

ORWA PIF Meeting Notes

November 10, 2005

Attendance

Barb Bresson – USFS/BLM Avian Program Manager, OR/WA PIF co-Chair

Jaime Stephens – KBO, OR/WA PIF Chair

Mike Green – USFWS Nongame Landbird Program Coordinator

Peg Boulay – ODFW

Bob Altman - American Bird Conservancy; Northern Pacific Rainforest BCR Coord.

Aaron Holmes – PRBO, OR/WA PIF co-Chair

Todd Thompson – BLM, Portland – restoration – guide invasive spp. control

John Lloyd – Ecosystems Institute

Gary Ivey – Senior Ecologist Ecostudies Institute

Steve Zack – Wildlife Conservation Society

Bruce Taylor - Oregon Habitat Joint Venture

Sherry Hudson—Puget Sound Bird Observatory

OR/WA CA PIF 2005 Spring Meeting – Jaime Stephens

Objective – inform landmanagers about PIF and our tools

Outcome – how to integrate PIF tools – how and when to deliver that info.

Since that meeting. John Alexander took this to IAFWA and the federal implementation committee – was well received.

Deliverables –

1. summary of meeting, including ½-page summary of talks and discussions - John Alexander spearheading
2. “Successful science in bird conservation.” Ca. 20, 3-5 page stories – to be published. Perhaps as PIF tech series and or as GTR. Success in adaptive management framework. Focused on this region, OR-WA area. Coming out in mid- late-winter. This is coordinated by Jaime and Kim Krietinger.

Bob Altman– more from meetings

The need to update PIF plans was recognized. Currently a grant proposal has been submitted to NFWF by Bob and John Alexander to update plans. FS might be a match to provide funds for updating 3 of the ORWA plans; 2 west side plans and eastside of the Cascades. NFWF funds look promising.

National/Continental Updates – Bob Altman

PIF Tech Series – Science Committee produces lots of stuff, but disseminating and citing difficult. Tech Series on PIF web page provides a web-based mechanism for presenting these products. Currently two products: 1. 5 elements process. 2. Monitoring Needs Assessment for watchlist birds on Continental List from PIF Continental Plan. Regional products could fit in there.

Veracruz – NAOC in October

Includes a PIF symposium

4th PIF International Conf. McAllen, TX. Feb. 2008

PIF Workshop in April 2006 – 5 elements and Conservation Design, in St. Louis. Bringing together geo-spatial folks with planners. Details are being worked out. Coming out of PIF National Science Committee.

NABCI – personnel changes. Steve Williams was Chair. Now Bruce McCloskey, Colorado DW is chair. Also, US coordinator is no longer Bob Ford, now Debbie Hahn from IAFWA.

Updates and Announcements

Peg Boulay – ODFW hopefully will re-engage in PIF through Peg. Pacific Flyway Nongame Tech Committee – rep in Oregon might be Peg or Holly Michaels.

Bob Altman– Delivers update from Rachel Maggi with NRCS - 2006 budget is crap – WA NRCS will run WHIP early, sign up ending Dec. 31. W. WA focus on oak, riparian etc. and ag. lnds . East side will be sage, grassland, and oak as secondary.

Barb Bresson - More NRCS involvement. Contact Wendell Gilbert.

Aaron Holmes– Sagebrush Bird conservation plan for CA DONE! Decided to include sage grouse, in the end. Suddenly everyone wanted to review it. Now is the most thorough review of Sage Grouse in CA anywhere.

Doug Robinson’s cell phone bird tracking project. Hoping to scale it for smaller than tanager birds. Goal is \$100 per unit. Most trials on east coast birds. Some trials on shorebirds in the west.

PRBO received NFWF for juniper BMPs, but no matching funds from Bullet Foundation. Could be a Tech Series report for OR-WA-CA. Needs \$10K matching funds.

Todd Thompson

Oak bird conservation – Sudden Oak Death Syndrome – out of quarantine area now. Now what can BLM do with injunction on some chemical use. 3 miles and 8 miles out of quarantine, in Tan Oak. Priorities – shrub-steppe, Sage Grouse feeds into Todd’s responsibilities and interest. Wants to look for opportunities to match some BLM \$\$.

