

Butte Regional HCP/NCCP Stakeholder Committee Meeting

June 27th, 2007, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

BCAG Conference Room

Meeting Summary

Stakeholder Committee

Richard Price (Butte Cnty Ag Commissioner)	Virginia Getz (Ducks Unlimited)
Pia Sevelius (BC-RCD)	Phil Johnson (Altacal)
Suellen Rowilson (CNPS)	Scott Huber (Altacal)
Colleen Aguiar (Butte County Farm Bureau)	

Resource Agencies

Jenny Marr (CDFG)	Rosalie del Rosario (NMFS)
Jennifer Hogan (CDFG)	Jesse Wild (USFWS)

Steering Committee and Staff

Jamie Johansson (Oroville)	Pete Rawlings (SAIC)
Chris Devine (BCAG)	Paul Cylinder (SAIC)

Interested Public

None.

Associated Documents/Handouts:

1. Agenda including Meeting Notes from May 02, 2007, and Revised Draft Committee Roles and Responsibilities Document
2. Science Panel Update
3. Proposed Impact Assessment Tools and Proposed Species Habitat Models
4. Draft Habitat Model Examples
5. Schedule Overview- Stakeholder Committee Review Items

Action Items and Key Recommendations:

- The Stakeholder Committee offered additional revisions to the Committee Roles and Responsibilities document, which was revised by the subgroup identified in the May 2nd Stakeholder meeting (the Workgroup). The Workgroup will implement these changes and complete the document.
- The Science Advisory Panel is in the process of reviewing and commenting on the new version of the Ecological Baseline Report. Their Guidelines Report will be received in August or September 2007.
- A new tri-colored blackbird colony was discovered in Butte County. This and other occurrence data is being added to the species accounts maps and text in the Ecological Baseline Report.

- Land cover type maps are being revised based on comments from the May 17th Mapping Workshop.
- Veiny monardella (*Monardella douglasii spp. venosa*) is being added to the Covered Species list. Letty Brown (SAIC) will prepare the species account with the help of local biologists.
- Consultants are meeting with potential permit applicants within the planning area to prepare the Covered Activities portion of the HCP/NCCP. This will be provided to the Stakeholder Committee.
- Public Outreach Workshops are scheduled for September 5th in Chico, and September 15th in Oroville.
- Next Stakeholder meeting will be held August 1st, 11am- 3pm, at BCAG. Agenda items included Covered Activities and revised Land Cover maps.

Meeting Purpose:

- Planning Agreement
- Review Revised Draft Committee Roles and Responsibilities Document
- Summary of Independent Science Panel Workshop
- Tri-Colored Blackbirds- Recent Colony Sighting
- Status of Ecological Baseline Report
- Upcoming: Species and Habitat Models, Schedule, and Public Outreach
- Vernal Pool Mapping Update
- Review of May 2nd, 2007 Meeting Notes
- Summary of Steering Committee Meeting (May 9th, 2007)
- Public Workshops
- Action Items and Next Meeting

Planning Agreement:

- The status of the draft Planning Agreement was discussed. It is currently with the Wildlife Agencies for final review.
- It will go before the councils and the Board in August or September.

Draft Committee Roles and Responsibilities Document:

- Workgroup comprised of Chris Devine, Bill Haas, Colleen Aguiar, Jane Dolan, and Richard Price revised portions of the document.
- Stakeholder Committee reviewed the changes suggested by the Workgroup.
- The document has been sent back to the Workgroup to complete.

Science Advisory Panel:

- The Science Advisory Panel met on June 11th and 12th in Chico for a field tour of the planning area and a workshop.
- Chris Devine offered photographs and a summary of the trip.
- The Panel's "Guidelines Report" will be received within 90 days of the workshop. This will be based on their review of the Ecological Baseline Report.

Tri-Colored Blackbird:

- Phil Johnson reported on a new occurrence of tri-colored blackbirds in Butte County. A colony was recently discovered south of the Thermalito Afterbay.

Ecological Baseline Report:

- Paul Cylinder and Pete Rawlings overviewed the latest version of the Ecological Baseline Report.
- The new draft was posted on the Butte HCP website in late May, and incorporates comments from the Stakeholder Committee and the Resource Agencies' review. The Science Panel is using this draft to support preparation of their guidelines report.
- Other new items in the Report include a list of "Local Species of Concern," 2 new Covered Species accounts (peregrine falcon and foothill yellow-legged frog), and additional species occurrence data (mostly based on local accounts).
- Recommendation made to verify that all new occurrence data provided by Stakeholders has been incorporated into the Baseline Report. SAIC will do this.
- Recommendation: Llano Seco has mapping inaccuracies, as do certain riparian areas within Chico. These were identified during the mapping workshop of May 17th, and are being corrected. In addition, greater detail will be added to the "managed wetlands" mapped at Llano Seco.
- Recommendation that peregrine falcon wintering habitat be discussed in the text of the species account. SAIC will do this.
- Veiny monardella (*Monardella douglasii* spp. *venosa*) will be added to the Covered Species list.

Habitat Modeling:

- Pete Rawlings discussed the approach to Habitat Modeling that will be used in the Butte Regional HCP/NCCP.
- Examples discussed were Swainson's hawk and the yellow-billed cuckoo. These will be used in the Impact Assessment and Conservation Measures portion of the HCP/NCCP.
- Recommendation by USFWS that habitat data, rather than occurrence data, be used to for the Butte County meadowfoam Habitat Model.
- Discussion of potential approaches to the Conservation Strategy portion of the HCP/NCCP. Bottom-up versus top-down models were discussed.

Vernal Pool Mapping Update:

- Vernal pool mapping will be conducted at the individual pool level. The Chico Geographic Information Center (GIC) will map vernal pools visible on aerial photography, using the same methods used on the South Sacramento HCP/NCCP. BCAG and SAIC will oversee the GIC's effort and will ensure compatibility with the rest of the land cover type mapping.

Review of May 2nd, 2007 Meeting Notes and Summary of Steering Committee Meeting (May 9th, 2007):

- There are a few misspellings of people's names in the May 2nd Meeting Notes. These will be corrected.
- The Steering Committee met on May 9th, and discussed the Planning Agreement, the Science Advisory Panel, the status of the Ecological Baseline Report, and additional vernal pool mapping.
- There was also discussion of the recent meeting with the Farm Bureau of Oroville to discuss the Butte Regional HCP/NCCP, and HCP/NCCP's in general.

Public Workshops:

- Public workshops will be held to raise awareness of the HCP/NCCP process. The first public workshop will be held in Chico, on September 5th; the second will be held in Oroville on September 12th.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Next Stakeholder meeting will occur on Wednesday, August 1, 11:00 am- 3:00 pm, at BCAG. Agenda items will include Covered Activities and revised Land Cover maps.
- The September 5th Stakeholder meeting will address Habitat Models and the approach to Impact Analysis.