

Meeting Summary

Butte Regional HCP/NCCP Stakeholder Committee Meeting

November 7, 2007, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

BCAG Conference Room

Stakeholder Committee Attendees

Richard Price (Butte County Ag. Commission)	Phil Johnson (Altacal Audubon)
Jeff Swindle (CalTrans)	Colleen Aguiar (Butte County Farm Bureau)
Ted Trimble (WCWD)	Virginia Getz (Ducks Unlimited)
Suellen Rowilson (CNPS)	Scott Huber (Altacal Audubon)
Laura Grossman (Sierra Club)	

Resource Agencies Attendees

Katie Perry (DFG)
Jenny Marr (DFG)

Steering Committee and Staff Attendees

Jane Dolan (BCAG/ Supervisor)	Paul Cylinder (SAIC)
Jon Clark (BCAG)	Letty Brown (SAIC)
Chris Devine (BCAG)	

Interested Public Attendees

None

Associated Documents/Handouts:

1. Agenda including Revised Species Habitat Models, an Impact Assessment Approach draft annotated chapter, and Meeting Notes from November 7, 2007
2. Table with Status of Species Models
3. Planning Area Boundary Memo

Action Items and Key Recommendations:

- The draft Planning Agreement was unanimously approved by the cities of Biggs, Oroville, and Gridley, and by the County. The document will go before the city of Chico on November 20th.

- Revised habitat suitability models were reviewed by the Stakeholder Committee. These are posted on the website (buttehcp.com). Most of these are now in final form.
- The recommendation was made to create a species habitat model for the bank swallow. This will be brought to the December Stakeholder Committee meeting.
- A review of the draft vernal pool GIS coverage is still being conducted by SAIC. Once the coverage is ready, SAIC will integrate this data into the existing land cover type mapping dataset, and the vernal pool species habitat models (including the Butte County meadowfoam) will be initiated. These habitat models will be made available for Committee review in time for the December Stakeholder meeting.
- The Vernal Pool/Vernal Swale Mapping Workshop will be held on Wednesday, December 12th, at BCAG, from 2:00 pm- 5:00 pm. This will serve as an opportunity for Stakeholder review of the new vernal pool GIS coverage.
- The draft Existing Protected Lands map was introduced to the Committee and is available to Committee members upon request.
- The next Stakeholder Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 12th, at BCAG, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Meeting Purpose:

- Planning Agreement Status
- Revised Species Habitat Models
- Impact Assessment Approach
- Vernal Pool Mapping Update and Scheduling Map Review
- Existing Protected Lands Database
- Meeting Notes from October 3, 2007
- Action Items and Next Meeting

Planning Agreement Status:

- Chris Devine discussed the status of the draft Planning Agreement. The document has been unanimously approved by Biggs, Gridley, Oroville, and Butte County.
- It will go before the city of Chico on November 20th, at 7pm.

Revised Species Habitat Models:

- Several revised species habitat models were discussed including the bald eagle, white-tailed kite, and foothill yellow-legged frog. The Committee discussed each model individually and offered feedback. Many other revised models are posted on the hcp website (buttehcp.com), but the changes to these were small and did not warrant discussion during the Committee meeting.
- Discussion of the feasibility of building a habitat model for the bank swallow given the specificity of its habitat (e.g. suitable banks along waterways). SAIC will bring a habitat model for the bank swallow to the next Stakeholder meeting.
- The feasibility of building a habitat model for the black rail was discussed. It was agreed that the types of areas that constitute habitat for the black rail (e.g. small seeps and springs) are below the minimum mapping unit of the land cover type database.

- Jenny Marr (DFG) commented that Traditional Section 6 grants are available for species research, and that these grants represent an opportunity to augment scientific knowledge regarding the distribution and biology of many sensitive species.
- More models will be available for Committee review for the next Stakeholder meeting in December.

Impact Assessment Approach:

- Paul Cylinder (SAIC) walked the Committee through the annotated outline for the Impact Assessment chapter of the HCP/NCCP.
- The purpose of the impact assessment will be to describe the impacts of implementing the covered activities (which will be described in Chapter 2 of the HCP/NCCP “Covered Activities”) and the conservation measures (which will be described in Chapter 5 of the HCP/NCCP “Conservation Strategy”) on the covered natural communities and covered species.

Vernal Pool Mapping Update and Scheduling Map Review:

- SAIC has reviewed the Chico Geographic Information Center’s (GIC) draft vernal pool GIS coverage, and has sent the dataset back for minor revisions. This will address issues of classification, rectification, and resolution.
- Once the vernal pool GIS coverage is ready, it will be integrated with the existing land cover type GIS database. Once this is accomplished, the vernal pool species models will be created and brought to the next Stakeholder meeting for Committee review.
- The Vernal Pool/Vernal Swale Mapping Workshop will be held on Wednesday, December 12th, at BCAG, after the regularly held Stakeholder Committee meeting. This will serve as an opportunity for Stakeholder review of the new vernal pool GIS coverage.

Existing Protected Lands Map:

- Paul Cylinder introduced the Existing Protected Lands map to the Committee. This map shows protected lands within the planning area that fall under a range of protected categories including parks, wildlife reserves, wilderness areas, and preserves that are federally, state, county, city and NGO owned, as well as conservation easements and mitigation banks that are privately owned. Protection and management levels and approaches vary for each property; a ranking system will be developed to capture this variation.
- Committee members offered suggestions of additional people and groups to contact to augment or confirm the areas shown on the map.

Planning Area Boundary:

- SAIC/BCAG have created a memo which serves as a draft statement of how the planning area boundary for the Butte Regional HCP/NCCP was developed. Once completed, this statement will be included in the next public outreach newsletter and will be posted on the website.
- Comments on the memo were received.

Upcoming Workshops/Meetings:

- The next Stakeholder meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 12, 11:00 am- 2:00 pm, at BCAG. Agenda items will include review of the vernal pool habitat models, with a focus on the Butte County meadowfoam model.
- The Vernal Pool/Vernal Swale Mapping Workshop will be held after the Stakeholder Committee meeting, in the same room.
- The subsequent Stakeholder Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 9th, 11:00- 3:00 at BCAG.