

## **Partners in Flight General Meeting 9-5-07**

USFWS building 9am - 3pm

### **Welcome:** Gail Garber 9:05

Sign in sheet: Please sign in.

Update Contact Form: Please make sure your information is up to date, this will serve as the new contact list.

NM All Bird List Serve: Make sure you are participating so that you will get future meeting notices - Gail passed out instruction form

### **Introductions:**

Attendees:

Gail Garber - Executive Director - Hawks Aloft

Dave Kreuper - USFWS - Migratory Birds

Mike Stake - Biologist - Hawks Aloft

Hira Walker - NM Game and Fish - Non-game endangered species ornithologist

Tom Jervis - Audubon NM - Chairman of the Board

Vickie Herrin - BLM State Office - Biologist

Leland Pierce - NM Game and Fish - Recovery Coordinator

Ondrea Hummel - USACE - Biologist

Ann Wattson - Santa Domingo Pueblo

Janet Ruth - USGS - Biologist, USGS PIF Coordinator

Yasmeen Nasmi - MRGCD

Kris Johnson - NHPM

Christopher Rustay - Playa Lakes Joint Venture

Conlin Lee - Bosque del Apache

Adam Ringia - Development Director/Biologist - Hawks Aloft

Due to the smallness of the group at the beginning, the agenda was not specifically followed.

### **Building a Solid Collaborative Network among Middle Rio Grande Cooperators - Ondrea**

Hummel, US Army Corps of Engineers

Powerpoint summary - What are they doing in the MRG

Wildfire - 263 acres burned in 2003 June. Received funds in Jan 04

2 fires in 2004 covering 81 acres.

Albuquerque bosque total acreage ~3000, 10% burned 03-04

Fuel Reduction

Access

Revegetation

Wildfire Risk assessment

reports available on ftp

Agency tools

Weather stations data - dbstephens

Achievements

Thinned and revegetated 1000 acres

- Removed 8000 jetty jacks - 30,000 to go.
- Rehab 3miles of levee road
- 4 emergency crossing bridges
- enviromental documentation

#### Monitoring

- Avian surveys
  - WIFL
  - Buffer zones for nesting raptors
  - Soils and groundwater
  - Vegetation

#### Site specific restoration/revegetation plans

- Post Construction monitoring

#### Bosque Ecosystem restoration feasibility study

- Boundaries - Corrales/Sandia in N, Isleta in S
- Partnering with Rio Grande Valley State Park - MRGCD
- Corrales Bosque Preserve

#### Reach Analysis (5 reaches) - FLO-2d model

- H&O 2005 remap of abq reach

#### HEAT (Habitat Evaluation Assessment Tool)

- Summarized habitat types

#### Field Analysis

#### Alternative Development Options

#### Monitoring of Wildlife to aid in planning for long-term restoration

- Avian
- Veg, arthropods etc..
- BEMP sites

#### Albuquerque BioPark Wetlands

- Project with City of Albuquerque

- Now in Monitoring stage

- Gail: Any report of results yet?

- Ondrea: New Bemp site put in, new data still coming in. Still some time before any real results.

#### ESA Collaborative Program

- SWIFL

- Silvery Minnow

- 7<sup>th</sup> year

- Proposals Jan Feb 08

- Completed Reach plans in

- San Acacia

- Isleta

- Sandia Pueblo

- Implementation

- Los Lunas - minnow habitat

- Reconnecting remnant channel with river at Nature center

Tom: Larger mulch pieces may be better than small in terms of depth.

Gail: Comments on the Corrales restoration

Ondrea: ACE works with communities that seek them out. As a nature preserve there are different requirements, leave some RO, or other non-natives for habitat. Hand work, 30ft buffer from levee and bank required. Open to ideas. Isleta also interested in careful restoration.

Ann different methods of seeding: Imprinting used in most areas - punch hole, seed in hole works in open areas. Hydro seeding: not sure of results, comparison ongoing. Low success rate overall.

Yasmeen: More work in ABQ reach due to more stable flows. Agencies looking for further south projects, to use river processes and favor native habitats.

Gail: Who manages communications? Ondrea

Yasmeen: Many groups with interests already in action,

### **The NM Bird Conservationm Plan v2.1 - Gail Garber, Mike Stake**

Original plan in 2000-01. Currently a sub-page on HAI website. [www.hawksaloft.org](http://www.hawksaloft.org)

Both new and old versions available through PIF link on HAI site.

Scott and Mike are mostly responsible for v2.1, which is based on version 1.0 developed by Christopher Rustay

New Website is owned registered and unaffiliated. Thanks to BLM for buying us the domain. [www.nmpartnersinflight.org](http://www.nmpartnersinflight.org)

Document is available at its own site. Mostly avenue to get PIF file. Currently search engines do not find the new site. Old site still active until the new fully functional.

Mike requests any comments. Still in the update process.

Website format:

Welcome to NMPIF

Bird Conservation Plan (BCP) - Table of Contents

4 chapters, 4 appendices

Chap 1-3 are 43 pages and a separate pdf from Chapter 4.

Chapter 4 is species accounts. More interactive. Scroll through species.

106 species

365 pages

Species accounts that are up have been peer-reviewed.

Appendices:

PIF Flight Plan

PIF Handbook

Species Assessment Scores

Breeding Habitat and Bird Conservation Region Lists

Links

In progress

See website for more information.

Suggestions: Hot-links to BBS, PIF etc. to remove confusion within species accounts. Links to

citations.

Kris: Knows people who will help with technical issues.

Does site work with alternate browsers?

Taxonomic and Alpha orders?

Many design suggestions.....

Replace flight plan with national continental plan

Update Handbook to newer version

Who should the contact be

At what point do things get selected for version3

Current comments list? Listserve? Blog?

Permission/authority to make changes?

Remember that BLM funding is ending this month.

Mike only responsible for BCP, Gail gets the rest at the moment.

Species accounts:

For review: WIFL - Kris Johnson  
Summer Tanager - D. Krueper, Chris Rustay will check to see if already written.  
Olive Warbler - D. Krueper  
Juniper Titmouse - Chris Rustay  
Bridled Titmouse - Chris Rustay  
Mexican Jay - Chris Rustay  
Warbling Vireo - Chris Rustay  
Golden Eagle - Dale Stahlecker, Ron Kellermueller  
Bobolink - Chris Rustay  
Elf Owl - Chris Rustay  
Black Swift - Jason Beason  
Whiskered Screech-owl - Janet will be contacting some folks

Gail will send e-mail indicating list that still needs to be reviewed or written.

Unwritten reports: Kris will review Plumbeous Vireo once it is written.

Remember to update your organizations link to the NMPIF site.

Additional Chapters for BCP:

V. Habitat accounts - only 4 have been revised for version 2.1. By Scott. Dick Petty Classifications, and Southwest REGAP.  
Habitat configuration  
Otherwise identical to Christopher's version.

Review habitat sections for update? Rather than rewrite each of them.

VI. Bird Conservation by BCR

Habitat ranking by species use. Weight species ranking by habitat?  
At species account level discuss Bird Conservation Region

Mike summarized Chapter 3 for discussion purposes. Generally indicates which habitats are the most important for conservation.

Gail goes back in time: NMPIF decided that birds were analyzed by habitat not BCR. How do we juggle the two since nationally things are switching to BCR. Chapter 5 or 6 should help managers synthesize habitat, region, species etc.

Dave mentions the crossblocking of Arizona/NM and how BCR's were rolled into the habitat differences. Tiered system BCR over Habitat over species. Apparently it was very challenging.

Janet: Chap 5 habitat description, and differences between regions/BCR's only. Chap 6: Only recommendations for management by BCR. Suggested for v3.

Gail: How should we proceed with basic habitat stuff. Another meeting in Nov? Update Christophers? Is a review enough? Add to site as updated. Links to old data? Just label as old version? Must have review before put up? Subgroup to work on this? Tom recommended the Forest Guild as some possible reviewers. Este Muldavin may be a good resource here. PIF managing birds in PJ.

### **Building a Bird Conservation Network in New Mexico**

Vision: How do we structure this group? Who are we?

This section became a general discussion:

Leland: Need person knowledgeable about what is currently going on with specific species. Need rapid response to "leprechaun mentality". Name recognition important.

Janet: Difficult to coordinate amongst so many agencies. Is it feasible to hire a coordinator?

Gail: Apparently no funding available until at least July 2008, or 2009. BLM, NMGF.

Tom: Needs to be a career position. Not a year to year. Collaborative funding for position? Sponsor through legislature?

Leland: Executive order Geospatial georeference data collection, ie with the governor on board, may have authority to get congressional funding.

Hira: Funding will not be now, so what do we do in the interrim.

Janet: State wildlife grants funding? Would that be a reasonable location to look?

Hira: Some states certainly, not sure about NM. Definately want a state all bird coordinator, like other states have. Will talk to state wildlife grant person.

Leland: Go higher than Bruce Thompson. Tough to get funding, tough to get new positions. Issue with communication within agencies.

