

From: [Steve Davis](#)
To: [Orms, Mary](#)
Cc: [Jess, Robert RJ](#); [Reyes, Ernesto](#); [Gardiner, Dawn](#); [Swarts, Hilary](#); [Sternberg, Mitch](#); [Winton, Bryan](#); [Stacey.Zee@faa.gov](#); [Matthew Thompson](#); [Steve Davis](#)
Subject: RE: Pre-construction monitoring
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 4:01:20 PM
Importance: High

Hi Mary,

Thanks for the note. Responses:

1. Understood. I just talked to Rob and he will call you tomorrow.
2. Names are below. I will also send an intro email and hope to have a telecom ASAP so we can get started and thus maximize the data gathered.
 - a. Dr. David Hicks, Dept. chair,
<http://www.utb.edu/vpaa/csmt/biology/Pages/davidhicks.html>
 - b. Dr. Karl Berg, Avian Ecology Professor
 - c. Dr. Alejandro Fierro, Botanist
3. This is reasonable. We can do 3 miles; note that 3 miles is also the distance to the Mexican border.
4. Noted and agreed
5. Noted and agreed
6. Sounds good
7. Sounds good
8. Sounds good...looking forward to receiving Pat's email

Thanks,
Steve

From: Orms, Mary [mailto:mary_orms@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 5:31 PM
To: Steve Davis
Cc: Robert Jess; Ernesto Reyes; Dawn Gardiner; Hilary Swarts; Mitch Sternberg; Bryan Winton
Subject: Pre-construction monitoring

Steve,

I know you stated that you were ready to start the surveys, and using UTB students is not a bad idea, but we do have some concerns:

- 1) The refuge is concerned and needs to limit how many students are on refuge lands at one time. We need to know how they will be accessing survey areas and whether they need a special use permit to perform these surveys because they are not covered by any scientific permits.
- 2) We would like to have the names of the professors who will be responsible for students and the monitoring program they are conducting. At this point we see the need for a botanist, avian biologist, sea turtle biologist, and cat biologist. Once we have their names we would like to meet with them to discuss their proposed design and if it covers what we need.
- 3) For the birds the plan calls for a 1 mile radius, however, noise effects are further, up to the

Brownsville Channel, so that monitoring will need to be increased in size.

4) There is already a protocol for piping plovers and aplomado falcons and those should be followed.

5) 3.1 of the Turtle Monitoring Plan states "UTB will conduct weekly sea turtle surveys for at least two months prior to the start of construction and conduct sea turtle crawl tract and nest searches..."

a) Nest searches are not to be done by anyone other than Sea Turtle Inc. or Donna Shaver's staff because this requires someone who has a scientific permit to handle the turtles and eggs.

b) There is already a standard methodology for handling dead or stranded sea turtles and Sea Turtle Inc. should have that.

c) The sea turtle season will end October 1st, therefore, for this season the data needed on sea turtles can be captured in this years report and Sea Turtle Inc. should have coordinates available for turtles found this year as well as past years.

d) If UTB wants some of their students trained to do some of the patrols when the season starts again on March 15th they should be trained by Sea Turtle Inc. or Donna Shaver's group. We would prefer that since Sea Turtle Inc is going to do the monitoring in the future, they should continue.

6) For the vegetation change study we need to have our State Botanist, Chris Best, involved in developing or reviewing plan.

7) We want to make sure that the plans are developed carefully so that our staff can pick up where UTB has left off. We also want to make sure the surveys are structures so t gives us the data we need and there is no question as to the validity of the studies or the information collected.

8) Pat is currently summarizing the type monitoring we need and why in more detail. It should be a good start for the professors to give us a plan we can review and provide comments on and hopefully approve so we can move forward. She will be sending that out in a separate email.

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Mary Orms
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
c/o Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5837
Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5837
Phone: (361) 994-9005 EXT: 246
Fax: (361) 994-8262