

**CHIRICAHUA LEOPARD FROG RECOVERY TEAM  
MOGOLLON RIM STAKEHOLDERS  
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**14, November 2007, 1000-1500  
Payson Ranger District, Payson, AZ**

**Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Janie Agyagos	USFS-Coconino National Forest	jagyagos@fs.fed.us
Valerie Boyarski	AZ Game and Fish Department	vboyarski@azgfd.gov
Bill Burger	AZ Game and Fish Department	bburger@azgfd.gov
Dan Groebner	AZ Game and Fish Department	dgroebner@azgfd.gov
Suzanne DeRosier	USFS-A-S Black Mesa	sderosier@fs.fed.us
Shaula Hedwall	US Fish and Wildlife Service	shaula_hedwall@fws.gov
Abigail King	AZ Game and Fish Department	aking@azgfd.gov
Duke Klein	USFS-Tonto National Forest	eklein@fs.fed.us
C.B. "Doc" Lane	AZ Cattle Growers' Association	doclane@arizonabeef.org
Susi MacVean	AZ Game and Fish Department	smacvean@azgfd.gov
Jim Rorabaugh	US Fish and Wildlife Service	jim_rorabaugh@fws.gov
Sue Sitko	The Nature Conservancy	ssitko@tnc.org
Mike Sredl	AZ Game and Fish Department	msredl@azgfd.gov
Ray Tanner	Little Green Valley Grazing Complex	rtanner249@aol.com
Chris Thiel	USFS-Tonto National Forest	cathiel@fs.fed.us
John Wilcox	USFS-Tonto National Forest	johnwilcox@fs.fed.us

**I. Introductions**

Jim welcomed the group and introductions were made.

**II. Overview of final Chiricahua leopard frog Recovery Plan**

Jim and Mike gave a brief presentation on changes that were made prior to signing the Recovery Plan. Few changes were made and the plan was signed in April 2007, not only by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Regional Director, but by the Directors of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF). See Appendix M of the plan to see the details of specific changes (available at: [http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Documents/SpeciesDocs/CLF/Final\\_CLF\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Documents/SpeciesDocs/CLF/Final_CLF_Plan.pdf).)

**III. Recent recovery activities**

Jim presented a PowerPoint and passed out a handout both of which highlighted 2007 recovery accomplishments in Recovery Units (RU's) 5, 6, and 7. The handout contains detailed information about all recovery activities in these RU's as well as general recovery activities in RU's 1-4, the NM portions of 6 and 7, and 8.

Valerie gave a short review of the Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) and handed out a SHA information sheet. Per Doc Lane's request, Valerie will provide a concise description of the SHA for the Cattle Grower's Association newsletter.

Mike led a brief discussion on the overall roles of the Recovery Team, which is composed of the Technical Team and Stakeholder groups, and the local working groups in AZ and NM. Discussion mainly focused on the role and function of the stakeholder group and the local working groups. Those present agreed that the local working groups will undertake more detailed yearly work plans and implement them for the RU's and Management Areas (MA's) and the stakeholder group will address bigger picture priorities at a regional level.

#### IV. Greatest needs in RU's 5, 6, and 7 in AZ

The greatest needs for RU's 5, 6, and 7 were not discussed in detail as the local working groups have been coordinating closely and those present did not feel that it was necessary to address these details at this meeting. The following points were discussed in a bit more detail:

- a. Establishing a robust population and or metapopulation in RU 6 in AZ: Dan would like some input and ideas on how to better measure for success after releases at complex sites such as Sierra Blanca Lake. Dan has noticed Great Blue Herons at release sites; setting up Great Blue Heron decoys was suggested.
- b. Through the Safe Harbor Agreement, identify projects and willing landowners: The group identified the need to communicate with private landowners better and more frequently, not only to provide information about SHA's but to keep folks updated about recovery activities.
- c. Need for refugia populations? Bill reminded the group that although we want to promote SHA opportunities, we need to keep in mind that source populations are not currently available to provide frogs in most areas.

#### V. Implementation phase/Action Items

- a. Janie was identified as the chair for the Mogollon Rim Stakeholder's group. Janie volunteered to start an agenda for the upcoming meetings and to start gathering information for presentations.
- b. Opportunities for funding (State and Federal programs)
  - I. NRCS was mentioned several times as a source of funding; the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and any other appropriate programs could be pursued. Doc volunteered to initiate contact with NRCS.
  - II. Ray mentioned that the AZ Department of Water Resources may be an appropriate funding source.
- c. List tasks, assign roles and set schedules
  - I. Shaula recommended involving Jim Sprinkle (Gila County Cooperative Extension) and taking advantage of the audience he gathers for the Endangered Species (ES) training to offer Chiricahua leopard frog recovery information. Shaula will contact Jim and find out when the ES training will take place in 2008.
  - II. A list of affected permittees for each MA was requested. Shaula and Suzanne will provide a list of permittees for their areas. The list will be used to organize meetings with permittees most likely to be affected by recovery activities.
  - III. More detailed RU maps were requested (include roads and allotment layer to maps), Mike will provide these to the group.

IV. The Payson Natural Resource Committee should be invited to future Stakeholder meetings

IV. Next meeting

Meetings were scheduled as follows:

- RU5-Ellison Creek / Upper Verde local working group - meeting will be held on December 3, at 0900 at the USFS Payson Ranger District office.
- RU5-Gentry local working group - meeting will be held on January 8, at 0900 at the USFS Young Ranger District office.
- RU5-Buckskin local working group - meeting date to be determined.
- RU6-local working group meeting date to be determined.
- RU5 Stakeholder/permittee meeting will be held on March 18 in Payson from 1800-2000.
- RU6 and 7 Stakeholder/permittee meetings will be held on March 19 in Eager from 1800-2000.