

Meeting Summary

Butte Regional HCP/NCCP Stakeholder Committee Meeting

April 2, 2008, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

BCAG Conference Room

Stakeholder Committee Attendees

Nathan Key (Butte County RCD)	Phil Johnson (Altacal Audubon)
Pia Sevelius (Butte County RCD)	Colleen Aguilar (BC Farm Bureau)
Richard Price (Butte County Ag. Commission)	Virginia Getz (Ducks Unlimited)

Resource Agencies Attendees

Jason Hanni (USFWS)	Nina Bicknese (USFWS)
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Steering Committee and Staff Attendees

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

Interested Public Attendees

Caroline Short (Altacal Audubon/Cherokee Watershed Alliance)	Barbara Vlamis (BEC)
Connie Balou	

Associated Documents/Handouts:

1. Agenda packet including new Covered Species Accounts, write-ups for Potential Additional Species of Local Concern, and Meeting Notes from March 5, 2008
2. Handout: Rationale for Adding and Not Adding Covered Species and Species of Local Concern

Action Items and Key Recommendations:

- Four new species have been added to the Covered Species list. These are California beaked-rush, Red Bluff dwarf rush, Ahart's paronychia, and slender Orcutt grass. The Committee reviewed the accounts and habitat suitability models for each species and offered feedback. SAIC will add Recovery Units to the slender Orcutt grass account

and habitat model maps. With any comments or additional information about these or any Local Concern species, please contact Chris Devine or Letty Brown.

- The Committee recommended that nine new species be added to the Species of Local Concern list. SAIC will bring accounts for these species to the May 7 Stakeholder meeting.
- The General Plan update and the HCP/NCCP processes are running in tandem and relevant information is being shared. Biological resource data generated in the HCP/NCCP process is being provided to the planning departments. At present, portions of the HCP/NCCP are on hold until Butte County's preferred land use alternatives under the General Plan update process are released.
- SAIC is developing Butte County meadowfoam conservation scenarios for the city of Chico to assist them in assessing potential development options within the city of Chico area. Loss that has occurred since the Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Species will be factored into the analysis.
- The next Stakeholder meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2008, 11:00 am-3:00 pm, at BCAG.

Meeting Purpose:

- Review of New Covered Species Accounts
- Recommendations for Additional Species of Local Concern
- Update on General Plan Processes
- Update on Butte County Meadowfoam Evaluation for city of Chico
- Meeting Notes from March 5, 2008
- Action Items and Next Meeting

Review of New Covered Species Accounts:

- Paul Cylinder and Letty Brown introduced the new Covered Species- California beaked-rush, Red Bluff dwarf rush, Ahart's paronychia, and slender Orcutt grass. SAIC developed species accounts and habitat models (when applicable) for each species. The Stakeholder Committee posed questions and offered feedback. It was recommended that Recovery Units be added to the slender Orcutt grass account and habitat model maps. SAIC will do this.
- With any comments or additional information about these species, please contact Chris Devine or Letty Brown.

Recommendations for Additional Species of Local Concern:

- The Committee recommended that an additional nine species be included on the Species of Local Concern list, based on input from the Independent Science Advisory Panel and the consulting team. These are five plants, one bird, and 3 fish species- heartscale, subtle orache, brittlescale, adobe lily, four-angled spikerush merlin, hardhead, hitch, and tule perch, respectively.
- Species of Local Concern under the Butte HCP/NCCP will be approached differently than Covered Species. These will be evaluated in terms ensuring that their habitat is incorporated into the HCP/NCCP analysis.
- With any comments or additional information about these species, please contact Chris Devine or Letty Brown.

Update on General Plan Processes:

- Chris Devine presented an update on the General Plan update process and how it is interacting with the HCP/NCCP. Several General Plan update processes are moving forward and portions of the HCP/NCCP are on hold while waiting for the County to finalize its preferred land use alternatives.
- Jane Dolan walked the group through the County's preferred land use alternatives. These will go before the Citizen's Advisory Council in April, the Planning Commission in May, and the Board of Supervisors in late July.

Butte County Meadowfoam Evaluation:

- SAIC is developing Butte County meadowfoam conservation scenarios for the city of Chico to assist them in assessing potential development options within the city of Chico area. The analysis is being undertaken using many types of data including mapped locations of occurrences, survey boundaries for positive and negative occurrences, habitat suitability model information, and recovery units and critical habitat areas. All scenarios are being evaluated using conservation biology principles and current knowledge of meadowfoam ecology and genetics.
- Loss that has occurred since the Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Species was written will be factored into the analysis.

Meeting Notes from March 5, 2008:

- Meeting notes from March 5, 2008 were accepted.

Upcoming Workshops/Meetings:

- The next Stakeholder meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2008, 11:00 am- 3:00 pm, at BCAG. Agenda items will include and overview of Conservation Strategies, responses to Phil Johnson's "Regional Conservation Plan Science Advisor Report Comments", renaming of the "Provisional Covered Species", and Species of Local Concern accounts.