

**California Bat Working Group Meeting**  
**Western Section of the Wildlife Society Conference**  
**Sacramento, CA**  
**February 2, 2012**  
**1:30 – 3:00 pm**

Scott Osborne (Co-chair) CBWG - on the phone.

Bronwyn Hogan (Co-chair) CBWG - on the phone.

Dave Johnston (Past co-chair) CBWG – Presiding

Elizabeth Gruenstein (CBWG Recording Secretary for meeting appointed by Dave Johnston)

**1. Introductions of attendees (See attached attendance sheet).**

**2. Round-robin updates of projects from meeting participants.**

- Joe Szewczak (via phone): Was just at North East BWG and wanted to discuss WNS.
- Stephanie: Long term monitoring project in Orange county.
- Ted Weller: Has been working at wind energy facility in western Kern County – close to 3 years of pre con acoustic monitoring, will be built this year, will transfer to fatality monitoring – looking at weather trends and echolocation, also for birds. Want to understand broader migration patterns of bats in California. Hoary bats have been doing crazy things in the redwoods. Have proposals out for doing aerial tracking of them.
- Dave Wyatt– Working with Bill Rainey and Dixie Pierson– Roosting and foraging habitat for western red bat in Sacramento Valley – tracked 2 western red bats from foraging habitats and roost site – documented 2 females and 5 juveniles roosting together; female was flying up to 10 miles, 2-3 times a night . 17 hours of infrared video of maternity roost. Will continue this summer, wants to tag red bats.
- Dave Johnston – Wrapping up 2.5 years study on wind energy impacts to bats and birds – wanted to see if fatalities for a site matched the number of migrants to see if there was a direct correlation – concluded that not. Most migrants move at 400-450 meters above ground level; the animals in the risk zone appeared to have no specific direction, so maybe foraging or leaving/approaching a roost, etc. Found that turbine fatalities are correlated to a northwesterly direction to the nearest grove of trees. Interesting relationship between hot spots and buildings/ lights. Between hot spots and trees were always a light/ structure. Also looking at large solar energy facilities – 88,000 solar panels – hired 2 full-time bat biologists; Gabe Reyes and Kim Briones. Dave is setting up winter monitoring and year-round monitoring on CA central coast.
- Pat Brown– Abandoned mine closures – hazard abatement or renewed mining. Often closures are recommended without adequate

biological assessment. Worked with BLM, Forest Service, private mine owners. Also long term banding study from 1968 on Colorado river with Bureau of Rec.

- Brad Valentine -- Working with engineers on the building of large bridges – trying to get designers to incorporate bats earlier into their design plans. Resulting in new bridges with bat habitat built in, including in Sacramento.

3. **Bat carcass for fatality monitoring -- Bronwyn Hogan.** Scott Osborn discussed the need for suitable carcasses for monitoring – how do we get carcasses for training? DFG does have freezer space. Doesn't want to import from outside CA due to WNS risk. Pat does have 50 Townsend's big-eared carcasses due to mine disturbance fatalities – willing to pass them to Scott. Discussed having a check-out system. Facility is in Rancho Cordova, Bronwyn suggested contacting person there directly. Linda volunteered her freezer space. She also wants to know about research comparing the degradation of old carcasses versus freshly dead bats. Dave reminded the group that there is potential risk of disease with bats from rehab centers. Leila had spoken a disease ecologist about whether it is safe to use a bat carcass of unknown cause of death or origin, because rabies does survive freezing. Opines that carcasses should from a lab where it has been confirmed to not have rabies. However, Pat points out that rabies only transferable by bite, not ingestion; Dave still thinks risk is there for some diseases.
4. **White Nose Syndrome update -- Scott Osborn.** Scott gave update on WNS, with Linda. Intended to be update of California WNS steering committee, which was envisioned as an agency-populated committee that was charged with representing those communities, to develop a plan to prepare for and respond to WNS. Still in planning stages; haven't done much as committee. Individuals members have been doing work. NPS member in lava beds has been working with NPS to reduce human transmission. Scott and others have been active in national and state coordination efforts, keeping abreast of development. Fred Frick is doing surveillance for GD as well as characterize hibernacula in lava beds NM, with an NSF grant. Will be going out with Mike Morrison to Inyo mountains. Linda says that she and Dave Wyatt put in proposal for vehicle acoustic transects this coming summer. Dave adds that they are 15 mile transects at 30 miles/ hour to get pre-WNS characterization of area. Back east already proven this is a valuable tool. They and Bill Rainey have established 6 permanent stations in Sutter Buttes for long term monitoring, requests that someone from the CA WNS WG to join the WBWG WNS group, because right now Dave is only member. Susan Ramones volunteered that she has a specific interest, will work with Dave Wyatt perhaps?

