question about why percentages are different – breeding and nesting have a higher goal for example in terms of most limiting habitat feature for a species. The objectives are to guide development and implementing of the conservation strategy. It is expected that objectives will be modified as the plan is developed.

Table - Habitat Conservation Objectives for Selected Species Expressed as a Percentage of Existing Covered Species Habitats by CAZ

This table identifies, by CAZ, the extent of habitat needed to be preserved to ensure conservation of species in the planning area. Importance of geographic distribution was discussed related to CAZs and species. The Bald Eagle was discussed as an example.

Discussion concerning keeping foraging habitat as agricultural rice fields but with the flexibility of converting to habitat of higher value. The discussion also included the issue of changes in the extent of rice crops in the future and affect on the conservation strategy.

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Biological Objectives for Selected Covered Species

The biological objectives for Swainson's Hawk was discussed as an example. Objectives are described the "what" but not the "how" – conservation measures will describe the tools to use such as land acquisition, easements, habitat management, etc. Species specific goals and objectives discussed today as distinguished from landscape level and natural community objectives discussed previously that contribute towards achieving the species goals.

Clarification that the species habitat models do not equal the Plan and the Plan does not equal the habitat models. When completed, the Plan will serve as a "manual" for the implementing entity to use in implementing conservation measures and achieving the biological goals and objectives.

The issue of negative impacts to raptors in the past due to pesticide spraying in the orchards was raised – mostly a problem in the winter. Requested that these issues be addressed in the Plan. Permit applicants are the cities and County and cannot included in the Plan regulatory activities over which they have no control.

The question of what happens if there are not enough will sellers of land. Plan is being designed such that sufficient land will be available (through fee title or easement) during the implementing period (30-50 years) to achieve biological goals and objectives.

Impact Analysis Discussion -

Table - Extent of Permanent Impacts on Covered Species Habitats Based on Species Habitat Models within UPAs, and Example of Impact Assessments for Selected Covered Wildlife and Plant Species

The table shows examples of impacts – based on habitat models intersected with UPAs for footprint effects on species' habitats. Clarification - Chico UPA means City plus County. As stated in note to reviewers, it is not assumed that all areas within UPAs get developed. From GP land use designations identified lands designated for future development (parcel by parcel). The table shows estimate of footprint impacts within each UPA. Different approach for impact assessment outside the UPAs is planned – see handout – to be discussed in detail at next Stakeholder meeting. Specific impact assessment examples discussed for Bald Eagle and Swainson's Hawk.

Future chapter text will describe impacts other than direct footprint impacts – e.g., operation and maintenance noise, etc.

Discussion of funding sources for impact mitigation versus contributions to species recovery.

Concluding Discussion –

Implementation of the Plan is driven by the implementing agreement and the permits issued. Permits will identity impact limits (take limits for each species) allowed. Implementation will include monitoring the impacts, ensuring impacts stay within the permit limits, acquisition of lands and restoring habitat to offset impacts and meet the goals of the Plan. All parties that sign the agreement must comply.

Changed/unforeseen circumstances such as climate change were discussed.

Transmission Agency of Northern California (TANC) project was discussed and the possibility of sending a letter on behalf of the group.

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Next meeting - plan to have Covered Activities and Impacts chapters ready for Stakeholder Committee with acreage impact numbers filled into tables.

Meeting Notes from June 3, 2009

- Meetings notes from June 3, 2009 were approved.

Upcoming Workshops/Meetings:

- The next Stakeholder meeting will be held on August 5th, 2009 from 11:00 to 3:00 pm, at BCAG.