

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

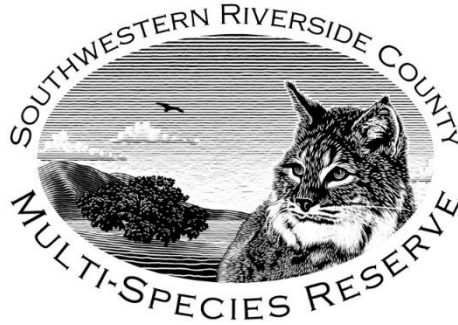


Reserve Management Committee Meeting

**Multi-Species Reserve Office (Alamos Schoolhouse)
Lake Skinner Recreation Area,
37701 Warren Road, Winchester, CA 92596**

**Wednesday, June 20, 2019 -- 1:00 P.M.
Agenda**

1. Call to order and introductions
2. Public comments
3. Approval of meeting notes – The RMC will review the 3/13/2019 meeting notes for approval.
4. Reserve Manager Report – The Reserve manager will present the annual work plan and budget for Reserve management activities addressing (a) natural resources management, (b) patrol, (c) maintenance, and (d) interpretative program.
5. Status of Reserve Office Building – The RMC will be provide an update on the status of the planning for the Reserve Office Building.
6. Review of Draft RMC website - The RMC will be asked to provide feedback and input on the draft website.
7. Reserve management RFP scope of work – The RMC will be provided an update on status.
8. Trails Update – MWD will provide an update on the status of trails planning efforts.
9. Roundtable – RMC members will provide updates on Reserve-related activities of their agencies.
10. Adjourn



Quarterly Report March-June 2019

Natural Resources Management

- Reserve Manager completed the population density survey for the North Shore Munz Onion. Data is still being analyzed, but initial observations showed that dense populations of the rare plant are only located in a few pockets and not over a large area. Once analysis is complete all information will be put into a report and filed in the MSR Library.
- Heavy rainfall and a long winter proved to have a positive impact on native plant species in the Reserve. In addition to Munz Onion, covered species Payson's Jewelflower (*Caulanthus simlans*) were seen. Other flowering plants observed include several species of lilies, Owl's Clover, lupines, and California poppies. Shrubs species such as bitterbrush and chamise are also flowering and thriving.
- In addition to the native plants, staff are also observing an increase in non-native vegetation. Several species of mustards and Bromus spp. can be observed in dense populations on the reserve. Fortunately, stinknet and bassia have not increased significantly this year.
- Staff have set up cowbird traps in 3 locations. Each site has historically produced good numbers and will remain open until cowbirds are no longer being captured or if there is an increase of non-target species.
- Burrowing owl have not been observed in recent months. All management units were inspected by the Reserve Manager. Artificial burrows were weed abated earlier this year, but many became overgrown or impacted by small mammals.
- The field crew has continued to maintain the native plant nursery. A total of 100 native riparian trees and shrubs are currently rooting and 50 Engelmann oaks are in pots. Additionally, staff collected native bunchgrass seed, which will be propagated and planted in SKR management units.
- The FY 2019/2020 Annual Work Plan and reserve management budget was created. These items will be presented at the June 2019 RMC meeting.

Ranger Patrol

- A new MSR brochure was designed by Reserve staff. Information in the document includes a summary of the MSR, a brief history of the Alamo Schoolhouse, rules and regulations of the Reserve, and volunteer opportunities.
- Reserve staff and Open-Space Rangers assisted with the Temecula Valley Balloon and Wine Festival. Staff made preparations for potential emergency landings and rescues. One balloon landed near the entrance to Lake Skinner Recreation Area. No other issues to report.
- Reserve Ranger conducted patrols and assisted visitors at the DVL Wildflower Trail. Reserve Staff and MWD have been working together to open the Lake Skinner Trail. The trail is expected to open in June. Additionally, the group also assisted with contracted biologist
- Trespass issues this quarter included 4 teenagers riding bikes on North Shore road of Lake Skinner. The Reserve Ranger escorted the group to their parents and educated them on Reserve rules. One hot air balloon landed on south shore. No damage to the Reserve was observed.
- Southern California Edison is working on a power pole replacement near Shipley Barn. Staff are working with the company to ensure SKR are not being impacted by the project.