5. **Legislation specific to protect bats – Scott Osborn.** Cluster of rabies in Ventura counties – Deanna (veterinarian) worked with local and State agencies to educate about rabies and also the benefits of bats. Would like legislation specific to dealing with bats. Wants a survey of current state legislations, help. Greg Tatarian discussed his experience with humane bat abatement. Was involved in legislation 15 years ago to attempt to create a new license class for people doing bat exclusion. However, politics changed to want less regulation, so now anyone doing non-lethal removal of bats is exempt from further education. Due to lack of regulation bats in private setting, both structural pest control and agricultural commissioner felt they had control. Now is enforced by agricultural commissioner. As long as CDFG doesn't have strong protection for bats on private property, this will be the case. Scott would like a statute for bats in Fish and Game code. However, since bats are classified as non-game mammals, may not be possible... but are a number of exceptions and additions in that section. Dave recommends finding a legislator that will champion the cause. Greg suggest listing a species and piggybacking it on there, b/c most bat excluders are not good at species id. Pat says Arizona has statute protecting any bat maternity colony, public or private. Will discuss it on WBWG call on Monday. Joe Ellen Arnold also wants to help, along with Dave, Greg, Scott, Pat maybe.
6. **Western Bat Working Group -- Dave J.** WBWG conference will be held in Spring 2013 in New Mexico. The conference will concentrate on updating the status of species in Western states. **If anyone is interested in helping with conference, let Dave know.**
7. **CBWG election – Scott Osborn** – Dave and Bronwyn had been elected. According to by-laws, chairs need to be re-elected every 2 years. Recommend doing it by e-mail; Pat and Ted ran it last time. Scott says he may be interested in being a chair. Dave asks for vote counters – Heather and Ted volunteered. **Send nominations (self or others) to them; they will put out ballot we will vote by e-mail.** Will be by end of February.
8. **California Conservation plan – Scott** – Been in development for many years under contract through UC Berkeley, with a team of bat experts. Close to being finished. Has funding for a scientific aid to help review and edit draft. All hope it will be done soon.
9. **New Items –**
  - a. **Heather Johnson** – Saw that from 2001 notes, the group had wanted a forest bat inventory protocol manual. Linda says a good portion of it is done and it will be out soon.
  - b. **Kim Glinka**– recently began work with PG&E, where awareness of bats is very low. She says that there is an established pool of

biologists to work on projects with existing infrastructure. Lots of questions come up. Tasked with a lot of things to cover through permitting process. Requests input from bat experts to PG&E. Will give contact info; wants someone to come in and speak with group at lunch for a couple hours in San Ramon office as to what laws are out there and what can be done; experience with hydro, wind, etc. Dave J. points out that PG&E is no longer being an owner of wind energy; will sub. Asks how this will be communicated to various regions. Greg volunteers to help Kim. Group suggests developing a manual for dealing with infrastructure.

- c. **Pat Brown** mentioned that bats roost in the ground in creosote bush habitat on flats in desert and that we should be mindful of this when looking at potential impacts to bats at solar energy facilities.