

Minutes from Colorado Bat Working Group Meeting

April 11, 2003

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Nature Place

Attendance:

Julie Annear

Cheri Jones

Kirk Navo

Laura Ellison

Kristen Philbrook

Kathy Peckham

The following is a list of items we discussed during the meeting:

- We discussed whether we needed any additional reviewers:
 - USFS – Pat Ormsbee from Region 6 was suggested, but we decided not to send it to her because her review would be substantial.
 - Jerry Trout (May 1, 2003) – Kristen, were you going to ask about him again?
 - Mike Johnson (The plan was sent to him, but he gave it to Mark Ball, new forest biologist – Kristen will check into this)
 - Bob Currie – still waiting on his review, Laura will call and pester
- Deadlines for “new” reviewers: 1 month from sending.
 - Gary Skiba and Larry Nelson with the CDOW (Species Conservation Section) -- Kirk sent Laura address and she sent out plan to these two soon.
 - Lee Carlson - USFWS
 - Terry Ireland – Grand Junction, USFWS
 - OSM – Ron Sassman (Julie will look into this?)
 - Peter McDonald, Regional office in Denver (Kristen will look into this)
 - Robin Sel (Kristen will look into this, too)
- Do we need sign-offs like the Nevada Bat Working Group attempted? Our original idea was that this would be a tool, not a document to be signed off by various agencies. We all agreed that a sign-off page was not needed (at this time).
- Navo 2001 a, b search throughout the document and make sure these are not both cited. The proper citation is Navo 2001. Need to run a search and replace throughout the document.
- Julie Annear will research a couple of items regarding the mines section – for instance, it would be nice to put in a couple of positive comments. She will re-read this section by 5/1/03.
- We need to send Cyndi an email to do a final review of the caves section to make sure there aren't any new updates that need to be cited/acknowledged. Cyndi – we changed a sentence to “avoid pesticide and limit herbicide use in karst areas,”

instead of banning herbicide use totally, p. 18. What did it originally mean not using herbicides? Can it be used within a specified distance from cave/karst? Clarify this sentence “Allow spot applications of pesticides to be considered as a weed management tool.” Kirk suggests scratching this whole sentence. Although this may not be detrimental to the bats directly, it would be detrimental to the karst environment, but our focus here is on the bats, not karst indirectly.

- Authors of species accounts – do we need to go through these and update – no, they were created for the Reno workshop – added an introductory paragraph to this appendix describing how the accounts came about.
- Add back *Idionycteris* and *Myotis velifer* in the species accounts (Laura had removed because we never discussed them anywhere else in the document). In the distribution section for these 2 species – put in “Not yet reported for Colorado, but has been reported for adjacent states.”
- The species names (scientific) are sometimes underlined – need to make sure the final edit picks up these little discrepancies.
- Utilize species-specific control measures when available (e.g. Nosema, specific biological control). What does this mean? Who wrote this? Townsend’s big-eared bat strategy...P. 39. Quote this specifically from the strategy. Julie will look into what this Nosema stuff really is.
- Julie also offered to read through the entire document thoroughly (May 1, 2003 deadline)
- Add a “statement of purpose” – abstract before introduction – look at the NV bat plan’s abstract and write up something similar. (LEE)
- Add in sentence about referring to website for contact information for authors of species accounts (LEE) in the introductory paragraph of the Appendix B.
- We discussed where we wanted to go as a group after the bat plan is finalized. What sorts of things should we focus on? It was suggested that we should collaborate on research. Also, combine forces on public outreach for bat conservation issues. WBWG is trying to go towards non-profit status and this may change the way things are done in the organization. Business laws may come into effect.
- Create an email network of bat researchers and conservationists. Email bat people in state letting them know when we meet – create a network of communication. This has the danger of becoming a bat groupie thing, however, so we need to be careful. Need to direct some of this basic bat interest to the Colorado Bat Society. What does the CBS do nowadays? Where are they going? Maybe get one of them to be a liaison to our group – send groupies to CBS.

- Laura suggested having our next Bat Working Group meeting in July at the Great Sand Dunes – maybe we could all meet down there and net bats together as a group? Ernie Valdez will be conducting an inventory and monitoring project for bats for the Sand Dunes.
- We discussed that it's time to elect a new Chair (Laura has been Chair since spring 2001 – 2 years). Laura will continue with finishing up and being point of contact for the bat conservation plan since she has all of the information in one spot. More emails will be sent around about this topic in the near future. We thought co-chairs would be a good idea.
- We went through the Species Rankings section of the plan in detail in the afternoon. Lots of changes were made to the text and the tables in appendix C (which Laura will incorporate).
- One reviewer suggested prioritizing the research list in section 6. This is essentially what we did by the Species Rankings exercise (at least prioritizing research on particular species). In the summary abstract, we will put in a sentence about prioritization and where to go for this information in the document.
- Describe what we meant by the “Status” category earlier in the species rankings section (when describing the other categories). In the paragraph when describing threats...and the scores for the threats.
- Kristen had some questions from BLM – Specifically, Ron Lambert out of Grand Junction wanted information on whether there were any new Townsend's colonies – he also would be interested in any new findings on culverts in the state.
- Kristen – Jim Ferguson had some general concerns about maintenance and safety at mines with bat gates. This is an ongoing issue.