

Montrose Settlements Restoration Program Trustee Council
Summary
May 22-23, 2007 Trustee Council Meeting
Santa Cruz Island, California

The following primary and alternate Montrose Trustee Council ("Council") members were present:

Jennifer Boyce	NOAA	Suzanne Goode	CDPR
Patty Velez	CDFG	Kate Faulkner	NPS
Jim Haas	USFWS	Nat Cox	CDPR

Also attending:

Greg Baker	MSRP Staff	Dave Witting	MSRP Staff
Lisa Wolfe	CDFG	Annie Little	MSRP Staff
Milena Viljoen	MSRP Staff	Sharon Taylor	USFWS
Chris Little (for hike)	IWS	Laurie Harvey (for hike)	MSRP Seabird Biologist
Brian Latta (meeting)	SCPBRG		

May 22, 2007

The meeting took place on Santa Cruz Island. Upon arrival, the group met with Chris Little (IWS) and hiked out to see the Pelican Harbor bald eagle nest. Chris gave an update of the NCI bald eagle program and the monitoring activities. Laurie Harvey gave updates on several seabird restoration projects, including Santa Barbara Island, Scorpion Rock, and San Miguel Island. After the hike, the Trustee Council met at the U.C. Reserve site.

Peregrine Falcon Survey Update

Brian Latta of the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group gave an update to the Council on the status of the 2007 peregrine monitoring effort.

As of 5/21/07:

- 8 islands surveyed
- 35 territories visited
- 25 active territories found
- 9 new 2007 territories
- 5 pairs incubating
- 8 pairs hatched
- 7 pairs unknown
- 16 chicks observed
- 12 chicks banded
- Prey, blood, chick down, eggshell samples collected at nest sites
- Fresh western gull carcasses had been collected that may possibly be analyzed for contaminants
- San Clemente Island could have a pair (there have been no breeding records to date)
- First year to use Egg Buddy in field to test for dead eggs

Brian explained that the breeding season has been extended this year and that the transportation budget was approximately \$10,000 short due to logistical delays. The Council agreed that it was important to collect as much data as possible and approved an amendment to the contract to add \$10,000.

Montrose Trustee Council Meeting Notes

May 22-23, 2007

- Brian will submit a budget to Annie Little and she will amend the FWS contract with SCBPRG once the Council signs a resolution documenting the increase.

May 23, 2007 Meeting

Updates on Program Activities

Account Status

Greg Baker gave an update of current account balances. In August of 2006, the balance was approximately \$38M. As of April 30, 2007, the balance was approximately \$36M. The decrease was due to payment of NOAA's past costs and the 2007 budget allocation.

- Greg will send an updated account summary to the Trustee Council.

Cost Documentation

The 2006 package is due July 31st, 2007.

- Greg will send the Trustee Council an updated status of the outstanding cost packages.

Cost Guidelines

A draft of the cost guidelines was circulated to the Council via e-mail prior to the meeting. The guidelines outline proper Trustee accounting and reporting procedures for tracking administrative costs. The goal is to endorse these guidelines at the next Council meeting in July.

2007 Budget Narrative

MSRP Staff completed a draft narrative for the 2007 budget year. A few comments were received from the Council and will be incorporated.

- Greg will send the Trustee Council the final budget narrative.

Outreach Position

The Outreach Specialist job opened on May 7, 2007. The goal is to bring someone on board before Milena's departure for graduate school in August.

Fish Report

Dave Witting updated the Council on the status of the fish contamination report. The goal is to finalize the report by early June 2007. Comments are still being addressed and incorporated at this point.

Dave Witting and Greg Baker described the program Query Manager and the benefits of entering in the fish data so that it is easily available to the public. The estimated cost of entering the data is between \$10-20K.

- Greg will send the Trustee Council a link to the Query Manager website.

There was also some discussion about EPA's proposed outreach strategy (road map).

- Jennifer Boyce will send memo to EPA on behalf of the Council that incorporates MSRP Staff comments on their outreach plan.

