MEMORANDUM

Date: March 28, 1998
To: Natural Resource Monitoring Working Group
From: Luisa F. Castro (SCB)
Re: Minutes from February 25th meeting at TNCH

Meeting Minutes: February 25, 1998

Present: Randy Bartlett, Luisa Castro, Gene Conrad, Coleen Cory, Alenka Remec, and Philip Thomas

Guest Speaker: **Nate L. Whelan**

Nate is the Land Condition Trend Analysis (LCTA) Coordinator working for Colorado State University's Center for Ecological Management of Military Lands managing the Army lands at Schofield Barracks. The LCTA program provides a standardized methodology for inventorying and monitoring Army land resources. LCTA collects physical and biological resource data from training lands in order to relate land conditions to training activities. The data is intended to provide information to effectively manage land use and natural resources. If anyone wishes to find out more about the Army's land management program, please: visit their web site at http:150.137.10.101/itam/homedoc.html; preview their video; or read their handout (Alenka has copies of both). Nate also offered to take anyone from the HINRMW group who was interested out in the field.

Assessment of Work in Progress

We went down the list of the work in progress as of September 1997. The following action items have been accomplished:

- **Coleen** has completed the annotated bibliography and **Philip** has posted it on the HEAR site.
- **Alenka**, **Coleen** and **Randy** recruited experts for the expert advisory list and **Philip** has posted the list on the HEAR site.
- **Coleen** has written up the proposed changes to the East Maui Watershed Pilot Monitoring Project.
- **Luisa** created a draft table listing the documentation of existing monitoring programs gathered by various members of the HINRMW group.

The following action items are being worked on:

- **Nancy** will announce the expert advisory team and bibliography to past workshop participants.
- **Philip** will post the East Maui Watershed Pilot Monitoring Project on the HEAR site by May 1st.
- **Coleen** will announce the document posting on the web to the EMW workshop participants by June 1st.
- **Randy** will give Luisa documentation of monitoring programs for Puu Kukui to be added to the draft table.
- A Feral Ungulate Monitoring Techniques workshop is set for May 18-20.
- A rare plant workshop is proposed for October.
- An invertebrate workshop has been postponed.
- A Data Management and Analyses workshop is to be determined.

Redefine Action Items

A considerable amount of time was devoted to determining the group's success in fulfilling our purpose of providing overall coordination for monitoring needs in the state. Since Randy so aptly summarized our discussion, I would like to refer back to his email of February 26.

> Since we seem to have finally come to the realization that there can be no ONE monitoring protocol for statewide use (even among such seemingly similar topic areas as feral ungulate monitoring) because of the differences in specific monitoring OBJECTIVES among various organizations, we now need to:
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> 1) Assess, evaluate, compile & document the existing monitoring programs used by various organizations throughout the state in order to:
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> a) Assess what our peers are doing (i.e. see what the heck is out there) in terms of monitoring to determine if other monitoring programs/methodologies currently in use will meet our specific needs so we don't have to "reinvent" the wheel, and/or, even if a particular existing program doesn't completely meet all our specific needs, then perhaps it meets some/most and we can tweak the protocol/method to better fit our needs (check w/your friendly neighborhood statistician or other monitoring "expert");
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> b) Evaluate the OBJECTIVE(S), DESIGN, etc. (using "expert" advisors) of each existing monitoring program to determine if the protocol/methodology used is appropriate for the question(s) asked and provides the results in a user-friendly, comprehensible and defendably valid manner;
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> c) Compile specific monitoring programs into the existing monitoring workshop topic areas, such as; Feral Ungulates, Invertebrates, Rare Plants, and Vegetation for ease of reference; and
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> d) Document (at http://www.hear.org/hinrmwg/ web-site?) to provide future ease of access to referenced materials/programs.
>
> We're already making progress in compiling what is already out there to some extent. Luisa's Monitoring Protocols table shows quite well how a simple tool can convey a lot of information and is a very useful step in one of the directions I think we need to take. As it stands, we need to fill in the gaps in the MP table and decide whether or not we want to see any more info on the table than what already exists.
>
> 2) Once the above steps are complete, we can then (concurrently?) begin making suggestions and developing general guidelines (following our "expert" advisors recommendations) for protocol/methodology selection for both existing and/or future possible monitoring programs according to the topic areas referenced above.
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> An essential key to developing a solid monitoring program is being absolutely clear on what one's OBJECTIVE(S) are to begin with. Without a clear objective, your subsequent choice(s) of methodology, etc. will be correspondingly muddied; very likely resulting in insignificant data and a tremendous waste of time/money. This may seem utterly obvious and simplistic beyond belief to many, but I have experienced this trap first hand and can readily say that unless one gives the proper thought and concentration to the clear articulation and examination of one's objective(s), one can easily end up with a pile of garbage in his/her hands; instead of the bullet-proof data desired.

The group agreed to think about these issues and to be prepared to discuss them at the upcoming meeting on **Thursday, April 9 from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm at TNC**. An agenda is forthcoming. See you there….