Maintenance

- Field staff have dedicated most of their time to weed abatement of management units. Several areas are being treated more than once due to late season storms. Additionally, the tractor equipment failed several times on staff. The small Kubota tractor needed a new fan belt and hydraulic lines. The larger Kubota had a bad fuel line and needed replacement. Also the 6ft mower had a broken wheel that was replaced.
- Preparations for the prescribed burns in Crown Valley, North Shore, and Pig Farm units was completed by Calfire and staff. All 3 units are expected to be burned before the end of June.
- Heavy rains had major impacts on Reserve roads. The field crew were required to make multiple repairs by grading and filling in ruts. Annual maintenance of service roads is being scheduled with MWD.

Interpretive

- A total of 1,179 visitors came to the Alamos Schoolhouse Nature Center and 108 visitors attended one of 8 nature hikes.
- New displays include a fluorescent mineral exhibit. A Girl Scout is preparing to upgrade the Alamos schoolhouse native plant garden by adding dripline and botanical signage.

- Reserve staff hosted 2 sessions of volunteer training at the Alamos Schoolhouse. Volunteers were given an update on current projects and reserve objectives. Once the training was completed, each volunteer was given the opportunity to visit the MSR.

- On April 20th, Reserve staff hosted the 2nd Annual Earth Day Event. We saw a large increase in visitation compared to last year. Over 100 people visited the event throughout the day. Special thanks to everyone that hosted a booth and supported the event.

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

2019/2020 Annual Work Plan

Property Management

1. Revise Species Management Units-Task Order 7

Goal: Create Shapefile of Reserve Management Units.

Objective: Inspect current management units dedicated to covered species and vegetation management. Redefine each unit based on current conditions and threats.

Strategy: Reserve Manager will inspect each unit individually and assess current vegetation in order to redefine boundaries. Shapefile will be uploaded to ArcMap and will be utilized to create field maps. During field observation staff will plot target weed species.

Deliverable:

- Newly established boundaries for all management units on the Reserve.
- Plotted target weed species within management units.

Milestone:

- Complete unit assessments and update RMC of changes- **June-2020**

2. Research on Multi-Species Reserve- Task Order 8

Goal: To increase research opportunities that focus on issues pertinent to the Multi-Species Reserve. Section 4 SWRCMSR Management Plan. (**Recurring Goal**)

Objective: Compile research from previous years and store in the Reserve library. Meet with new researchers

Strategy: Reserve Manager will contact existing researchers including WRCMSHCP Biological Monitoring Crew, UCR, and SD Zoo to receive an update on current projects. Published data will be collected and added to the Reserve library. Additionally, Reserve Manager will meet with new researchers and continue to increase the Reserve library.

Deliverable:

- Review submitted research journals and store in appropriate sections.
- Update research proposal database with current projects and future research ideas that will be beneficial to the reserve.
- Increase Reserve library with published research.

Milestone:

- Contact researchers for missing data- **August 2019**
- Deadline to submit data- **November 2019**
- Complete data entry and add to Reserve library.- **March 2020**

Vegetation Management

3. Fire Road Restoration-Task Order 4

Goal: Restore habitat on bulldozer roads created by the Patterson Fire.

Objective: Repair and restore segments of the bulldozer roads with native vegetation.

Strategy: Conduct a full assessment of vegetation growth on nearly 3 miles of bulldozer roads created in the 2018 wildfire. Roads will be inspected for potential non-native plant species brought in by equipment. Any new unwanted vegetation will be treated as needed by field staff.

Deliverable:

- Survey vegetation that is present prior to treatment of roads.
- Post treatment survey identifying the current status of the roads, remaining vegetation, and if treatment enhanced the area.