Montrose Trustee Council Meeting Notes May 22-23, 2007

Wetland Restoration

Dave Witting gave an update of the Huntington Beach restoration project. The Council signed a resolution authorizing the disbursement of \$100K for the first year effort. The MSRP staff is still awaiting the completion of the NOAA grants process, but funds can be pre-awarded. Dave Witting, Jen Boyce, and Milena Viljoen recently visited the site and reported many juvenile halibut during baseline surveys.

Artificial Reefs

URS submitted a preliminary design for the Cabrillo pilot reef project that encompasses several options. Dave Witting and Greg Baker will continue to work with URS and the Port to move this project forward. Dave Witting sent around the draft meeting notes to the Council from the artificial reef meeting that occurred on March 21, 2007, in Long Beach.

- Council will provide comments to Dave Witting on the reef notes by June 8.

Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

PISCO started project work although NOAA grants process is on-going. The NPS received their funds for seasonal biologists that are currently monitoring long-term sites. NPS thinks they will receive additional funding for their monitoring program in the next few years. There is currently a proposal to extend the MPA around the northern Channel Islands into the State Protected Areas, extending the zone from 3 mi to 6 mi away from the islands.

Bald Eagles

Annie Little briefed the Council on the current status of the adult eagle transfer from the San Francisco Zoo to TN which will occur on June 19, 2007. All 6 eaglets that were transferred in May 2007 are doing well in the hack towers.

There is the potential for 7 pairs of bald eagles to be nesting on Catalina Island in 2008. The Council discussed the idea of having one bald eagle allocation which would give IWS some flexibility in distributing resources and staff based on nesting conditions. The Council would like to encourage IWS to not manipulate any of the nests on Catalina Island next year. The Council also received a letter from the Catalina Island Conservancy requesting a meeting. The Conservancy will be invited to join the November 2007 bald eagle meeting to discuss the current state of the program and future plans.

Seabirds

Santa Barbara Island

- Xantus's Murrelet monitoring is ongoing
- Cassin's Auklets carcasses have been found on island
- Shadehouse was constructed on island in May
- Plants will be transported on May 23
- On-island watering system was approved for shadehouse
- Pilot revegetation site identified, planting will occur in Fall 2007
- Laurie Harvey is researching social attraction options

Scorpion Rock/Prince Island

- Josh Adams of USGS is monitoring Cassin's Auklets
- 1 nest so far on Scorpion Rock as of May 6
- Temperature loggers have been placed in nest boxes
- Vegetation monitoring and project planning ongoing

Montrose Trustee Council Meeting Notes May 22-23, 2007

- Goal is to start reveg efforts in Fall 2007

San Nicolas Island

- Implementation Report submitted by Island Conservation is almost finalized
- Annie Little is working on contract for preparation of NEPA document
- Project planning is ongoing with goal to start implementation in July 2008
- Annie discussed the need to bring in fox expertise into the project and will work with IWS to provide assistance during project planning and implementation
- Island Conservation submitted a requested budget of approximately \$80,000 for 2007 to continue project planning and securing dogs
- Island Conservation, IWS, MSRP, and the Navy will present the project at the Island Fox meeting in June 2007
 - Council will provide Annie Little any last comments on revised implementation report and response to comments
 - Annie Little will summarize for the Council the funding allocated thus far for this project and will also work on overall implementation budgets from Island Conservation and IWS. A resolution will be circulated for approval of funding for planning activities to occur during the remainder of 2007.

San Miguel Island

- Baseline seabird surveys are on-going
- Harry Carter found 3 separate Xantus's Murrelets nests that had eggs that appeared to be rat depredated. They were at Hoffman Pt., Bay Pt, and Harris Point (all east end of SMI)
- 60 Common Murres were observed flying near cliffs at Prince Island
- Rhinoceros Auklets were also seen

Channel Islands Symposium

Kate Faulkner notified the Council that this symposium will occur in February 2008 in Ventura. The organizers are currently looking for funding for publication of the proceedings. The Montrose Council will consider providing some funding to achieve program outreach.

UPCOMING DATES

Monthly Conference call on June 21, 2007, at 10 am
Trustee Council meeting on July 19-20, 2007 in Long Beach. Second day will be field trip to see the Huntington Beach wetland site.