



Weed and Vertebrate Committee

Conference Call

April 3, 2014

Minutes

Committee Members

Ron Ross, Chair – San Benito
 Cathi Boze, Secretary - Mariposa
 Vince Guise – Contra Costa
 Mike Boitano - Amador
 Patrick Griffin - Siskiyou
 Nathan Reade – Inyo/Mono

Alternates

Les Wright - Fresno
 Kevin Wright - Calaveras
 Joe Moreo – Modoc/Lassen
 John Snyder - Riverside

I. **Call to Order/ Roll Call ~**

The Weed and Vertebrate Committee meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by Chairman Ron Ross.

Committee members present: Ron Ross, Cathi Boze, Vince Guise, Patrick Griffin, Nathan Reade, Les Wright, Kevin Wright, and Joe Moreo.

Guests present: Tim Cansler

II. **Approval of Minutes ~ group**

*It was **M/S/C** to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2013, Weed and Vertebrate Committee meeting.*

III. **Old Business**

a. Update on EIR for Wildlife Services ~ Pat Griffin

Pat and Tim Cansler discussed the commitment from Wildlife Services to assist with the development of the EIR in California. The CACASA delegation met with Bill Clay, Deputy Administrator for Wildlife Services, while they were in Washington D.C. and discussed the need for CEQA analysis and compliance in California. He stated that Wildlife Services will pay 80% of the cost for the CEQA analysis. Weed & Vertebrate Committee needs to ask the CACASA Board of Directors to follow-up on this commitment with a letter to Bill Clay to codify what Wildlife Services was willing to commit to. Pat, Tony Linegar, Josh Huntsinger, and Tim Cansler will draft the letter and Ron will follow-up with Stacy Carlsen and Jim Allan

CDFA is willing to take a lead role in this. California State Farm Bureau is supporting this EIR. The question is: What is the total amount needed? Who is going to pay the remaining 20% of the cost? Perhaps industry and other stakeholders?

b. Update on Appropriations requests ~ Tim Cansler

❖ Tim discussed the Wildlife Services appropriations and CACASA's request to make the cost-share equitable for California with the other states. \$1.5 million would accomplish the 50:50 cost- share.



- WS Appropriations request – FY 2014 - \$87.4 million
FY 2015 - \$106 million (includes \$20 million for feral swine)
- Embargo on earmarks. Need to submit language in the report accompanying the appropriation bill that recognizes the erosion of the federal portion of cooperative cost-share agreements with certain states and their respective political subdivisions.
- Need to maintain equity in respective cooperative cost-share agreements.
- Appropriations bill provides 100% of the funding
- Future implications – earmark moratorium since 2010
- California is one of the lowest states in per capita funding and it is estimated that it would require \$1.5 million to achieve the 50:50 cost-share.
- ❖ Tim discussed the appropriations request for weed management:
 - \$2.5 million for Region 5 to complete NEPAs on each National Forest for California
 - Language to be included in the appropriations process to Ken Calvert (Corona), Chair of the Appropriations subcommittee that oversees the USFS budget
 - Need to complete NEPAs in order to do any weed management activities on USFS ground
 - 2 questions for the USFS from the appropriations committee:
 - Why does BLM have no problem completing NEPAs and IPM on federal lands?
 - Why can't the USFS do the same?
- ❖ Pat has sent a letter to Lesley Weldon, Deputy Chief U.S. Forest Service, addressing these issues.

c. Update on Weed Free Forage interagency group ~ Ron Ross

Ron discussed the Weed Free Forage system and the multi-agency MOU. Currently there are no USFS closure orders in California.

Issues:

- How to identify WFF hay – colored twine? Or ?
- When certified, growers can buy twine – but then there is an issue with the amount of twine needed (Nevada has this process in place).
- What agency will act as a clearing house for the process and the twine? Cal-IPC or CA Alfalfa and Forage Association (CAFA) or CDFA?
- What is the volume of WFF involved?
- Can issue a State phyto or CQC to go with the shipment now, but growers would prefer a physical item on each bale – i.e. colored twine or stickers.

Next WFF conference call will be on 4/22/2014.

IV. New Business

a. Fish & Game Commission and predator policy and regulations ~ group

Group discussion of FGC hearing on predator management policy and regulations. Proposed regulations are changes include checking traps once in a 24-hour period instead of daily and retaining the prohibition on all snares in the San Joaquin Kit Fox (SJKF) and Sierra Nevada Red Fox (SNRF) range which would leave no options other than calling for predator control. Discussion of suggested changes from CFBF to the FGC and CCR sections. Request from the San Joaquin Valley Area Group to recommend that CACASA send a letter to CDFW supporting the CFBF's suggested changes to the FGC and Title 14 CCR.



It was **M/S/C** to draft a letter to the CACASA Board of Directors supporting CFBF's suggested changes to the FGC and CCR sections.

b. CDFA Weed Policy changes ~ Ron

- CDFA is cleaning up and revising the weed policy, but no funding is being considered
- CDFA would put no ratings on the PDRs, but would have an internal list of weeds.
- Standards of cleanliness would still apply for nursery stock
- Updates to the 4500 List of California Noxious Weeds. Water hyacinth and Brazilian waterweed are creating problems in the Delta, are not currently on the 4500 list, and should be added to the 4500 list
- Concern at CDFA was that the rating system was an underground regulation that we were enforcing

c. Weed Management bill AB 2402 ~ group

Discussion of AB 2402 (Buchanan) that would provide \$2.5 million in funding for noxious weed management (60% for the WMAs, 20% for research, and 20% to CDFA to administer the program as well as for biocontrol). Weed & Vertebrate Committee recommends support for the legislation.

V. Other Business

Spring Conference – agenda items

- USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services update – Dennis Orthmeyer – to address the WS EIR, appropriations to allow 50:50 cost-share with the counties, \$20 million in feral swine funding and why California is getting such a small share (\$1 million)
- AB 2402 – Doug Johnson, Cal-IPC
- USFS NEPA/IPM status – invite USFS Chief Tom Tidwell (Tim will help with the invitation letter)

VI. Adjournment ~

The Weed and Vertebrate Committee meeting was adjourned by Chairman Ross at 5:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathi Boze

Cathi Boze, Secretary

"A Weed (or two) a Day, That's All I Ask!"