

North County Land Mangers - Meeting Notes

Location: Institute for Conservation Research

Date: October 19, 2011

Attendees: Yvonne Moore, Catherine Tredick, Kirstin Winter, Kim Wehinger, Jason Price, Warren Wong, Jennifer Price, Leslie Woollenweber, Josh Garcia, Betsy Miller, Trish Smith, Bryan Endress

1. Roundtable Manager Updates

Warren Wong/CDFG:

- CDFG has lifted its hiring freeze. Contracts are being highly scrutinized as to whether work can be completed in-house.
- CDFG will be initiating a dredging project at Batiquitos Lagoon likely in November. The last time the lagoon was dredged was in 2006; the goal is to dredge the lagoon every 3 years.

Jennifer Price/County of San Diego Parks and Recreation:

- Santa Margarita Preserve: County is completing biological and cultural resource surveys for the property as well as a vegetation management plan (VMP). VMP will address invasives control, habitat restoration and fire management.
- Ramona Grasslands Preserve: County recently performed Residual Dry Matter (RDM) monitoring as part of its grazing management program. County also performs RDM monitoring at the Santa Ysabel Preserve.

Bryan Endress/ICR:

- ICR is currently wrapping up its contract with SANDAG for the San Pasqual Valley cactus wren habitat enhancement project.
- ICR is also implementing 15 additional acres of cactus scrub enrichment plantings at the Safari Park.
- ICR will be working with TNC to develop "Best Management Practices" for cactus scrub restoration over the next year, based on information gathered from the numerous cactus scrub restoration projects being implemented across southern California.
- ICR will also be working with Debra Rogers of CNLM to conduct a common garden experiment for San Diego Thornmint that will examine how distinct the various populations are.

Yvonne Moore/SDMMP:

- SDMMP is working with USGS on the fields and structure of the Multi-Taxa Database and working to identify the minimum necessary fields. Yvonne is also working on a data sharing agreement related to the database.
- SDMMP is moving ahead on the Management Strategic Plan, including developing regional management units, identifying major stressors, and developing overarching goals and objectives for species. One meeting was held for the Landscape Group in Sept; another meeting to follow in January.

Catherine Tredick/SDSU IEMM:

- SDSU IEMM will be holding its Goals and Objectives Workshop on November 2nd at Mission Trails. This workshop will focus on developing goals and objectives for the preserve-level. A follow-up workshop will be held in February on developing conceptual models.

Kirstin Winters/USFS:

- Sunrise Powerlink: Twenty four different “plans” (i.e., tree plan, restoration plan, etc.) are attached to the main project plan, each of which requires supervision and oversight of the USFS, particularly because the plans are constantly being revised. Fortunately, \$2-3 million identified for the weed management plan is being directed at active control of invasive species such as tamarisk. In addition, the project required mitigation for impacts to scenic resources of the forest, which resulted in the protection of approximately 1200 new acres in north and south county (primarily in-holdings).
- USFS is currently resolving lawsuits related to the Forest Plan, including conducting an inventory of roadless areas.
- USFS is working with State Parks to complete CEQA and NEPA documentation related to proposed pig eradication/control efforts.
- USFS is coordinating with Megan Jennings, SDSU, on a bobcat study that includes the foothills of the forest.

Kim Wehinger/City of San Diego Public Utilities:

- The city is currently working on the completion of its Draft Integrated Weed Management Plan, with internal review occurring in November.
- They are also coordinating with UC Davis WHC on badger and mountain lion surveys.

Leslie Woollenweber/SDRVC:

- SDRVC will be conducting a 3-year, large scale Eucalyptus removal project along Del Dios Highway below Lake Hodges Dam.
- Mike Kelly is currently working on control of several exotics over a 1-mile stretch below the dam.
- Mission RCD will be bringing funding for Arundo control in the valley in mid-November.
- Other projects planned/ongoing include tamarisk removal, restoration of a small seasonal pond, and pepperweed control. Over 800 acres of pepperweed have been treated through TransNet funding. Overall, pepperweed cover is decreasing.

Betsy Miller and Josh Garcia/City of San Diego Parks and Recreation:

- RMPs: The city is currently working on Resource Management Plans for Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa. Black Mountain RMP is complete and currently getting approval for trails. The City is not currently working on a regional trails plan, which is holding up completion of plans that are in preparation because trail planning is being done together with the resource management plans.
- The City is conducting exotic grass control on the *Ambrosia* population at Mission Trails. *Ambrosia* and native grasses are responding positively to treatment. City will follow up with mustard control.

- Los Penasquitos is one of the sites being incorporated in the SDSU IEMM integrated monitoring and management project, which will help identify area specific management directives.
 - City is currently analyzing rare plant monitoring data. 90 locations were surveyed.
 - CBI's study on *Brachypodium* control will be very helpful with the City's Brachypodium issue at Lusardi and Black Mountain.
 - The Chaparral Conservancy received a Partners for Wildlife Grant to restore vernal pools at Carmel Mountain. The grant triggered a Section 7 consultation.
2. Brainstorming on Joint Management Grant Opportunities
- Transnet Management Grants for 2012 will be focused on invasives management, species-specific management, and Habitat maintenance and access control.
 - Pond Turtle: Yvonne spoke with Chris Brown of USGS which is working on a county-wide assessment of pond turtle habitat. Until that project is done, any projects focused on pond turtle would be premature.
 - Possible joint projects discussed:
 - i. Bullfrog control to enhance habitat for arroyo toad and western pond turtle, with potential sites at Ramona Grasslands, Boden Canyon, Boulder Oaks, and Santa Ysabel Creek.
 - ii. Enhancement of tricolored blackbird nesting areas at Boden Canyon pond.
 - iii. Invasives/ORV control focused on protecting riparian areas and arroyo toad habitat. Concentrate on tamarisk removal and adding boulders to block ORVs. Possible sites: Boden Canyon, San Dieguito River, and Pamo Valley (USFS).
 - iv. Habitat restoration (CSS and native grassland) on City land in Lusardi Canyon.
 - SDRVC is willing to take the lead and submit the proposal for a joint project.
 - Yvonne will conduct a Doodle Poll to identify a future meeting date for partners to meet to identify and plan a joint project.