

Meeting Summary

Butte Regional HCP/NCCP Stakeholder Committee Meeting

September 5, 2007, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

BCAG Conference Room

Stakeholder Committee Attendees

Nathan Key (BC-RCD)	Phil Johnson(Altacal Audubon)
Pia Sevelius (BC-RCD)	Colleen Aguiar (Butte County Farm Bureau)
Jeff Swindle (CalTrans)	Scott McNall (Chico State)
Suellen Rowilson (CNPS)	Scott Huber (Altacal Audubon)
Laura Grossman (Sierra Club)	

Resource Agencies Attendees

Rick Kuyper (USFWS)	Jennifer Hogan (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)	Jim Estep (SAIC)

Interested Public Attendees

None

Associated Documents/Handouts:

1. Agenda including Meeting Notes from August 1st, 2007
2. Public Outreach Materials (Brochure)
3. Species Habitat Model Packet
4. Veiny Monardella Species Account

Action Items and Key Recommendations:

- The first Public Workshop for the Butte HCP/NCCP will be held in Chico on September 5; the second will be held in Oroville on September 12. Both will take place from 6:00 -7:30 pm. See website (buttehcp.com) for additional details.
- The brochure has been finalized and is available through BCAG.

- The draft Veiny Monardella species account is posted (see buttehcp.com). Please submit any comments to Chris Devine and/or Letty Brown.
- The Science Advisory Panel's Guidelines Report is arriving soon; it will be discussed at the next Stakeholder meeting.
- The Chico Geographic Information Center (GIC) will complete the draft vernal pool GIS coverage by mid-September. This will be submitted to BCAG/SAIC for review and for integration with the land cover type database.
- Habitat suitability models for seven of the Covered Species were discussed. These are posted on the website (buttehcp.com). The Committee will be asked to review more models for the next Stakeholder meeting.
- The next Stakeholder meeting will be held October 3rd, 11am- 3pm, at BCAG.

Meeting Purpose:

- Planning Agreement Status
- Upcoming Public Workshops
- Update: Covered Activities Portion of HCP/NCCP
- Science Panel Update
- Status: Veiny Monardella Species Account
- Vernal Pool Mapping Update and Status of Revised Land Cover Type Mapping
- Species Habitat Models
- Action Items and Next Meeting

Planning Agreement:

- Chris Devine discussed the status of the draft Planning Agreement. It is currently about to go out for DFG's required 21-day Notice of Public Availability. DFG's website has been down but this should be posted soon and the 21day clock will begin. The document will likely go before the councils and the Board in October or November.
- BCAG will alert Stakeholders to the dates and times that the Planning Agreement will appear before the councils and Board.

Upcoming Public Workshops:

- The first public workshop will be held in Chico on September 5; the second will be held in Oroville on September 12. Both will take place from 6:00 -7:30 pm.
- Chris Devine discussed the purpose of conducting the upcoming public workshops. The workshops will include an overview presentation, and kiosks for attendees to ask questions. Display materials were also discussed.
- To advertise the public workshops, BCAG sent flyers to many email list serves, including the following: city councils, Chambers of Commerce, economic development groups, the HCP/NCCP Stakeholders Committee and Interested Parties, the Farm Bureau, the Planning Directors, the General Plan update groups, CNPS, and the Chico State Sustainability group. Press releases were also posted in several local papers and announcements about the public workshops were aired on several local radio stations.

- At the workshops, attendees will be asked to submit comment cards; these comments will be discussed with the Stakeholder Committee at the October meeting.
- Chris Devine distributed the final brochure to the Committee which received rave reviews.

Covered Activities:

- Paul Cylinder discussed the Covered Activities portion of the HCP/NCCP. SAIC has now met with all the cities in the planning area, and many other potential permit applicants. SAIC met with the County on August 15th and discussed their 3 draft land use alternatives under the General Plan update.
- Question: what are the “change areas”? Change areas are parcels or clusters of parcels that are proposed for a zoning change under the General Plan update. In the case of Butte County, there are approximately 43 of these change areas.
- Question: what is an example of how the HCP information will feed into the General Plan update? Paul Cylinder explained that if a given area is found to be a sensitive area (e.g., important Covered Species habitat), this information will be provided to the cities and the County planning staff.
- Question: How will Williamson Act properties be impacted by the HCP/NCCP? Given that these properties are up for renewal every 10 years, they are not considered permanently protected, and therefore are not expected to be a long terms tool in the conservation strategy under the HCP/NCCP.

Status of Science Advisory Panel Guidance Report:

- The Science Advisory Panel’s Guidelines Report is arriving soon; it should be available in September and will be discussed at the October Stakeholder Committee Meeting.

Veiny Monardella Species Account:

- Letty Brown overviewed the species account, which is available on the www.buttehcp.com website. Review comments are solicited.
- The Veiny Monardella is an annual forb that was thought to be extinct until 1992, when Barbara Castro and Lawrence Janeway discovered a population in Butte County. Another population has been discovered in Tuolumne County, so there are now two known extant populations of the plant.
- Question: how does the HCP/NCCP deal with a species with this level of rarity, in terms of allocating take permits? In some cases, a species can be included as a Covered Species under a HCP/NCCP but may not be approved for take.

Vernal Pool Mapping Update and Status of Revised Land Cover Type Mapping:

- The Chico Geographic Information Center (GIC) is mapping vernal pools in the planning area at the individual pool level. They are doing this using aerial photography interpretation, and employing the same methods used for the South Sacramento County HCP.

- The GIC is still on schedule to complete the draft GIS coverage by mid-September. They will then submit it to BCAG and SAIC for review, and for integration with the rest of the land cover type database.
- BCAG and SAIC are overseeing the GIC's effort and will review the GIC's mapping to provide a second level of quality control assessment.
- SAIC has finalized revisions based on the mapping workshop held earlier in the summer. These revised maps are being used for the habitat models.
- SAIC brought the new land cover maps of the Llano Seco area (where additional detail was added) for comparison with the old land cover map. Additionally a map of the southeastern portion of the planning area (where managed wetlands were added) was displayed at the meeting.
- A full set of these land cover type maps will soon be housed at the BCAG office.

Species Habitat Models:

- Jim Estep (SAIC subcontractor/ Estep Consulting) presented each of the seven bird species habitat suitability models. The Committee discussed each one individually, and offered feedback.
- More models will be available for the Committee's review for the next Stakeholder meeting in October.

Upcoming Workshops/Meetings:

- The first public workshops will be held in Chico, on September 5; and in Oroville on September 12.
- Next Stakeholder meeting will be on Wednesday, October 3rd, 11:00 am- 3:00 pm, at BCAG. Agenda items will include more habitat models, vernal pool mapping, and a discussion of the public workshops.
- The subsequent Stakeholder Committee meetings will occur on November 7th, and December 5th.