

HABITAT CONSERVATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A regular meeting of the Habitat Conservation Technical Committee (TC) was held in the conference room of the Washington County Administration Building, **October 8, 2015.**

Members present were:

Kristen Comella, Chairperson	Snow Canyon State Park (SCSP)
Cameron Rognan, Vice Chairman	Washington County HCP
Ann McLuckie	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)
Lynne Scott	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Absent and Excused were:

Nathan Brown	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Marshall Topham	Local Biologist

Also present was:

Lacey McIntyre	Washington County HCP Recorder
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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Cameron Rognan noted a quorum existed and called the meeting to order at 10:55 a.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. **September 10, 2015**

MOTION by Cameron Rognan to approve the minutes.
Seconded by Lynne Scott.
Discussion: None.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

3. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

a. **Consideration of Sentierre field trip**

The committee discussed options for a proposed new trail and the possible elimination or reconfiguration of trails on both sides of Tuacahn Drive. There was no sustainable route identified on the initial field trip of the area so Snow Canyon State Park (SCSP) needs time to go on the ground and scout out if there are any potential sustainable routes and, if so, what the impact would be and how it might be properly mitigated. Ultimately, the committee decided to continue this issue until SCSP can make further route investigations.

b. **Raven Predation Presentation - Cameron**

Cameron Rognan presented Exhibit 3-b-1 which discussed raven predation on the desert tortoise in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. Cameron and the HCP summer intern Mark Draper visited all previously known nesting areas and searched for new sites. They also monitored nest activity and inspected all nest and roost areas for pellets and tortoise remains. Finally, they walked under all major utility lines, carefully inspecting below each pole for raven pellets and tortoise remains. They spent 65 hours surveying nests, covering 3,900 acres where they found 69 pellets and 6 tortoise carcasses. They surveyed utility lines for 25 hours, covering 60 Km where they found 26 pellets and 5 tortoise carcasses. Overall they discovered that ravens are, in fact, killing hatchling tortoises in the Reserve and the predation appears to be local and less than in other areas of the Mojave Desert. They recommend continued monitoring and taking control measures in the future, if needed.

4. **OTHER REPORTS FROM TC MEMBERS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

a. Ann asked the committee about revisiting the Pioneer Park fencing issue next month.

5. **NEXT MEETING DATES**

a. **November 12, 2015**

6. **ADJOURN**

MOTION by Ann McLuckie to adjourn.

Seconded by Lynne Scott.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.