Milestone:

- Complete initial vegetation assessment- **August 2019**
- Start treatment of target weed species- **Spring 2020**
- Complete Post Treatment Survey- **June 2020**
- Submit annual update on goal to RMC- **June 2020**

4. Fire, Fuels, and Weed Management- Task Order 4

Goal: Create a comprehensive 5-Year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) to control non-native species of weeds and prevent the spread of wildland fires in accordance with section 5 of SWRCMSR Management Plan. **(Recurring Goal)**

Objective: Survey and map with ArcGIS current burn and grazing units. Reestablish a MOU with Cal-Fire to conduct annual burns and weed abatement within the Reserve. Establish an agreement with Water Quality (MWD) to permit grazing of sheep.

Strategy: Reserve Manager will implement the 3rd year of the 5 year VMP. Prescribe burns and grazing will be conducted in order to remove non-native vegetation. Post burn and grazing operations will be followed by vegetation monitoring and active restoration. Cal-Fire crews will conduct prescribe burns and abatement of weeds along roadside. Field Crew will conduct mowing operations if burning or grazing is not permitted.

Deliverable:

- Vegetation Management Plan updated with maps showing VMP units and details on which units will be grazed, burned, or mowed on an annual basis.
- Survey current fuels and weeds that are present prior to treatment.
- Post treatment survey identifying the current status of the management unit, remaining vegetation, and if treatment enhanced the area.
- Identify if management units will need active restoration post burn.
- Field activity report including vegetation and fire management.
- Mechanically treat 175 acres, graze 50 acres, and burn 100 acres of non-native grasslands.

Milestone:

- Update Vegetation Management Plan- **September 2019**
- Submit quarterly field activity report to RMC- **Sept. 2019, Dec. 2019, Mar. 2020, and Jun. 2020**
- Complete post treatment assessment- **June 2020**
- Submit annual update on goal to RMC- **June 2020**

5. Weed Management Plan (Invasion Non-Natives) - Task Order 4

Goal: Establish a detailed weed management plan to prevent the spread of new non-native plant species on the Reserve in order to protect biodiversity and encourage the reestablishment of native plants with an emphasis on covered species. The use of adaptive management practices will be implemented in accordance with Section 4 of the SWRCMSR Management Plan. **(Recurring Goal)**

Objective: Identify and map management units within the reserve that have known populations of Stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*), Five- Hook Bassia (*Bassia hyssopifolia*), Sahara Mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*), and Black Mustard (*Brassica nigra*). Apply Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to effectively eradicate weed populations.

Strategy: Reserve Manager will train Reserve Field Crew on proper identification of target weed species. Areas will be plotted on Collector with preliminary data including weed density, terrain, and existing covered species in the region. Instituting priority levels for each unit will be assigned by Reserve Manager and will be based on weed population, severity, weather conditions, and annual rainfall.

Deliverable:

- Update existing database with known locations of each weed species in order to track its spread within the Reserve.
- Plot with Collector the acreage of each weed species.
- Collect weed samples to train staff on proper identification of each species. Samples should include seedling, rosette, bud, and flower/adult stages.
- Annual field report including actions taken to remove target species, locations of each species, and extent of spreading in the Reserve.
- Annual survey of treatment areas and progress of eradication.
- Treatment of 6 acres of Five-hook Bassia, 5 acres of Stinknet, 3 acres of Sahara Mustard, and 3 acres of Black Mustard (*Brassica nigra*) by utilizing adaptive management practices.

Milestone:

- Complete treatment of weed species- **November 2019**
- Complete assessment of the progression of each weed species- **December 2019**
- Submit annual field report to RMC- **December 2019**

6. Riparian Habitat Restoration-Task Order 6

Goal: Establish a 3-year Restoration Plan for Tualota, Middle, and Rawson creeks. **(Recurring Goal)**

Objective: Remove non-native plant species within riparian areas. Start phase 1 nursery stocked with Cottonwood, (*Populus fremontii*), Willow (*Salix spp.*), Mule Fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), and Sycamore (*Plantanus racemose*).

