

NOTES | 7/3/2007

Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area Scientific Review Committee Conference Call

Prepared by the Center for Collaborative Policy
Reviewed and Approved by the SRC 8/17/2007

Future Conference Calls & Meeting Schedule

- 10 July 2007 Conference Call 9:00-11:00 am (Noon in NJ) | Topics: field protocols, power output data
- 20 July 2007 Conference Call, 9:00-11:00 am (Noon in NJ) | Topics: FPLE Credits
- 15 August 2007 Conference Call, 10:00-12:00 (1 pm in NJ) | Topics: Preliminary discussion on data analysis
- 20-22 August 2007, Mon-Wed, (Mon & Tues all day; Wed = half-day)
- 27 August 2007, cancel conference call
- 11-13 Sept 2007 Meeting in Oakland – hold dates for now
- Fall – Hold Compliance Field Tour

Technical Workshop

The SRC would like to wait until it has made its management recommendations before scheduling the technical workshop for the public. The SRC noted with sadness the passing of Brian Walton.

Potential Conference Call Topics

To save valuable in-person meeting time, the SRC would consider discussing the following topics during a conference call:

- Blade Painting Study Design
- Lindsey Museum Data
- Compliance Reporting

Update on the Monitoring Team

UCSC has identified Brian Latta as the principal investigator and Dawn Gable as the administrative manager to lead the monitoring team contract. Brian has been working in the Altamont since 1989. Since 1991, he has been the lead field biologist at the Predatory Bird Group. Brian will focus on protocols and field work. As the administrative manager, Dawn Gable will take care of the paper work and administration.

Update on the Data Analysis

Wally Erickson is resolving a few quality control / quality assurance issues with the data analysis. Early next week, the MT will receive the data analysis tables for review, and about 1 week thereafter they will be ready for the report. The SRC can anticipate receiving the report the week of July 23rd. Sue will be gone the week of July 23rd and requested that the MT consider releasing the tables the week of July 16.

The study will include 2 years of data: the first 6 months of the monitoring contract and 1.5 years of data collected through the WEST contract. It will include rock pile association tests. The MT wants to make sure the definitions for what constitutes a fatality is the same or comparable to previous studies.

Will it include # fatalities / MW / year? It will include estimates to be compared to previous study estimates. The data will be presented in megawatt per year.

M2: Burrowing Owl and American Kestrel Mortality Survey and Scavenger Rate Study Protocols

One question emerged regarding this study protocol: would it be appropriate to test an additional hypothesis about the effect of using frozen and fresh carcasses? After discussing the issue, the SRC recommended, and the MT reluctantly agreed, that frozen carcasses should not be placed anywhere near the owl/kestrel study site. The MT representative viewed this as a missed opportunity, but the SRC felt the added carcasses could potentially swamp the scavengers with too many carcasses or attract more scavengers than normally would be there and could therefore interfere with the original objective of the study. Placing carcasses for carcass removal studies should be significantly far from the American kestrel and burrowing owl study area. The SRC would be comfortable with the carcass study going forward at the same time if it was at least 1-2 miles away.

However, the SRC recognizes that focused research on scavenger removal would be advisable. The SRC would be interested in answering the question about using frozen and fresh carcasses. Scavenger removal is critical to generate accurate and precise estimates of mortality. The frozen/fresh carcass removal study should be done as part of the Altamont-wide study.

Mountain House Site

The MT is not finding a lot of burrowing owls at the Mountain House site now. The MT will recommend a different study plot to replace this one.

Participants

SRC

Joanna Burger
Jim Estep
Sue Orloff
Shawn Smallwood
Julie Yee

Monitoring Team

Dick Anderson
Wally Erickson
Dawn Gable, USCS
Brian Latta

Sandi Rivera, County of Alameda

Facilitator Gina Bartlett, Center for Collaborative Policy

Identified Members of Public

Emery Ergas
Bill Damon
Joan Stewart, AIC & FPLE
Janice Gan, F&G
Elizabeth Murdock, GG
Audubon