

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

D. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

c. Natural and Cultural Resources Committee (05/02/16) (Nisbet/Lane)

Committee Members: Beverly Lane, John Sutter, Whitney Dotson, Diane Burgis (Alt)

EBRPD Staff: Bob Nisbet, Matt Graul, Joe Sullivan, Steve Bobzien, Courtney Wilson, Anne Kassebaum, Pam Beitz, Dan Sykes, Kelly Barrington, Bev Ortiz, Michele Hammond, Denise Defreese, Caitlin Stone

Guests: Lech Naumovich, Amelia Marshall, Marty Morrow, Maggie Clark, Bill Scoggins, Judi Bank

A meeting of the Board Natural and Cultural Resources Committee was held on Monday, May 2, at Richard C. Trudeau Training Center, 11500 Skyline Blvd, Oakland, CA. Chairperson Beverly Lane called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. The following is a summary of the items discussed:

1. Cultural Services Coordinator Update (Ortiz)
Cultural Services Coordinator, Beverly Ortiz provided an update with an emphasis on staff training for the monitoring of cultural (Native) and historic sites. On 10/20/15, she and GIS Technician Kara Boettcher inaugurated a cultural and historic resources training focused on applicable state and federal laws, EBRPD policies and procedures, in-field site monitoring, and recordation of field finds and heritage trees. Emphasis was placed on feedback from participants, with the goal for 2016 to expand classroom and field trainings.

Chair Lane asked about the map. Ms. Ortiz said the goal is for the spring in 2016 to head in the direction of finalizing content.

2. Habitat Use & Nest Site Selection by the Western Pond Turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) in Managed Central California Rangelands (Riensch)

Wildlife Resource Analyst, David "Doc Quack" Riensch reported that the western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) has been declining throughout its range due to a

number of stressors including: habitat degradation and loss, exotic competitors, non-native predators, and epidemic disease. Our only native California turtle is listed as a California Species of Special Concern and a candidate species for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. Few studies have examined the ecology of populations in lentic environments subject to livestock grazing. From 2011 through 2015, staff and volunteers tracked visually and/or using radio-telemetry devices, the seasonal movement patterns, habitat use and nest site selection of western pond turtles in eastern Contra Costa County, California. Preliminary statistical analyses of this multiple-year database are showing that male and female western pond turtles use the pond environment differently; however, they overwinter in the same relative location. Gravid females on average move 24.4 m. (± 17.5 m.) away from the ponds, nest on south-facing slopes (mean aspect of $134^{\circ} \pm 31.9^{\circ}$) with mean residual dry matter (RDM) levels of 1345 (lbs./acre)(1510 kg/ha), and vegetation heights ranging between 26.6 and 39.5 cm. These research findings show how western pond turtles utilize their pond and upland environment may have important conservation and management implications for rangelands.

Director Sutter asked about the nest building sites. Mr. Riensche said the sites were located in ungrazed and seasonal grazed areas with good sun exposure and 85% vegetation cover.

3. Redwood Regional Park's Serpentine Prairie – Restoration of native plants and management of non-native plants (Naumovich)

Golden Hour Restoration Institute researcher, Lech Naumovich reported about the Serpentine Prairie Restoration Project. The Serpentine Prairie Restoration Project was initiated in 2008 to restore native serpentine flora and monitor the population of Presidio clarkia (*Clarkia franciscana*), a federal- and state-endangered annual forb. The Redwood Regional Park – Serpentine Prairie study area is located on land owned and managed by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). The Serpentine Prairie restoration project has been a success for many reasons including 1) a better understanding of annual grass dynamics at the Prairie, increased *Clarkia* habitat, and increased acres of prairie. Now in its 8th year, this project continues to expand the distribution of our rare endangered forb and maintain high quality serpentine grassland habitat at Redwood Regional Park.

4. Future agenda items (Nisbet)

Chief of Stewardship, Matt Graul suggested that future agenda items include; an update on blue green algae in the District's lakes, the impact of drought on trees, an update on genetic studies of native CA Black Walnut trees, and an overview of the ongoing Alameda whipsnake study being conducted in fuel management areas.

5. Public Comment (Lane)

There was no public comment.
The tour began at 2:48 p.m.