

Issue Action Group: E6 Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

Meeting Notes: Conference Call, August 7, 2001

Warrior and Coosa Projects Combined

Meeting Attendees:

Sarah Chubb	USFS	schubb@fs.fed.us
Tom Counts	USFS	tcunts@fs.fed.us
Carl Couret	USFWS	carl_couret@fws.gov
Jim Crew	APC	JFCrew@southernco.com
Jon Hornsby	ADCNR	jhornsby@dcnr.state.al.us
Henry Mealing	Kleinschmidt	Henry.Mealing@KleinschmidtUSA.com
John Peconom	Kleinschmidt	John.Peconom@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Malcolm Pierson	APC	JMPierson@southernco.com
Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt	Kelly.Schaeffer@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Plez West	USFS	pwest@fs.fed.us

Action Items

Completed action items to be sent to Jim Crew and Henry Mealing via email by August 17, 2001.

- Carl Couret to check for additional threatened, endangered, and sensitive (TE&S) species information and possible GIS data layers available from USFWS.
- Henry Mealing to finish review of the ACT studies for applicable information on TE&S species.
- Henry Mealing to contact Jeff Duncan by the 3rd week of August to get information on the “Imperiled Species of the Southeast”
- Henry Mealing to prepare example of Spreadsheet 1 to send to IAG by 8-15-01 for review and comment.
- Jon Hornsby to contact Greg Lein, Alabama State Lands Division and request State Threatened, Endangered & Sensitive (TE&S) species information.
- Malcolm Pierson to contact Alabama Heritage Program (AHP), Terra Minascow about TE&S information; Tom Counts will assist Malcolm in this effort.
- Henry Mealing and Malcolm Pierson to develop and distribute Draft version of Spreadsheet 1 & 2 by week of August 27 for the IAG to review and comment.
- Jim Crew to research navigational flow requirements for both the Warrior and Coosa rivers.

Issue Action Group: E6 Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

Meeting Notes: Conference Call, August 7, 2001

- Jim Crew, Malcolm Pierson, Tom Counts, Sarah Chubb, and Plez West to work out details of partnership between APC and USFS regarding Flattened Musk Turtle.
- Next meeting of the IAG will be on September 4, 2001 at 2:00 pm Central Time

Meeting Notes

These notes summarize the major discussion items and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

Introduction

Jim Crew welcomed all the E6 Issue Action Group participants and introduced Kelly Schaeffer as the meeting's facilitator. Kelly began the conference call meeting by reviewing the agenda, meeting objective, and introducing the meeting's ground rules. Kelly asked that all participants state their name before commenting and speak slowly so that the group can clearly understand each other and become familiar with each other's voices. Sarah Chubb requested that the cooperative study effort concerning the Flattened Musk Turtle be added to the agenda.

Meeting Objective: 1) Assemble the E6 IAG members, 2) discuss the goals of the E6 IAG, 3) discuss appropriate methods for identifying TE&S species, 4) decide on what information the Group should present at the September Meeting of the WCRT and Eco RAT, 5) assign work tasks and schedule and 5) set another meeting date and time.

IAG E6 Review

Henry Mealing informed the group that in order to increase efficiency for participants in the relicensing process that the TE&S species work for both the Warrior and the Coosa Rivers would be combined into one IAG. The Group then reviewed and discussed the E6 IAG Sheet (sent 7-20-01) and the proposed work methodology outline (sent 8-3-01). Henry stated that the goal of the E6 IAG is to have a work product that can be presented to the Eco RAT and the WCRT for their consideration at the September Meetings. Throughout the meeting there was discussion of the details of the proposed methodology including discussion on navigation flows in both the Coosa and Warrior Rivers and their effects on downstream TE&S species. This discussion resulted in the decision to gather TE&S information for the Alabama River downstream of Jordan Dam to Clairborne Lock and Dam. There was also some discussion on how to classify and address sensitive species because including sensitive species in the first level of analysis may create unnecessary work and too large a scope. After discussing the IAG outline and the proposed methodology in detail and offering suggestions on how to improve each, the participants agreed that they would be acceptable. At the end of the meeting several assignments were made to begin the IAG work tasks (see action items).

Issue Action Group: E6 Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

Meeting Notes: Conference Call, August 7, 2001

Flattened Musk Turtle

Tom Counts, Sarah Chubb, and Plez West presented the benefits of conducting a cooperative study of the flattened musk turtle between USFS, APC, the Nature Conservancy, and Univ. of Alabama Birmingham. The USFS has funds that need to be allocated by the end of September 2001 to study this species in specific stream reaches and would like APC to partner with them in conducting these studies over a larger area. Jim Crew and Malcolm Pierson expressed APC's desire to gather information on this species. Both APC and the USFS agreed to review the work scope proposal and to incorporate into the work scope to the extent possible, relicensing issues regarding the flattened musk turtle. APC agree to partner with the USFS on this study and together will work out the details of their partnering agreement over the next few weeks.

Conclusion and Next Meeting

All the participants agreed that the conference call format worked well. Any questions should be directed to Jim Crew.

The next meeting for the IAG will be September 4, 2001 from 2:00pm-3:00pm Central Time. Instructions and an agenda will be forwarded to IAG team members prior to September 4, 2001.

Issue Action Group: E6 Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

Meeting Notes: Conference Call, September 4, 2001

Warrior and Coosa Projects Combined

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Sara Chubb	USFS	schubb@fs.fed.us
Tom Counts	USFS	tcounts@fs.fed.us
Jim Crew	APC	JFCrew@southernco.com
Henry Mealing	Kleinschmidt	Henry.Mealing@KleinschmidtUSA.com
John Peconom	Kleinschmidt	John.Peconom@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Malcolm Pierson	APC	JMPierso@southernco.com

Carl Couret could not attend the meeting, so Jim and Henry held a short review meeting with Carl earlier in the day.