Gail: Back to what we can do now - regardless funding won't really be available for a year or two?

Janet: A couple groups: PIF Steering committee, mysterious, behind closed doors, etc.; Active knowledgeable participants from lots of groups; big group of

folks we want to be involved, that don't really know what is going on.

Goals:

- FT Coordinator
- Complete BCP
- Funding for ABC
- Make Website as useful as possible
- Hold regular meetings - 3/year?
- Open dialogue with agencies that are not onboard

Long Term Goals:

- Implement Bird Conservation on the ground
  - Research
  - Acquisition
- Stability and Continuity
- Good communication network
- Ongoing regular communication
- Coordinator - needs to focus the resources of the group

Steering committee must be active and participating and communicative.

To be a committee member must agree to meet regularly x/year.

At least involved in the planning of the meeting.

Need clearly defined goals. Janet may have list of early versions.

Term limits?

Not just talking about "bird people", land managers, researchers, etc..

How can Bosque del Apache help implement BCP

Listing of projects in NM - collaboration of efforts

Need accountability for actions

Link species accounts to ongoing research - project directory

Coordinated Bird Monitoring

Current plans focus on breeding season - what about the rest of the seasons?

- Shorebirds, Waterbirds, migrants, wintering birds

Conservation design - needs to be coordinated amongst land managers

Research - need more.

Better estimation of NM populations from PIF's

Products - Guidelines - Needs to be useful in the field

Agencies need contacts to help implement the various initiatives within the BCP

- Active interaction - meetings, working groups

- Meetings by BCR- disseminate BCP info not on the web

Wind energy issues

Meetings:

- Issue

- BCR

- Habitat

Central repository? Specialists that can disseminate knowledge.  
Know what is going on with the various working groups, recovery plans,  
etc.  
Clearinghouse of funding sources.- links to funding sources  
Funding Calendar

In the absence of a coordinator, we need a steering committee

Do we keep the old one? Start over?

How big?

Representatives from NGO, State, Fed, etc...

Charter? Roles for each

Core steering

Liasons

Members

**Any interested takers for the new Steering Committee?**

Audubon expressed interest - Future director of bird conservation, Tom until then?

Hira

Janet

Gail

USFWS - Dave K.

Christopher Rustay

**Schedule next meeting:**

Steering Committee: Tuesday October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1pm, at HAI office.

**POST-IT BOARD NOTES:**

Funding a Coordinator

Governors Executive Order

Long-term plan

Multi-agency funding

Short-term

NMGF allocated through 2009

BLM allocated through 2009

NMGF State Wildlife Grants

NM Bird Needs

Coordinated Bird Monitoring

Disseminated Data

Include other agencies in NMPIF/ABC

ie Energy and Minerals

Dedicated Core group for PIF

Large group of people necessary to collaborate

- Minutes should be available
- Action items assigned
- Avoid insider/outsider appearance
- Committee is as important as coordinator-should work hand in hand
- Need FT coordinator
- Complete BCP
- Figure out funding opportunities for ABC
- Make Website as useful as possible
- Long-term implementation of BCP on the ground
  - Research
  - Acquisition
- Need stability and continuity
- Good communication network
- Ongoing regular communications
- Know what agencies are doing to implement bird conservation
- Need focus - coordinate disjunct efforts
- Hold regular meetings
- Open dialogue w/ other agencies

#### Steering committee members

- MUST be active, participatory
- Agree to attend x meetings/year
- Involved in planning agendas/meetings

Steering committee need clearly defined goals (topic for first SC meeting)

Develop Charter?

Include researchers, land managers, diversity in group

How can Bosque del Apache help implement BCP

List of projects throughout NM

- Compare to ABC to determine accountability
  - Necessary to prove benefits to birds for funding
- Link projects to species on web - project directory

Plan needs to include non-breeding seasons

NOPI

Shorebirds

Sparrows

Conservation Design-needs to be coordinated within the state

Cooperative, collaborative research with funding

Population estimation for NM species

Set population goals to determine conservation needs

Implement plan

Restore NM initiative

Monitor - enlist help for monitoring

Working group meetings should include non-bird people - field office biologists can learn from



experts

Focus meetings on Bird Conservation Regions - individual and use habitat and species approach

Need to understand bird concentration areas

Wind Sites in eastern NM

Annual Meetings

1. Habitat/species

2. Issue

Need to know how to implement plan

Central Information point

P/J Biomass

Knowledgeable about other working groups

Disseminate research needs - ie GRVI

Compensate people/orgs who do major amounts of work for ABC/NMPIF

Clearing house for funding sources

Funding Calendar