

Butte Regional HCP/NCCP Stakeholder Committee Meeting

March 14, 2007, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

BCAG

Meeting Summary

Chris Devine (BCAG)	Dave Bogener (DWR)
Jon Clark (BCAG)	Holly Keeler (City of Chico Planning Director)
Curt Josiassen (Supervisor)	John Merz (Sac River Preservation Trust)
Jane Dolan (Supervisor)	Jason Bougie (BIA)
Jenny Marr (DFG)	Jim Estep (SAIC subcontractor)
Kent Smith (DFG)	Paul Cylinder (SAIC)
Jesse Wild (USFWS)	Pete Rawlings (SAIC)
Rosalie del Rosario (NMFS)	Letty Brown (SAIC)
Scott Huber (Altacal Audubon)	Colleen Aguiar (Butte County Farm Bureau)
Bill Haas (PCCA/MLC of CNPS)	Todd Kimmelshue (Butte Cnty Farm Bureau)
Jeff Swindle (Caltrans)	Richard Price (Butte Cnty Ag Commissioner)
Carolyn Brown (Caltrans)	Pia Sevelius (BC-RCD)

Associated Documents/Handouts:

1. Agenda including *Draft Planning and Decision-making Process* handout; Comments received to date on Ecological Baseline Report; and Meeting Notes from the Stakeholder Committee Meeting February 14, 2007.
2. Comment form and handout from Scott Huber, Altacal Audubon
3. Handout from Bill Haas, CNPS.

Action Items and Key Recommendations

- The Committee agreed that working groups may be necessary to accompany the process (e.g. a 1-2 day workshop on HCP/NCCP process, a conflict resolution workshop, a mapping workshop).
- Portions of *Draft Planning and Decision-Making Process* handout will be revised to reflect suggestions received during Committee discussions. This document will continue to be revisited and improved upon.
- Public outreach efforts by BCAG staff and Stakeholder Committee members to bring more parties to the table will continue.
- All comments submitted by Stakeholder Committee to the Ecological Baseline Report (January 30, 2007) were discussed by the group. Changes will be input into the next iteration of the Report.
- Additional comments on Ecological Baseline Report are being accepted. Groups/individuals that are not members of the Stakeholder Committee can submit comments to the Committee through Chris Devine or online using the comment form provided on the BCAG website.
- Decision to rename Covered Species to “Potential Covered Species.”

- Many Committee members offered specific data items (eg. maps, data sets) applicable to the Ecological Baseline Report document. Consultants will follow up with these individuals.
- Regular Stakeholder Committee meetings will occur on the 1st Wednesday of the month
- Next meeting will be held April 4th, from 11am- 3pm, at BCAG. Comments on 16 additional species accounts requested by then.

Meeting Purpose:

- Personal introductions and member goals for HCP/NCCP;
- Discussion of roles and responsibilities of BCAG HCP/NCCP Committees;
- Review of comments submitted to Draft Ecological Baseline Conditions report (January 30, 2007);
- Assignment of next meeting time.

Discussion of Committee Roles and Responsibilities:

- Supervisor Dolan walked Committee through the *Draft Planning and Decision-Making Process* handout, still a work-in-progress, and solicited comments on ways to improve the document. Roles and responsibilities of the Committees, specifically Steering and Stakeholder Committees, were discussed.
- Bill Haas volunteered to rewrite the paragraphs that address Steering Committee roles, focusing on clarification, and eliminating/changing certain words (eg. “consensus”), and phrases (eg. “Steering Committee will not significantly alter the recommendations of the Stakeholder Committee”).
- The draft document will be revisited in the next Stakeholder Committee meeting.
- General agreement reached that one or many working groups may be necessary to accompany the process. The Committee discussed the types of working groups needed (eg. a 1-2 day workshop on HCP/NCCP process; a conflict resolution workshop; workshop on previous HCP successes/pitfalls).
- Public outreach workshops are in the process of being planned by BCAG.
- Discussion of how to run meetings, who should run meetings, and whether meeting times should be changed. No change needed at this time.
- Supervisor Dolan discussed how the Stakeholder Committee list was generated and solicited comments on who else should be at the table. Several groups were mentioned (eg. sportsmen groups, tribal groups, large landowners, watershed groups) and Chris Devine explained that these and other groups have been invited. Outreach efforts will continue. The hope that more of these groups will attend Stakeholder Committee meetings was expressed.
- Additional comments on the Ecological Baseline Report are being accepted. Groups/individuals that are not members of the Stakeholder Committee can submit comments to the Committee through Chris Devine or online using the comment form provided on the BCAG website.
- Discussion regarding ultimate goals and the need for the goals to meet regulatory requirements. As such, some decisions will not be negotiable. Final documents

will need ratification by all jurisdictions (Cities and County) prior to implementation.

Review of Comments submitted to Ecological Baseline Report:

- All comments were reviewed and discussed as a group.
- Many opportunities for more data for insertion into document were identified. Need for local expertise was underlined, and Jenny Marr underscored the hope that Stakeholder Committee would help funnel this information into the HCP/NCCP.
- The general approach to the Ecological Baseline Report was discussed. It was suggested that the focus be on developing habitat and ecosystem-level information first and that covered species be subsequently identified based on that information. Consultants and resource agencies explained that regulatory needs under the HCP/NCCP require that species for which permits will be sought are identified early to ensure that regulatory requirements are addressed. Consultants and resource agencies also indicated that the Conservation Strategy will be designed to address conservation needs at the landscape-, habitat- and species-level. The recommended covered species listed in the baseline report may change as the HCP/NCCP is developed (e.g., likely effects of covered activities on species). In recognition that the list of covered species could change based on new information, the Committee agreed that the list should be considered a “working list” and the species referred to as “potential covered species”.
- More clarification needed in text of how certain numbers and thresholds were reached.
- NMFS underscored need for species accounts to address existing conditions of the individual covered species, as well as why the individual species is threatened, and where data gaps exist.
- Input from the Committee regarding local distribution of species and habitats and environmental conditions will help strengthen and make locally specific the baseline information in the document. Many specific maps and data sets that will strengthen the document were discussed by various Committee members. Consultant will follow-up with these members.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Regular Stakeholder Committee meetings will occur on the 1st Wednesday of the month
- Next Stakeholder Committee meeting will occur on Wednesday, April 4th, 11:00 am- 3:00 pm, at BCAG.
- Agenda items identified are as follows: Roles and Responsibilities of Committees; Review of 16 additional species accounts (at <http://www.buttehcp.com/>); Planning Agreement; Interim Protection.