Action Items

Completed action items to be sent to Jim Crew and Henry Mealing.

- Henry will follow up on incorporating the Alabama Heritage Program data into the database.
- Malcolm and Carl will review discrepancies between the Federal and State data sets.
- Carl and Henry will work on list of recovery plans currently available.
- Tom Counts will provide USFS sensitive species list for incorporation into the database.

Meeting Notes

These notes summarize the major discussion items and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

Introduction

Jim Crew welcomed and thanked those in attendance for their continued participation in this IAG and the larger relicensing process. The Group reviewed the meeting's agenda and goals. In accordance with the meeting's agenda the following items were discussed:

Information prepared to date

Henry led the Group through a review of information sent out since the previous meeting. The Group agreed to use the Alabama Heritage Program's state information booklet as a replacement for "Spreadsheet #1". The Group then reviewed "Spreadsheet # 2" information that currently contains both the Federal and State Endangered Species lists by county and basin. Henry noted that there are several conflicting discrepancies between the Federal and State

Issue Action Group: E6 Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

Meeting Notes: Conference Call, September 4, 2001

databases and asked how these discrepancies could be resolved. Both Malcolm and Carl volunteered to review the list and offer suggestions to resolve the discrepancies.

Finalizing the TE&S database

After reviewing the information compiled to date, the IAG agreed on several items for finalizing the database.

- The AHP database information - including LAT/LON location data down to the minute – will be added.
- The latest APC T&E survey data will be added.
- The USFS Sensitive Species list will be included.

The Group discussed how this information will be used during relicensing and several ideas were noted:

- Use the database for geospatial applications,
- Potential integration into species' recovery plans, and
- Possible incorporation of TE&S habitat requirements into the database for long-term use by various agencies.

Presentation at the September EcoRAT & WCRT Meetings

The Group unanimously decided to present a progress report for the upcoming EcoRAT & WCRT meetings. Jim Crew outlined a presentation proposal which included a PowerPoint presentation and a handout updating the larger groups on the IAG's efforts and asked if any of the IAG members present would be interested in presenting specific parts of the PowerPoint presentation. Several members of the IAG volunteered to participate in the presentation. Jim and Henry will work with Group members for their portions of the presentation.

Conclusion and Next Meeting

The next meeting of the E6 IAG will be held at the September 11 & 12, 2001 for updating the EcoRAT and WCRT. After that meeting, the Group will pick a date for its next IAG meeting. Jim and Henry will keep the Group updated on database advances.

Issue Action Group: E6 Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

Meeting Notes: APC Corporate Headquarters October 24, 2001

Warrior and Coosa Projects Combined
www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro

Meeting Attendees:

IAG Members:

Sara Chubb	USFS	schubb@fs.fed.us
Jim Crew	APC	JFCrew@southernco.com
Henry Mealing	Kleinschmidt	Henry.Mealing@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Malcolm Pierson	APC	JMPierse@southernco.com
Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt	Kelly.Schaeffer@KleinschmidtUSA.com

Other Attendees:

Elrand Denson	USFS	edenson@fs.fed.us
Jim Lochamy	APC	JSLOCHAM@southernco.com
Jason Moak	Kleinschmidt	Jason.Moak@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Ron McKittrick	FERC	ronald.mckitrick@ferc.fed.us
Alan Peeples	APC	APEEOPLE@southernco.com
John Peconom	Kleinschmidt	John.Peconom@KleinschmidtUSA.com

Action Items

- Incorporate Forest Service sensitive species data into the TE&S species database.
Jason Moak: Due - November 11, 2001
- Continue to develop the TE&S species database.
All IAG Members: Due - January 15, 2002
- Prepare formal recommendations for the EcoRAT and WCRT.
All IAG Members: Due - January 15, 2002

Meeting Notes

These notes summarize the major items discussed during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

Jim Crew welcomed those in attendance for their continued participation in the E6 IAG process. The group then reviewed their progress in completing the work tasks and responsibilities originally given by the EcoRAT and WCRT in June 2001.

TE&S Species Database –

1. The Forest Service (FS) provided their sensitive species list for inclusion into the database.

Issue Action Group: E6 Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

Meeting Notes: APC Corporate Headquarters October 24, 2001

2. The group reviewed the database and agreed that with a few additions it will be very helpful during the relicensing process as a reference and analysis tool for determining the effects of proposed project operations.
3. Further development of the database will include a focus on federally listed species and FS sensitive species as well as habitat associations and the identification of existing recovery plans and/or species habitat requirements.
4. The IAG will recommend to the EcoRAT and WCRT that areas of concern (Project areas with TE&S species present and current/potential TE&S recovery areas) be identified as an additional step.
5. Carl Couret (USFWS) and Malcolm Peirson (APC) have recommended that the IAG accept all TE&S species information as is and then reevaluate discrepancies as necessary on a case by case basis.

Flattened Musk Turtle - Malcolm provided an update on the partnership between APC and the FS to study the flattened musk turtle. APC and the FS in cooperation with the University of Alabama have contributed matching funds to conduct a two-year study of the flattened musk turtle (Warrior Basin) starting this fall.

Conclusion and Next Meeting

The IAG agreed that at the next meeting we would discuss final recommendations to the EcoRAT and WCRT and discuss discontinuing E6 IAG activity until recommendations for changes in project operations are developed.

The next meeting of the E6 IAG will be held via conference call at 1:00 p.m. CST on January 15, 2002.

E6 IAG - TE&S Species documents and materials are posted on the Internet at www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro.