

Meeting of RPWG Members and Forest Service
October 31, 1991 at 8:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Stan Senner
Jim Slocomb
Art Weiner
Ken Rice
Barbara Iseah
Susan Borchers - Chugach National Forest
Lance Trasky - Fish and Game
Mark Kuwada - Fish and Game
Kim Barber - Forest Service

- Scope:** To discuss how we are going to evaluate habitat in the field and how Fish and Game and the Forest Service can cooperate to do that
- Art - we are doing a life history project; want to have a polygon to get right to the bottom line
- Stan - has radials on harlequin ducks; goal is to find out where they nest; has reports of various habitat perimeters in relation to those nests
- Susan - brought some aerial photos on Marbled Murrelet studies, has three overlays; the first is a landform overlay on Naked Island; these are standard mapping conventions; mapping is a new concept and are out in the foreground; there is a need for mapping but there are lots of weaknesses; this past summer was the first on Naked Island and went very well; next layer is the soil layer; soils give moisture content and gradients; soil classification can stand on its own; can create a hypothesis and go out and test it
- Susan - continuity is important and should hope there are people who know the land; the crew has worked together for about three years; all the polygons are put together as one polygon;
- Lance - John Hall is the main contact in the Anchorage area for wetlands inventory for USFWS
- Stan - how transferrable is the information?
- Susan - is very comfortable with the plan association data
- Stan - characterizing Marbled Murrelet habitat in Prince William

Sound will work if the nest habitat is narrow enough

- Susan - is not sure what the data will tell us
- Mark - use a GPS system and go out and walk the boundaries of these habitats
- Stan - gradient and stream characteristics and where nests are located are helpful in doing a variety of descriptions; another variable that may limit accessibility is need for permission of private land owners
- Mark - may be more beneficial to take an ecosystem approach
- Stan - individual damage assessment studies are just that--for individual species; ecosystem approach comes in where we see the overlaps and where there is the highest priority for some action
- Susan - made 4 copies of the plan association field studies
- Art - has decided on the scales; first cut is to find out what is out there through satellite imagery
- Kim - GIS shop is in the Merrill Field office; could cooperate as far as imagery
- Stan - the guidance is that acquisition of private lands is something to look at; thinking is that if they are going to spend the money, they want to buy it
- Stan - what would the Forest Service plan for this project?
- Susan - the normal agenda is trying to do the whole forest and each summer just to nip at it and try to do the whole puzzle; Copper River Delta is the focus; other needs at Cooper Landing with dead spruce trees
- Art - priorities are pretty well established
- Stan - would not be doing PWS work otherwise; need to be careful if we are going to use oil spill money; need to show that we are responding to some oil spill need; need to serve oil spill objectives
- Art - is expertise available?
- Ken - could Fish and Game people be trained for these jobs? would Fish and Game people be available for oversight training?
- Susan - is coordinating data base and is supporting project; has

worked very hard to keep Chugach project and Tongass project cooperative with respect to sharing information; need to hire another ecologist who will focus on classification and mapping of PWS; need someone very versatile and people-oriented

Ken - are concentrating on PWS for the first two years but moving on reasonably soon to other areas

Ken - should show the relative value of private lands as they relate to public lands; may see some high values

Susan - need private companies and government agencies to figure out what their targets are; everyone has their own objectives

Lance - might look at all private lands first that have high timber values

Kim - what are the problems of spending federal dollars on private lands?

Ken - is researching that question

Susan - asking a lot to focus on PWS in the summer

Stan - are we talking about the habitat survey? the vegetative component is a more detailed follow up and may not get nearly as far doing that; don't have to be done simultaneously; in terms of immediate situation, may not have the luxury of a detailed follow up

Susan - the first question when collecting data is what is the objective; have to sit down and figure out what the variables are; should all agree on the definitions;

Mark - three processes we could go through: the rational logic process, the political-driven process, and the imminent threat situation, such as where logging is about to occur

Art - this in a sense is a ground truthing exercise

Lance - would like to look at channel typing information; should use Susan's information to find out where to zero in to look

Art - in looking at all the various elements, who will do the mapping? what are the options?

Kim - can't do it now, need to get money and people

Susan - would like to detail someone from the lower 48 who has

done this; need to keep the person in place for possibly three years

- Kim - can use existing hardware; whole proposal starts with acquisition of photography
- Art - do we need to create a de novo mapping group?
- Susan - priorities should be the same
- Stan - what is GIS capability at Fish and Game?
- Lance - do have it; submitted a CIP to buy a work station; in habitat have at least three people who can work the system, do mapping well, and understand the importance of having accurate maps; haven't been able to maintain people to maintain systems; DNR has the most capability; is trying to get a summer work station; entering into an agreement to digitize maps
- Kim - should talk with us first because we are doing some digitizing
- Jim - Kim should talk with me regarding maps
- Lance - some maps show where streams were and not where they are now
- Jim - has the post-earthquake maps by shoreline
- Art - mapping people need to get together because there is a lot of redundancy
- Stan - need a task force to prepare a proposal; don't need to put the cosmetics over the substance; need a three-page proposal; Art should play a major role in proposal with Mark or Lance and someone from Forest Service; requires a lot of thinking because it will have to be defended
- Susan - cannot have dead time where teams are rotated; need a boat
- Art - spent incredible amounts of money on charter and seems it is more cost effective to buy a boat
- Stan - need a committee with three pages by November 13; need Lance and Mark to get someone on board from habitat and up and running before the field season; March 1st is the beginning of the new oil year; need to clear this initial hurdle; if proposal passes initial screening, then we will need a final cut; Fish and Game might have someone that they can detail; need documents to get us through

the NRDA proposals; something we could send to peer reviewers

- Lance - do we know what species we want to focus in on?
- Stan - the target is upland habitats, species-wise it is harlequin, marbled murrelet and bald eagle; a secondary species would be pigeon guillemot
- Art - should pull a meeting together either Monday or Friday
- Lance - should any mapping people be there?
- Art - should get some technical people involved
- Ken - need to identify what our objectives are, both short term and long term
- Art - must define the concept; what about the whole day on Friday?
- Lance - need to get the necessary players together from a technical aspect
- Ken - objective is to conceptualize this project and from there break it into the three-page proposal; should be broken into units such as field elements and GIS; let people sit in and participate for as long as possible that day
- Kim - have already put together a rough proposal of their part
- Art - need to come up with the number of new hires
- Stan - need to identify the people that need to come on board pronto and figure out a way to get them going; may go to the Trustee Council with a pre-proposal to get people started; didn't invite interior people to this meeting; probably need to discuss with Sandy if he would like a representative to attend on Friday
- Art - maybe John Hall
- Stan - oil spill program is constantly criticized for only looking at the Sound
- Art - Friday, November 8, at 8:30 is tentative for next meeting
- Stan - **Note: RPWG needs to discuss the objectives prior to the meeting on the 8th**

Meeting adjourned

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