

California Bat Working Group Meeting Summary

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Joe Szewczak
Heather Johnson
Betsy Bolster
Michael Buchalski
Kellie Collins
Dan Taylor
Justin Klaurens
Regena Orr
Susan Ramones
Bronwyn Hogan
Theresa Olson
Dixie Pierson
Greg Tatarian
Jackie Ferrier
Pat Brown-Berry
Dave Johnston

CBWG

Betsy Bolster needed to delegate responsibility as the CBWG chair.

- Betsy will remain the representative to the WBWG (Western Bat Working Group) since she is the state bat biologist.
- Heather Johnson volunteered to be co-chair and support the state conservation strategy effort.
- Pat Brown will represent the CBWG on WBWG conference calls.

Bat Occurrence Records

We discussed the existing central repositories for bat occurrence records, namely the CNDDDB for sensitive species and BIOS for records of non-sensitive species.

- Do these databases protect specific information on roost localities?
- How does CNDDDB characterize occurrence records and would they track roosts for all bat species? Would need to discuss this with Darlene McGriff from CNDDDB.
- The bat locality database that CDFG built from bat permit (MOU) reports was turned over to BIOS (<http://bios.dfg.ca.gov/>) and CNDDDB.
- Should we have an Excel spreadsheet to track our occurrence records that is easily entered into the BIOS database?

California Bat Conservation Plan

- CDFG's range maps for all California bat species from were given to Dixie Pierson to be updated. These maps will be used for the Mammal Species of Special Concern document, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships system, and the California Bat Conservation Plan.
- Betsy and Dixie are pursuing a contract for state funds to update these range maps and reimburse authors of the state conservation plan. Dixie would like assistance from members of the group to update the maps. We discussed how to access the range maps among our group, perhaps put them on an ftp website and whoever has an occurrence records to share could mark the maps. Or we could circulate hard copies of the maps once funding became

available for postage. Dixie would perform quality control and oversee the final product.

Wind Farm Conservation Issue

We discussed how the CBWG can guide survey efforts.

- How can we influence the comments on documents that are inadequate? We want a minimum level of effort established for wind farm siting surveys, for example to require continuous sampling to capture spikes in migration.
- Betsy and Bronwyn are going to work together on a draft position paper for CBWG that has survey guidelines and then send the draft paper around the group for review. The position paper will be finalized by January 10th and 11th 2006 in time for a meeting between wind energy representatives and bird and bat biologists.

WBWG Electronic Newsletter

Heather Johnson will periodically draft a paragraph summarizing CBWG activities for the WBWG newsletter.