Strategy: Reserve Manager will continue working on the 3-year restoration plan, which will include invasive species removal techniques, propagation methods, active restoration practices, and covered species management. Field Crew will utilize IPM to successfully remove invasive species. They will take plant cuttings and store in MSR nursery. Plant stock will be used in year 3 of management plan.

Deliverable:

- Restoration Plan for Tualota, Middle, and Rawson creeks that identifies treatment areas, target weed species, and active restoration methods.
- Propagate and install 500 native trees and shrubs.
- Nursery Report with details on number of cuttings, progression, and approximate timeframe when ready for planting.
- Quarterly Field Activity Report identifying field activities for weed management benefitting each creek.
- Remove 1 acre of non-native vegetation located in the riparian habitat.

- Annual survey of each creek identifying current progress report on eradication of target species and restoration.

Milestone:

- Take cuttings- **November 2019**
- Start invasive species removal- **January 2020**
- Submit nursery report to RMC- **April 2020**
- Submit Annual Report to RMC- **June 2020**

Interpretive Program

7. Reserve Species Brochure- Task Order 5

Goal: To increase awareness of plant and animal species within the Reserve.

Objective: Create a one page brochure that highlights various species residing on the Reserve and distribute at the Alamos Schoolhouse.

Strategy: Park Aide will develop brochure with the assistance of the Reserve Manager, and Park Interpreter Supervisor. SWRCMSR Management Plan will be utilized as well as other Reserve library documents.

Deliverable:

- Increased public awareness of the plant and animal species of the Reserve.
- Print 500 brochures and distribute at the Alamos Schoolhouse.

Milestone:

- Complete brochure and submit for review- **December 2019**
- Distribute at Alamos Schoolhouse- **February 2020**

8. Special Event at the Schoolhouse-Task Order 5

Goal: To increase visitor use at the Alamos Schoolhouse Nature Center and create awareness of protected species within the Reserve.

Objective: A single day event emphasizing animal and plant species protected under SWRCMSR. In addition to discovering local wildlife, visitors will interact with alumni from the historic Alamos Schoolhouse.

Strategy: Park Aide will develop a special event with the assistance of the Reserve Manager, Park Interpreter Supervisor, and other District Park Interpreters. Animal experts will educate the public about endangered species. Staff will provide arts and crafts for school age children.

Deliverable:

- Special Event Program including information on educational components, crafts, and history of the Alamos Schoolhouse.
- Increased public awareness and usage of the schoolhouse throughout the year.
- Host an event that can accommodate 75-100 individuals.

Milestone:

- Update program for special event- **December 2019**
- Special event- **April 2020**

9. Nature Walks at the Schoolhouse-Task Order 5

Goal: To increase weekend visitor use at the Alamos Schoolhouse Nature Center

Objective: Continue Saturday nature walk using various interpretive techniques to engage the public about protecting the environment and endangered species.

Strategy: Park Aide will continue the established nature walk program that will be reviewed by Park Interpreter Supervisor. Park Aide and volunteers will conduct guided walks along South Shore Road.

Deliverable:

- Saturday Nature Walk Program including information on educational components and bird watching.
- Increased public awareness and usage of the schoolhouse throughout the year.
- Complete 15 nature hikes throughout the year.

Milestone:

- Complete program for Nature Walks- **September 2019**
- Nature Walks- **October to May 2020**

10. Summer Speaker Series-Task Order 5

Goal: To increase visitor use of the Alamos Schoolhouse Nature Center.

Objective: Enhance visitor learning experience at the Alamos Schoolhouse.

Strategy: Select a different speaker each week during the summer to talk about their experiences and background in wildlife management and parks.

Deliverable:

- Speaker series program including information on discussion and relevant topics.
- Public awareness of the schoolhouse and increase usage for throughout the year.
- Provide 5 talks to Alamos Schoolhouse visitors throughout the summer.

Milestone:

- Speaker Series program completed – **July 2019**
- Speaker Series begins- **Summer 2019/2020**

Species Management

11. Large Mammal Camera Traps- Task Order 8

Goal: Establish baseline data for large mammals located on the Reserve.

