

Minutes

Arana Gulch Adaptive Management Working Group Meeting

Santa Cruz Bible Church (near Frederick/Broadway Entrance to Arana Gulch)

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2020

PARTICIPANTS:

Noah Downing, Planner, City of SC Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Travis Beck, City of SC Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Blake Woessner, City of SC Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Kathy Lyons, Biotic Resources Group

Alison Stanton, Botanist

Bill Davilla, EcoSystems West

Justin Davilla, EcoSystems West

Lauren Garske-Garcia, CA Coastal Commission

Sylvie Childress, UCSC Greenhouses

Debbie Bulger, CNPS

Richard Stover, CNPS

Additional Attendees: Tommy Williams, Frank and Teresa Locatelli, Jean Brocklebank, Michael Lewis

Group walked to Area C, Area D, and Area A, then met at Bible Church café.

Public Comments. City received comment from Jean Brocklebank regarding off-trail uses near the Hagemann Gulch bridge. She suggested a barrier be installed. To reduce off-trail use.

Field Review of Actions and Activities

1. Area D Scrape Plots The group viewed the scrape plots in Area D. Three scrape plots were created in November 2019 in Area D, six plots in Area A and one plot in Area C. Scrape plots will be monitored for SCT in 2020.
2. Area C SCT Outplanting Noah reported UCSC grew 28 Santa Cruz Tarplant (SCT) plants as part of a seed germination test. These plants were outplanted in Area C. Group viewed the transplant site. Sylvie reported that all plants were derived from disk seeds; no germination occurred from the ray seeds despite testing various methods. She had negative results from liquid smoke. Group discussed additional SCT outplanting in 2020, with plants grown at UCSC Greenhouses. Group discussed excluding half of the outplantings from cattle grazing. Parks personnel will fence off half the outplantings prior to cattle being on site.
3. Area A – Molasses Plot, Scrape Plots, and SCT Site C-1 The group viewed the molasses plot that was created in June 2019. Cattle fed on molasses and created a circular bare

area with the historical area of SCT. Site will be monitored for SCT in 2020. Group viewed some of the scrape plots and SCT Site C-1. Plant growth evident as cattle have not been on site yet this year. Iris-leaved rush, spike rush, lythrum, and pennyroyal observed at SCT C-1. Some of last year's plants still standing.

4. Encampments Along Arana Creek Noah reported on the transient encampments along Arana Creek, near Capitola Road. Large areas have been impacted, including clearing of riparian vegetation. Parks and Police are patrolling the area. Group discussed perimeter fencing to reduce human access into the area.
5. Cattle Grazing Management Noah reported that cattle are expected on site next week. Frank Locatelli indicated it will be cow/calf pairs. Group interested in doing addition molasses plots in Area A at the end of the season.
6. Environmental Stewards Noah reported that the Environmental Stewards will be on site this year for work days.
7. Invasive Plant Control Invasive plant control work will soon occur for the season when Matt returns to work (he has been on medical leave). Other park workers have been maintaining the site in his absence.

Staffing Changes Travis presented the staffing changes that will occur effective July 1. Blake was introduced to the group as he will take over management of the City's open spaces, including Arana Gulch management. Noah will have other responsibilities in the Parks Department.

SCT Ray and Disk Seeds The group looked at SCT seeds, with Sylvie distinguishing the ray and disk seeds. The ray seeds remain in the soil seed bank. They are darker, curved, and somewhat armored. The disk seeds are lighter; these seeds readily germinate in the nursery.

Habitat Management Alison Stanton presented results of her habitat management plan for SCT. The group discussed the use of prescribed fire as a management tool for 2020. Noah indicated that advance lead time is needed to pursue a permit from the Air Quality Control Board and to do public outreach and press releases. The group discussed various techniques for a prescribed burn, including use of a drip torch or a Terra Torch. The group discussed a fire plot in Area D and Area A, within the historical limits of the SCT. Noah will discuss with City Fire Department. Alison is going to develop a 2020 work plan for the City and the AMWG's review. The plan will present options for action in case a fire cannot occur. The group agreed not to burn areas supporting aboveground SCT in 2020.

Next Meeting: Not yet determined.