

WASHINGTON COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Technical Committee of the HCP was held **FEBRUARY 18, 2009**, in the Habitat Conservation Plan administrative office - 10 N. 100 E., Saint George, Utah

The views expressed at this, or any other, Technical Committee meeting do not necessarily represent the positions or views of any particular federal, state or local governmental agency, division or department. They are solely the opinions of the individual members of this Technical Committee.

Members present were:

Kristen Comella, Chairperson	Snow Canyon State Park (SCSP)
Ann McLuckie, Vice Chairperson	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)
Bob Douglas	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Bob Sandberg	Washington County HCP

Absent and excused were:

Renee Chi	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Marshall Topham	Local Biologist

Also present was:

Brad Young	Washington County HCP
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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kristen Comella noted that there were at least four voting members present, a quorum existed and the meeting was called to order at 9:50 A.M.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. None prepared for approval.

3. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- a. **Continue development of a Fire Management Plan** for the Reserve – Action items and scope-of-work documents.

Chairperson Comella distributed a three-page handout named and dated: TC Fire Management Plan, December 11, 2008 DRAFT. This is the same handout provided to the HCAC on January 27, 2009. The Technical Committee (TC) members reviewed the handout (Exhibit 3-a-1 TC – 021809) and the draft polygon monitoring scope of work document (Exhibit 3-a-2 TC – 021809) that had also been distributed to the HCAC on January 27, 2009.

Member Sandberg suggested marrying the draft scope of work document with the BLM Project Description (Exhibit 3-a-3 TC – 021809) that was also distributed last TC meeting.

The members discussed the overarching objectives of a fire management plan, the specifics of the draft scope of work document and the project description document, and the estimated costs of each and their respective priority.

The members reviewed and refined the individual elements of the draft Fire Management Plan (FMP) (Exhibit 3-a-1 TC – 021809) and, during the discussion and refinement process, they referred to the fire management document, in table format, that the TC had previously composed (Exhibit 3-a-4 TC – 021809). Member Douglas listed strategies and tasks on the white board during the discussions. The members discussed a broad range of topics, subjects and ideas; some were incorporated into the draft FMP while others were deemed to be outside the scope of a FMP. The members discussed the relationship between their work on the draft FMP and the BLM's Programmatic Wildland Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan.

The members agreed to add an introductory paragraph to the draft FMP explaining its purpose and intent. Member McLuckie will compose the introduction. Chairperson Comella will revise the draft plan pursuant to the member's discussions and distribute it.

The members discussed the next step – composing and prioritizing scope of work documents. The list of strategies and task on the white board was prioritized. The table below (Exhibit 3-a-5 TC – 021809) shows the results.

TC member				Strategy / Task	Goal #	Score	Priority
AM	KC	BS	BD				
2	1	2	1	Treat Roadside	1	6	1
4	4	4	5	Create Islands of Vegetation	2	17	3
1	3	5	2	Updated fire information and maps (cooperation)	1	11	2
3	7	6	6	Monitoring of treated areas (veg., soils)	2	22	6
9	2	3	9	Research/monitor methodology (reducing fuel)	2	23	7
8	8	1	3	Fuel Breaks (including roads)	1	20	4
5	5	7	4	Public Education and Information	1	21	5
7	6	9	7	Control non-native species	1	29	8
6	10	8	8	Soil Stabilization (gully plugs, erosion fabric)	2	32	9
10	9	10	10	Research/monitoring non-persistent, competitive species	2	39	10

Member Sandberg will be responsible for task #3 – Updating fire information and maps and coordinating with fire suppression managers. Member Douglas will assist him with producing the necessary maps. Member Douglas will also be responsible for preparing fact sheets for fire suppression and tortoises. Member McLuckie volunteered to continue refining the scope of work for monitoring reseeded areas, and to compose a draft scope of work for creating islands of vegetation – task #2. Chairperson Comella will create a draft scope of work for treating roadsides.

The committee members compared and contrasted the tasks of treating roadsides and creating fuel breaks. The tasks are the same, but different. The members debated the merits of creating green strips and brown strips. The members further discussed fire behavior. Member Douglas displayed a large map of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve showing soil types, land ownership and the major fires of 2005 and 2006. He also distributed a smaller version (Exhibit 3-a-6 TC – 021809). His handout included a legend of the soil types (Exhibit 3-a-7 TC – 021809) and a detailed description of the soil types and characteristics (Exhibit 3-a-8 TC – 021809). The members used the map and soil descriptions to discuss the best locations for creating fuel breaks, islands of vegetation, and research polygons. The members decided that creating islands of vegetation and monitoring restored polygons are co-projects.

The members strategized setting timelines and goals for this year to accomplish the priority tasks.

The next special meeting for fire management plan development was set for March 11, 2009, beginning at 9:30 A.M. at the HCP office.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

5. ADJOURN

There was no other business to discuss.

Meeting adjourned at 12:56 P.M.

Minutes prepared by Brad Young.