Look for opportunities in shrub-steppe in particular. In WA Todd successfully put together some NAWCA grants. One problem is expansion of Medusa Head – Veg. EIS (undesirable and noxious weeds and invasives) will roll out on that soon – public draft. Issue with SODS is the pathogen is not a noxious weed, so chemical control might be possible – more to come on that. EIS will be available on line.

John Lloyd

Half of org. focus in Caribbean basin, half in NW area. Gary Slater working with Bob on WBNU restoration in oaks in OR-WA.

Gary Ivey

Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan to be done soon.

Steve Zack

Working in arctic 5 years, measure response of nesting birds to oil development – contentious. Moved to western AK this year. Rafted Colville R. – article in NY times review of books, online.

Forest issues, conf. in Klamath Falls – reintroducing fires to P Pine. MS in process on restoration. Hillary Cooke also looked at Beaver reintroduction in WY and songbird response. Shows how beavers, dams, and ponds correlate with lots of birds including Willow Flycatcher.

His organization has some connection with SODS too. Other plants act as reservoir in things like Rhodies and (200 spp. – Peg Boulay). Weather patterns might have more to do with spread than other things.

Bruce Taylor

Regional JV meetings now lately. Burns meeting in Sagebrush. TNC proposal to NFWF to match their own \$\$ for weed control in Owyhee lands. Would like to get some stuff on the ground before NFWF comes through, including conversations with BLM on exactly where to work.

JV standpoint in Pendleton area – sagebrush, not sage grouse perspective. Private and Indian lands – needs to talk with Todd Thompson.

CRP in OR 350K acres coming out of program in next 2 years. What happens to marginal lands that might not be renewed? Some of older CRP developing habitat component. 10-15 year contracts ending. Other enrollees, few acres to be enrolled. Todd Thompson -- Same discussion in WA. This group should work through ODFW. Meeting this coming week with ODFW – Oak issues.

Upcoming meeting on coast early next year.

Jim Cole retiring IWJV – Sam Lowry taking over. Focus could change beyond NAWCA grants to bigger variety of projects non-wetlands. Cost-share program might expand beyond on-the-ground projects to consider monitoring and other needs? That's the hope. Have started funding some good projects in OR.

Sherry Hudson

Moved to Seattle recently. Starting a bird observatory in Puget Sound region. Might become the 'Puget Sound Bird Observatory'. Don Norman, Dan Froelich, David

Hutchinson (Flora Fauna Bookstore in Seattle), Office might be in Park sticking into Sound. Mission – bird conservation through research and organization. Most recently from SFBBO and PRBO. Looking for start-up funding. Sherry is coordinator.

Barb Bresson

Training session \$5K BLM. IDFG \$5K, trying for \$5K from WDFW. Might be in Spokane area or Boise.

Rex Sallabanks finished east side fire study. \$5K from BLM for decision support tool publication. Aaron Holmes working for same for juniper. Alpine birds in Okanogan – 5 areas. Veg data collected. Hope to enter data at KBO. New email : bbresson@....

Jaime Stephens

KBO is wrapping up several studies: Effect of grazing on bird communities in the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument – to provide to the Medford BLM to assist in there management decisions within the monument. Also: a study looking at the effects of prescribed fuels reduction in Lava Beds National Monument. Starting a new 3 year study looking at the affects of fuels reduction in riparian habitat within the Applegate Valley. KBO is currently hiring for their education and outreach position.

Mike Green

State CWCS and Bird Conservation: Overview – Peg Boulay
ODFW plan, now being referred to as the ‘Conservation Strategy for Oregon’
Turned in late Sept. review in Dec./Jan. WA has been approved.
Includes priorities habitats, species, etc. Conservation tools, and monitoring
Implementation – Holly Michael step-down strategy

1. Invasives strategy
2. Oregon Forest Resource Institute on Wildlife Manual for forest managers for sustainable lumber – for high priority spp.
3. Data management and web-based tools for monitoring. F&W monitoring team to figure out how to monitor – expert team to figure out for state. SWG \$\$ now considering monitoring more important.

Bird priorities from CWCS feeding into grant opportunities ODFW grant in WHIP, SWG, BPA mitigation program. 286 spp. (62 birds).

