

**Amargosa Vole Team
Conference Call Notes
July 11, 2013**

Attendees

Brian Croft- FWS
Caitlin Ott-Conn- Davis
Chris Conroy- Berkeley
Chris Otahal- BLM
Deana Clifford- CDFW

Erin Nordin- FWS
Janet Foley- Davis
Rob Klinger- USGS
Russell Scofield- BLM

Meeting Notes

- The \$24k National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) science funding to continue the UC work is available for obligation. ***Russell and Chris O will work with procurement to modify the existing agreement with Davis.*** The funding will be used to continue disease assessments and genetics work at Berkeley.
- Brian Croft discussed the future function of the Vole Team and the need to spend some time visioning future actions for the vole. ***Russell will follow up with Brian.*** BLM, CDFW, and FWS will work to develop a long-term, multidiscipline vision for the area. Vole and vole science will be a primary component so we will spend some time on the next vole call to talk about future recovery and research needs for the vole.
- Erin Nordin is working on the cooperative agreement with Deana.
- Funding recommendations for the USGS budget request should be out in mid-August with final notification by October 1, 2013. Rob indicated that the process would be extremely competitive.
- DNA is now being extracted from feces and can be used for presence surveys. This will also allow genotyping from different habitat patches. Chris Conroy is also working on extraction from skins and once perfected, will request samples from the few museum specimens that exist.
- There was discussion if we could utilize Berkeley undergrads in the field and the consensus was that as long as they were working with folks on the permits and not handling voles it would be fine.
- The new Section 6 grant has been executed with an award letter. Deana expects funding to be available in August.
- Martin Smith with UC Extension is interested in working with us on a vole environmental education project. The Inyo County agent would be involved and the possibility of establishing an environmental 4-H club was discussed. Environmental education for the vole could tie into existing federal education programs and the DMG desert tortoise education program. ***Russell will schedule a separate education call.***
- Janet has been working on a vole research webpage as part of her lab's webpage. Logos are needed from ***CDFW, Amargosa Conservancy, and FWS if they want them on the page.*** ***Chris Otahal will review content for appropriateness prior to it going public.***
- As a part of the translocation plan, the nutritional value of bulrush and whether bulrush is an obligate requirement will be considered.
- Grants update
 - UC Davis NSF- no response
 - Betty White- not awarded because they do not feel the Amargosa vole's situation is an emergency.