Objective: Determine if there is a significant presence of large mammals on the Reserve including mountain lions, deer, and bobcats. Identify species and manage known wildlife populations.

Strategy: Utilize 3 to 5 game cameras to monitor large mammal movement near natural springs and known animal crossing. Apply Best Management Practices (BMP) based on results of the research and aid in the continued management of covered species.

Deliverable:

- Annual trap report with detailed information regarding species occurrences, locations, and date of sightings.
- Continuously updated heat maps indicating presence of target species.

Milestone:

- Identify locations for camera traps- **August 2019**
- Install cameras in the field- **September 2019**
- Upload data onto ArcMap- **Dec 2019, Feb. 2020, May 2020**
- Update RMC on goal- **Quarterly**

12. Burrowing Owl Habitat Enhancement- Task Order 3

Goal: To create suitable habitat for Burrowing Owl in accordance with Appendix 10 of the SWRCMSR Management Plan.

Objective: Assess current artificial burrows, replace damaged units, and install new artificial burrows inside the Entrance Management Unit.

Strategy: Reserve Manager will inspect each artificial burrow to determine if the site is suitable for Burrowing Owl. Field Crew will remove damaged burrows and install replacements. Vegetation will be managed around each natural and artificial burrow inside the management unit.

Deliverable:

- Burrow assessment with details on the condition of all pre-existing artificial burrows and vegetation in the area.
- New artificial burrows installed to replace damaged sites and to enhance owl habitat. Each owl boxes will be based on the most recent designed being utilized by WRCMSHCP.
- Annual breeding surveys with observation data of all breeding stages.

Milestone:

- Assess existing burrows- **October 2019**
- Construct and install replacement artificial boxes- **January 2020**
- Submit annual survey to RMC- **June 2020**

13. Stephens Kangaroo Rat Habitat Restoration (Rawson Road) -Task Order 2

Goal: Create a 3-year habitat restoration plan for Stephens Kangaroo Rat (SKR) (*Dipodomys stephensi*) on RCHCA owned lands within MSR. Management and monitoring methods will be in compliance with Section 4 and Appendix 10 of the SWRCMSR Management Plan. **(Recurring Goal)**

Objective: Map RCHCA owned parcels along Rawson road and identify methods of vegetation management to enhance SKR habitat. Start 3rd phase of non-native vegetation removal.

Strategy: Reserve Manager will implement the 3rd year of the 3-Year Habitat Restoration Plan for the Stephens Kangaroo Rat on RCHCA Lands- Rawson Road Parcels.

Deliverable:

- Update Habitat Restoration Plan including mapping, vegetation management methods, and SKR management guidance from RCHCA.
- Post treatment survey identifying the current status of the management unit, remaining vegetation, and if treatment enhanced the area for SKR.
- Field activity report including vegetation management and monitoring results.
- Mechanically treat 33 acres of non-native vegetation as indicated in the 3-Year Habitat Restoration Plan for the Stephens Kangaroo Rat on RCHCA Lands- Rawson Road Parcels.

Milestone:

- Start 3rd phase of vegetation management- **August 2019**
- Submit annual Field Activity Report to RCHCA- **December 2019**
- Year 3 Post Treatment Survey- **June 2020**

14. Brown-headed Cowbird Trapping-Task Order 3

Goal: Eradication of the non-native Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) in accordance with Appendix 7 of the SWRCMSR Management Plan. (**Recurring Goal**)

Objective: Utilize cowbird traps in strategic locations to protect covered bird species. Trapping data will be plotted on GIS with additional information on the number of birds captured at each location.

Strategy: Reserve Manager will identify 3 locations for cowbird trapping. Traps will be places near riparian habitat where covered species of birds are known to nest. Reserve Manager and Reserve Ranger will check traps daily, dispatch any cowbirds captured, and release any non-target birds.

Deliverable:

- Annual Trapping Data Report with maps of number of cowbirds trapped, and their locations.
- Install 3 traps in various locations on the Reserve in order to capture 25 target species.

