

Nature Reserve of Orange County (NROC)
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Minutes of Regular Session

Date: February 16, 2007
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: IRWD Multipurpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA 92618

Meeting was called into order by committee chair, Milan Mitrovich, at 10:15 AM.

The following members of the TAC were present at the meeting:

Allan Schoenherr, Fullerton College
Erinn Wilson, California Department of Fish and Game
Steve Newton-Reed, California Department of Fish and Game
Milan Mitrovich, Nature Reserve of Orange County
Lyn McAfee, Nature Reserve of Orange County
Jon Keeley, UC Los Angeles
Trish Smith, The Nature Conservancy

The following members of the TAC were absent:

Will Miller, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Kathy Keane, Biological Consultant
Albert Lucero, County of Orange

The following invited guests of the TAC were present:

Katie Suding, UC Irvine

- Minutes were reviewed and recommended edits noted.
- Committee chair announced he will provide monthly updates of NROC activities to committee members beginning in March. Updates will serve to keep TAC members informed of activities in the interim period between quarterly meetings.
- TAC members reviewed the research proposal developed by Katie Suding, UC Irvine. The proposal describes an approach to measuring the long-term sustainability of current artichoke thistle control efforts implemented by NROC in the coastal reserve. The TAC discussed preliminary results of the analyses of monitoring data provided by UC Irvine in the proposal.
- Following review of the proposal, the TAC worked with Katie Suding, to identify appropriate response variables, site covariates, and field methodologies to be used in the study. Site selection process was identified as the next important step in

research implementation. Site selection will involve the querying of GIS data housed by the County of Orange and production of maps for use by UC Irvine.

- The TAC agreed in principal to recommend experiments proposed by UC Irvine as part of the weed control program review be funded and implemented in subsequent years. Specifically, the experiments require the exclusion of herbicide treatment from a number of study plots in the coastal reserve and the addition of native seeds to a subset of plots currently experiencing low native recruitment. The opportunity to begin both experiments in 2007 was identified by Katie Suding. The TAC supported this idea recognizing that additional logistics will need to be worked out if the projects are to begin in the present year.
- TAC members discussed the proposal by Doug Deutschman, SDSU, to develop a vegetation monitoring program for the reserve system. The proposal outlines a three-year plan to collect, analyze, and interpret vegetation data on an annual basis prior to making final program recommendations. Year one of the plan involves sampling several sites in the reserve and analyzing inter-site variation, variation in data collection methodologies, and observer bias. In years of two and three, data will be collected at the same suite of sites to measure inter-annual variability in selected parameters. Funding of the SDSU proposal by NROC will compliment similar efforts by The Nature Conservancy, and government agencies in San Diego County, and contribute to development of a standard vegetation monitoring program for the South Coast Ecoregion.
- Dates and times of remaining TAC meetings in 2007 were scheduled by the TAC to be held on May 8th, August 29th, and November 14th. All meetings were scheduled for 1:00 pm.
- Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.