New funding opportunities

Doris Duke Foundation 3 yr grants for work that crosses state boundaries \$300,000 per year for first 3 years with no match – currently not accepting unsolicited grants – now determining future emphasis areas.

State CWCS and Bird Conservation: Western State Summary - Bob Altman

Monitoring surfacing more as a focus. NABCI monitoring subcommittee now very active – re-energized. Monitoring now 3 or 4 on list of priorities in next few years. Direct relationship to new chair – Bruce McCloskey?

CWCS – within WWG of PIF, interest in developing CBM in intermountain west. Focus of most recent WWG meeting. Bob and Dan Casey looked at 11 western states for monitoring in CWCS's: priorities for species, habitats, and issues. This summary was tool for discussion relative to WWG monitoring. Expanding species list to show how 11 state plans did or didn't address National PIF spp. Interest from IAFWA/NABCI. Not as close as you might think, because the CWCS's were drawn from PIF plans, but some States did not do this as much.

Bruce Taylor question to Peg Boulay. How is this being accepted within the state?
Answer: ODFW – wildlife commission is excited about OR CWCS. Highest level of leadership there is acceptance, not enthusiastic. Will start to use in field.

State CWCS and Bird Conservation: WWG CBM Project – Jaime Stephens
CBM – read off goals of CBM plan.

1. Data organization within the Avian Knowledge Network, including data storage and tools for analysis.
2. Aquatic Birds
3. Terrestrial Birds: for both evaluate spp. Needing more than BBS monitoring. Guide survey design and project evaluation, estimate population sizes, habitat modeling. How implemented? Could be implemented through States. Funded? Partially funded. Proposal for more money. Does not currently include Pacific Coast.

Aaron Holmes - Question. Who and how funded data management? Data sharing agreement? Jon Bart working with Cornell. Funded through several sources, from IWJV and DOD, USGS. Cornell has funding from other sources. Data stored with Jon as a node. Jon might help develop tools for analysis.

MAPS Update – Barb Bresson

MAPS analysis. IBP looked all over west for MAPS sites. Barb just got report. Habitat analysis. 15-20 spp. In each, monitoring potential of stations relative to these. Suggested where to maintain stations, which to shut down, where to put new ones.

Barb interested in demographic monitoring in shrub-steppe, but through IBP? IBP interested in nest-searching with mist-nets. Recommending MAPS in shrub-steppe? Aaron Holmes – many contributed to SBCN demographic protocol. Banding and nestsearching. Developing survival models with banded birds through re-sighting. Works well in fewer years. IBP could do this, but use standardized protocol already out there, working with Phil Nott.

BBS Routes – Barb Bresson

What would it take to improve coverage for Oregon and WA, esp. Oregon?
Steve Zack – Put together a package, including CD from Patuxent, with letter re: importance of BBS to bird conservation, etc., as way to encourage support from Fed. And State agencies, and to NGO's such as Audubon.
Barb Bresson– might be money for running routes to pay for mileage for volunteers.

Peg Boulay– strategic approach. Who last ran route, who owns land, might inform how to fill routes. Peg and Barb to work on this.

Steve Zack – how about route representation of habitats on landscape.

Aaron Holmes – volunteers in se Oregon. BLM folks.

Steve Zack – place new routes in context to convenience to existing routes in remote areas, in addition to other locating needs.

Aaron Holmes – Harry Nehls, state coordinator. Might be OK with PIF taking over running of routes. Aaron might be willing to take over filling east side routes. Bob knows Harry. Starting point could be, we're making an effort, thinking about who could fill routes.

WA coordinator is Ed Miller.

PCJV Model for Setting Upland Habitat Objectives and Regional and Local Population Objective-Setting - Bob Altman

JV's invested in new direction. Past implementation plans have had objectives for habitat conservation, through expert knowledge and opinion. Updated plans now setting population objectives and habitat objectives, and measuring those objectives. All plans now have estimates, not necessarily targets. PCJV and IWJV are working on this. Westside -- Mark Petrie working on wetlands habitat, Bob Altman in uplands. IWJV – Jon Bart is setting conservation targets. Handout is update on how Bob Altman is proceeding on this – process is now fairly well established. Tricky part is figuring out where you want to go – objectives. C-Plan took simple approach, setting objective based on BBS trend information, lumped into categories; variation is now to be very specific about 'increase by xx%'

BCR 5 Waterbird Plan – Mike Green

Draft available for internal review – other plans in the process, western states will have complete coverage when all are done.

Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan - Gary Ivey

Monitoring – plan implementation

Plan includes a table of proposed schedule

2005: Develop a draft regional monitoring plan

- Develop an atlas of known historical colonies

- Design a protocol for secretive marsh birds

- Conduct surveys of priority staging species

- Enter all available waterbird data into state/national databases

See table for 2006 and further proposed schedule

Is anyone using Courtney's protocol in OR/WA? Some think so, maybe CORE at Fern Ridge...

This will be a part of Coordinated Bird Monitoring, including data management.

Aaron Holmes - Cascadia Research Directive have data on heron roosts from the 80s and 90s.

Don Norman also involved in this.

This is the best plan available. The monitoring timeline should be meshed with the BCR 5 Waterbird Plan.

Western Purple Martin Working Group Update – Barb Bresson

DNA analysis of west coast versus east coast – separate species, Now in Utah, Colorado, Nevada to check midcontinental population, to determine whether it's the parent population. Western Purple Martin Foundation being created – international, for logistical reasons.

Mike Green Question- Conservation Issues – what percent of pop is supported by nestboxes-

Ranges by region by 75 to 100%.

Young Forest Bird Habitat Guide - Bob Altman

Who the target audience is, is still not clear in the draft that is being distributed.

Audience can not be easily determined for this habitat type. Young conifer forest mostly government or industry – how to present the information? Currently in the process of revising this approach. Hope to have out by spring, looking to produce possibly through USGS. Considering building appendix into a database that could be queried. Possibly break into two documents targeted for different audiences.

Peregrine Falcon Monitoring – Mike Green

Monitoring takes place every 3 years – results from 2003 monitoring should be out soon. Thresholds for productivity, etc for each region were set and all were met in 2003. WA 100+ nests, OR near this as well. Gearing up for 2006, monitoring training will be held this January at Portland Audobon, put on by Joe Pagel.

Avian Flu - Mike Green

Avian flu is becoming a national issue, Bush's strategy to get \$ to address the avian flu – initiative for monitoring expanding next year.

Steve Zack – large die off in middle asia from avian flu of wild birds. Not only potential human issue, but wildlife problem. Migratory birds seemingly carrying the strain.

Aaron Holmes – PRBO recently had a strategic meeting that avian disease is a pressing issue they plan to become involved with.

Mike Green- update of West Nile and Yellow- billed Magpies

Oak Bird Conservation – Bob Altman

- 1) Continuation of neotropical migratory bird project; phase 3 oak bird conservation internationally. Two follow up grants – efforts are geographically and logistically broad.
- 2) Project to set habitat and population objectives for BCR5 modeling exercise for oak habitat and oak associated birds.

3) Working with Gary Slater – Ecostudies Institute – Reintroduction of White-breasted Nuthatch and Western Bluebird in the Puget Sound. Feasibility assessment for Nuthatch in process of draft. Conceptually has been received well.

Next OR/WA PIF Focus (in no particular order)

1) The primary directive from WWG is monitoring and contributing to the Coordination Bird Monitoring Project

2) Setting regional population objectives and stepping back up to the continental, however this has shifted to a JV focus, with coordination transfer of on the ground activities.

3) NRCS angle, more involvement, distributing the plans.

Question: Are the JVs doing this? No.

- need to follow up with John Alexander

Potential contacts Jessica Groves, Wendall

NRCS products that ABC has a contract to produce, bird habitat guidelines for all BCRs and all habitat and species affected by the farm bill programs, BCR9 and BCR5 upcoming.

4) Covering BBS routes

5) Revision of the conservation plans

2006 Spring Meeting

1) Banding Workshop (KBO)

2) Symposium (1/2 day) – ideas success stories, on the ground tools

3) Host bird paper sessions

4) Social rather than business meeting – possible slideshow “who PIF is”

Will follow up planning with emails and conference calls.

Wanting to help out: Sherri Hudson, John Lloyd