



DATE: August 19, 2003
TO: Wildlife Committee
FROM: Carl Scheeler, Chair *Franklin R. Young* for
SUBJECT: Draft Action Notes for July 29, 2003 Wildlife Committee Meeting

Wildlife Committee Meeting
July 29-30, 2003
Portland, Oregon

Action Notes

Attendees: Carl Scheeler (CTUIR), Tyler Johnson and Jess Wenick (BPT), Mary Terra-Berns (IDFG), Angela Sondenaa (NPT), Peter Paquet and Robert Walker (NWPCC), Gerald Green (CdAT), Greg Sieglitz and Sue Beilke (ODFW), Maureen Smith (USFWS), David Shepherdson (Oregon Zoo), Robin Dobson (USFS), Cathy MacDonald (TNC) and Frank Young (CBFWA).

By Phone: Anders Mikkelsen (CdAT), B. J. Kieffer (STOI) and Scott Soultz (KTOI).

Time	Objective 1. Project Recommendations	0%
Allocation:	Objective 2. Regional Issues	20%
	Objective 3. Annual Report	80%

ITEM 1: Update on Discussions with BPA on Wildlife Mitigation Funding Issues – Carl Scheeler (CTUIR)

Discussion: Carl provided background on the history of BPA funding for Wildlife Mitigation and how recent anadromous fish ESA issues have impacted Program implementation. Peter Paquet reported that BPA is now willing to modify their policies to allow capitalization of land acquisitions for wildlife mitigation. The remaining sticking point is the requirement to “extinguish an obligation” which brings up the crediting issue. Peter stated that, given the history of the development of the crediting mechanism, it would be helpful if all parties would accept Table 4 in the Wildlife Section of the Council’s Program as the basis for crediting and then move forward with implementation.

Discussion continued: Then the primary outstanding crediting issue would be how to handle crediting against operational losses. Carl suggested that doing a better job at demonstrating fish benefits from wildlife projects would help in obtaining funding for wildlife mitigation acquisitions. He also stated that the WC, through the Trust Fund Subcommittee, needs to develop a long-term plan for future land acquisition to assure that trust funds are eligible to receive funding from BPA's Capital Program since funds from their Expense Program are primarily allocated to ESA.

ACTION: The WC is to provide examples to Frank by August 8 of proposals that meet BPA's requirements for receiving capital funding and are currently not being funded.

ITEM 2: Update by the Trust Fund Subcommittee – Keith Lawrence (NPT)

Discussion: Angela Sondenaa reported that the Trust Fund Subcommittee has not yet met, but that Keith will call a meeting soon after he returns from vacation August 6.

ITEM 3: Approval of Revised Wildlife Committee Charter – Frank Young

Discussion: Frank reported that all recommended changes to the Draft Charter had been made and that it was ready for approval by the WC. Carl suggested including language in the Charter that would express the desirability of candidates for Chair to have first had the experience of being Vice-chair. Carl said that he assumes that this change would not take effect in time to influence the selection of the next chair, but is intended to apply to future elections.

ACTION: Frank will insert language into the Draft Charter expressing the desirability of candidates for Chair to have experience as Vice-chair and then distribute the Draft Charter to the WC for approval to transmit to the MMG for their consideration.

ITEM 4: Review of the Draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the Hangman Restoration Project – Gerald Green (CdAT)

Discussion: Gerald presented the Hangman M&E Plan to the WC and explained that the acquisition of the Hangman Property is on hold along with other wildlife land acquisitions awaiting resolution of capitalization and crediting issues. Gerald explained that the project is being proposed as a fish habitat restoration project with wildlife mitigation benefits. The WC expressed its inability to effectively evaluate plan elements prior to the completion of a hydrological assessment.

ACTION: The WC did not approve the Hangman M&E Plan and requested that the project sponsor bring the project back for their further consideration after the hydrological assessment is completed.

ITEM 5: Project 200102700 Western Pond Turtle Recovery – Columbia River Gorge – David Shepherdson (Oregon Zoo)

Discussion: David Shepherdson, made a presentation on the status and efforts to recover the western pond turtle in the Columbia Gorge. The primary limiting factors are habitat loss and introductions of non-native predators such as the bullfrog. He also made a presentation on the pygmy rabbit captive rearing project at the Oregon Zoo. An attempt was made to remove as many as possible but a small undetermined number (probably in the order of 5 to 10) remain in the wild.

ITEM 6: Project [199107800](#) Burlington Bottoms Wildlife Mitigation Project – Sue Beilke (ODFW)

Discussion: Sue made a presentation on mitigation activities at Burlington Bottoms and what we could expect to see at the site visit scheduled for the next day. She discussed the planned installation of water control structures and reconnection of historic stream drainages to mimic natural flooding that had occurred in the past.

ITEM 7: Project [199205900](#) Amazon Basin/Eugene Wetlands Phase Two – Cathy MacDonald (TNC)

Discussion: Cathy made a presentation on management activities being implemented on the Willow Creek acquisition, which is the BPA-funded portion of the Project, describing how the value of BPA funding is enhanced by having multiple funding partners for nearby parcels. Cathy described how prescribe burns will be used to maintain native prairie.

ITEM 8: Project [199206800](#) Implement Willamette Basin Mitigation Program - Greg Sieglitz (ODFW)

Discussion: Greg described how this project was originally funded as a western pond turtle project, but has been expanded to a mitigation project for the 13 federal projects in the Willamette Basin. Greg also described the impacts of Willamette River development activities to native wildlife species and the acquisitions made under this project to mitigate for these impacts. He further pointed out the importance of partnering with local interest groups (especially city governments and green space advocates) and described ongoing M&E efforts.

ITEM 9: Project [199902500](#) Sandy River Delta Riparian Forest, Wetlands, and Anadromous Estuary Restoration – Robin Dobson (USFS)

Discussion: Robin made a presentation covering the history of the Sandy River Delta Project and planned enhancement activities as an introduction to the site visit to this project on the following day. The property has been greatly impacted by diking and overgrazing and the USFS is attempting to restore native vegetation and proposing to remove some dikes to restore the natural functions of the delta.

ITEM 10: Project [200000900](#) Logan Valley Wildlife Mitigation Project/ O&M – Jess Wenick (BPT)

Discussion: Jess described how the impact of grazing had lowered the water table and the difficulties of restoring this property to a level where withdrawal of water from the stream to maintain the wet meadow is no longer necessary.

ITEM 11: Project [200002700](#) Malheur River Wildlife Mitigation Project - Jess Wenick (BPT)

Discussion: Jess described the difficulty of restoring ecological function to the uplands and the Malheur River riparian zone after many years of extreme impacts from livestock overgrazing. Like Logan Valley, the Malheur Project will continue to withdraw water from the streams to maintain vegetation where the water table has been lowered.

ITEM 12: Project [199608000](#) NE Oregon Wildlife Mitigation Project - "Precious Lands" - Angela Sondanaa (NPT)

Discussion: Angela made an updated PowerPoint presentation of her Draft Management Plan presented to the WC last March in which she explained that most of the O&M spending was going toward perimeter fencing to control livestock trespass. Angela described invasive weed control activities and planned M&E activities.

ITEM 13: Next Meeting Location and Date

The next meeting will be September 23-24 in Lewiston or Clarkston and will include a presentation of the Draft Trimble/Tacoma Management Plan by Ray Entz as well as a presentation by Paul Ashley. Please be thinking about possible site visits.