

# Mono County Collaborative Planning Team

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## DRAFT MINUTES

January 30, 2020

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Members present: Stacy Corless, Mono Supervisors; Cleland Hoff, Mammoth Town Council; Mark Hanneman & Austin West, Caltrans; Deanna Dulen, Devils Postpile National Monument; Doug Power, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center; Alisa Ellsworth & Heidi Calvert, CDFW; Jan Cutts & Jan Orlando, USFS/Humboldt-Toiyabe; Justin Barrett, Marcy Haworth & Shawna Theisen, USFWS (teleconference)

Members absent: Gordon Martin, USFS/Inyo; Mike Grahek, LADWP; Erin Nordin, USFWS/Reno; Kathleen Morse, Yosemite National Park; Tina Braithwaite, Benton Paiutes; Jay Hall, Bridgeport Indian Colony

Staff present: Wendy Sugimura, Kelly Karl, CD Ritter

Guests present: Fred Stump, Mono Supervisors; Bartshe Miller, Mono Lake Committee; Jora Fogg; Rhonda Duggan

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**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ATTENDEE INTRODUCTIONS:** Stacy Corless called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m., and attendees recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**3. MINUTES:**

***MOTION:*** Approve draft minutes of Oct. 31, 2019 (*Power/Hoff*)

**4. AGENCY ROUNDTABLE:** Agencies discussed planning issues & pending projects---

--- **BREAK: 10:05-10:10** ---

**5. PROPOSED LISTING OF SIERRA NEVADA RED FOX AS ENDANGERE3D:** High elevations, endangered by State, scrub vegetation, heavy snows, short growing seasons. Petitioned for listing in 2011, 2015 entire subspecies not warranted. Southern Cascades and Sierra: Cascades not, Sierra was. Based listing on best available resiliency, redundancy and representation. Southern Washington state. No fox trapping in 1974. Elevation: 1,800' to 11,000'.

Mono's current population is 10-50 individuals around Sonora Pass area. Catalina Island has 150. Threats: Small population size, reduced reproduction, hybridization, decreasing prey abundance, and competition with coyotes. Implications for Mono? No noticeable impact, at higher elevation. Snowmobiling greatest recreational disturbance. Working with USFS to minimize impact.

Stump: Hybridization concern. Looking at climate change that should increase growing season in higher meadows. How stop fox from breeding? Movements to extract pure genetic material to support maintenance of subspecies.

Haworth: Augment with foxes from Cascades, bring in native fox, or native genes. Still have pure individuals.

Theisen: No solutions for interbreeding or hybridization. Foxes are social animals.

Stump: Cascades population sufficient?

Haworth: No captive breeding plan. Need to better understand “donor population” to remove individuals to Sierra. Not negative impact on donor population.

Theisen: Conservation plan for review/consideration, still in early process of figuring out conserving species.

Haworth: SNRF working group entails entire subspecies. Federal and state agency people contemplating.

Calvert: Staff in Region 6 working on conservation strategy and camera to detect how fox moving, genetic work on scat. Potential collars.

Bartshe Miller: Great Basin population of foxes genetically similar. Aware of fox in Lee Vining, got pictures, hair and scat samples to Sacramento. *Barrett: Multiple subspecies.*

Dulen: Tracking camera at Banner and Ritter last winter. Fox at headwaters of San Joaquin?

Haworth: Study areas. Mono Creek in 2018, Ritter Range study (dispersing from Sonora Pass?). Additional sightings.

Johnson: Why critical habitat not proposed?

Haworth: Sometimes see that but decided not prudent. If threats to critter (small population size) not habitat issue. Possible someone comment. Not proposing critical habitat.

Cutts: Snowmobiling on east side of Sonora Pass, motorized vehicles at MWTC. Effect of snowmobiles?

Haworth: Compacted ground, noise factor, increased coyote access.

Cutts: On west side of Sonora groomed snowmobile trails.

Theisen: Challenge is long winters in Sierra, disturbance during denning time.

Cutts: Who working with at USFS? Theisen: Not working with USFS yet. Sacramento preliminary work. Avoiding denning sites in spring. May flagging areas or moving trails. Follow up with Sacramento office.

**Computer malfunctioned, so no additional minutes.**

6. **LADWP/LONG VALLEY & SAGE GROUSE UPDATE:** Wendy Sugimura
7. **AGENCY HOUSING ROUNDTABLE:** Wendy Sugimura
8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
9. **ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, April 30, 2020, at 9 a.m.

*Prepared by CD Ritter, CPT clerk*