

# Proposed Rosemont Copper Project

Third Cooperative Agencies Biology Mitigation Meeting

Arizona Game and Fish Department Office

555 North Greasewood Road

Tucson, AZ 85745

July 24, 2012

## Attendees:

- Forest Service (FS)
  - Jim Upchurch
  - Larry Jones
  - Mindee Roth
- Pima County
  - Julia Fonseca
  - Brian Powell
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
  - Jason Douglas
- Arizona State Parks
  - Bob Casavant
- National Park Service
  - Scott Stonum
- SWCA
  - Angela Barclay

## Topics Discussed:

- Introductions, sign-in
- Why we are here/overview-update on mitigation table
  - Had two previous meetings on June 11 and July 9, 2012
  - Have to quickly develop proposed mitigation measures for the EIS
  - Larry met with Jim and Mindee and looked through mitigation measures
  - Jim recognized value in cooperator group putting together a package to present additional suggested mitigation measures and approaching Rosemont for endowment
  - Larry explained his interpretations of Jim's ideas
    - National Forest Management Act of 1976 covers Forest Service sensitive species and Management Indicator Species, but Pima County & Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) also have concerns about impacts to the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and wildlife species of concern (WSC), respectively
    - Consider setting up a bio-monitoring oversight committee (BOC)
    - The Coronado National Forest (CNF) will
      - ask for a full-time implementation coordinator and possibly other support staff
      - and require some implementation and monitoring
    - Will need
      - group of cooperating agencies for the larger monitoring effort
      - and need funding/endowment and boundaries for funding the larger cooperating agency group

- Status of recent reports
  - They continue to come in from RCC and WestLand and will be posted to the EIS website
    - Larry brought hard copies of some recent reports to meeting
- Review mitigation table
  - Need to bond in perpetuity (~100 years)
  - Coleman's coralroot and Arizona giant sedge mitigation should go into Biological Evaluation
- Questions and discussion with Forest Supervisor
  - Ask for details on RCC's plans to cover open water/process plans
  - Will the CNF require mitigation for impacts to waters and associated habitat on their lands because they are surface resources?
    - CNF will require on- and off-site hydrological monitoring
      - At 7-8 wells identified in the Aquifer Protection Permit
      - RCC also identified locations in Davidson Canyon and Cienega Creek
      - Pima County has some monitoring locations
      - US Geological Survey has portable monitoring equipment, but would need funding
  - Pima County has concerns over groundwater drawdown in seeps and springs in and tributary to Box Canyon (e.g., Deering Spring)
  - Who will review this next "internal draft" of the EIS?
    - Jim is still deciding
    - USFWS will be provided with another version of EIS for the Biological Assessment
- Next steps
  - Larry will send out doodle poll to schedule next meeting that will be combination of biologists and hydrologists
    - Meeting was later scheduled for Thursday, August 2, 2012, 8:30-11:30am, AGFD, 555 North Greasewood Road, Tucson

**Action Items/Assignments:**

- Jim
  - Write letter to RCC asking for mitigation based on bio mitigation measures table/document
- Larry
  - Meet with Salek to discuss hydrology/biology issues and/or schedule a hydro/bio meeting to develop additional appropriate mitigation measures
  - Ask someone at CNF to compare AGFD's WSC list to species of greatest conservation need
- Cooperating Agencies
  - develop own letter to RCC asking for additional mitigation

**Outstanding Action Items/Assignments:**

- Tim - Provide David Grandmaison's SR83 road kill/culvert study data to Angela (SWCA)