Milestone:

- Submit trapping data to RMC for previous year- **September 2019**
- Cowbird traps set in the field- **March 2020**
- Traps removed from the field- **August 2020**

15. Engelmann Oak Assessment and Restoration -Task Order 6

Goal: A multi-year project to reestablish MSR covered species of Engelmann Oak (*Quercus engelmannii*) to its native woodland habitat. Decline of covered species can be referenced in Appendix 6 of SWRCMSR Management Plan. (**Recurring Goal**)

Objective: Survey and GPS existing Engelmann Oaks located on the Reserve. Assess the current health of existing trees and eliminate potential fire fuel hazards. Propagate and maintain seedlings in nursery.

Strategy: Reserve Manager will GPS and tag new trees not currently in the database. A Tree ID number and current health status will be assigned to each tree. Utilizing the reserve Field Crew to removed ladder fuels that could potentially destroy the trees in the event of a wildfire.

Deliverable:

- Engelmann Oak Survey of oaks in Lopez Canyon and Rawson Rift. An attribute table on Collector with notes of approximate size and general health of each tree, and a detailed assessment of fuel/fire break needs for each tree.
- Nursery Report with details on number of saplings, progression, and approximate timeframe when ready for planting.
- Quarterly Field Activity Report identifying field activities for fuel management benefitting Engelmann Oaks.
- Propagate an additional 50 Engelmann oaks and plant 25 saplings from previous year's production.

Milestone:

- Complete survey – **October 2019**
- Submit Engelmann Oak survey report to RMC – **March 2020**
- Submit nursery report to RMC – **March 2020**
- Submit annual field activity report to RMC- **Sept. 2019, Dec. 2019, Mar 2020, and Jun 2020**

**SOUTHWESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTI-SPECIES RESERVE
FY19-20 TASK ORDER BUDGET**

Description	T001 Reserve Admin.	T002 SKR Habitat Maintenance	T003 Habitat & Species Management	T004 Weed Management	T005 Interpretive Services	T006 Habitat Restoration	T007 Reserve Patrol & Mgmt	T008 Research	TOTAL BUDGET
PERSONNEL									
Natural Resources Manager	31,915	-	16,886	-	2,026	6,754	10,132	16,886	114,994
Park Ranger III	4,488	-	10,771	3,590	1,077	1,077	59,421	1,077	81,502
Park Maintenance Worker	3,671	-	8,810	65,197	881	17,621	2,937	881	99,998
Park Aide	-	-	-	-	18,414	-	-	-	18,414
Total Personnel	\$ 40,074	\$ -	\$ 36,468	\$ 99,182	\$ 22,399	\$ 25,452	\$ 72,490	\$ 18,844	\$ 314,908
SUPPLIES & OTHER									
Total Supplies & Other	\$ 11,450	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 24,150
ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEAD									
Admin Overhead @ 15%	\$ 7,729	\$ -	\$ 5,620	\$ 15,552	\$ 4,110	\$ 3,998	\$ 10,948	\$ 2,902	\$ 50,859
MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT									
Total Estimated Mileage	1,500	-	1,000	4,000	500	1,000	8,250	1,000	17,250
2019 IRS Mileage Rate	\$ 0.580	\$ 0.580	\$ 0.580	\$ 0.580	\$ 0.580	\$ 0.580	\$ 0.580	\$ 0.580	
Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 870	\$ -	\$ 580	\$ 2,320	\$ 290	\$ 580	\$ 4,785	\$ 580	\$ 10,005
FY19-20 GRAND TOTAL	\$ 60,122	\$ -	\$ 43,668	\$ 121,554	\$ 31,799	\$ 31,230	\$ 88,723	\$ 22,826	\$ 399,922
FY19-20 Approved Budget									\$ 400,000
Over/(Under)	\$ 60,122	\$ -	\$ 43,668	\$ 121,554	\$ 31,799	\$ 31,230	\$ 88,723	\$ 22,826	\$ (79)