

Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan
Public Workshop and Presentation, November 29, 2012
Public Comment and Scribe Notes

- Essence of management plan
 - Primarily monitoring and restoration
 - Are things working? What is working?
 - What is critical habitat? (aggregation site boundaries)
 - Builds off what is happening
 - Monitor habitat

- Previous maintenance
 - 1960s-70s: understory managed, cleaned out
 - Last 20 years: mostly clearing pathways, understory unmanaged
 - Installation of rope barriers improved health of grove, stability of aggregations
 - Before City ownership: private property, which has different rules
 - City ownership: permits, reviews required

- Planting for restoration (understory)
 - Native Bunch Grass, Coast Live Oak, Toyon, Elderberry, large shrubs
 - Mostly on perimeter
 - More Eucalyptus trees?
 - Fill out thinner groves to compensate for tree falls
 - Create buffer on west side of Ellwood North
 - Xerces: low-growing vegetation used by monarchs to climb up, understory=good

- Understory (low-lying vegetation)
 - Monarchs usually on the ground after rain
 - Vegetation can be hazardous to tree health
 - Vegetation can keep people out of the area (blocks access)
 - Used by monarchs to crawl back up trees after a fall

- Habitat - food source?
 - Milkweed not needed at aggregation site (plant not used when over wintering)
 - Potential nectar sites exist around perimeter, but are not necessary for survival (can go all winter without eating)
 - Promote milkweed plantings amongst neighbors?
 - Milkweed at aggregation sites may break diapause

- Re-population after restoration?
 - Chevron site: management after construction, monarchs using site again
 - Targeted density used to restore or build sites (ex. Mariposa Reina)

- Possible volunteer activities
 - Planting and weeding
 - Clean-up
 - Other restoration efforts

- Timeline - how fast do we need to act?
 - Understory already crowded and negatively affecting aggregation

- Balance with the habitat of other species
 - Work schedule considers the roosting seasons of other species
- Visitor impact
 - Take ownership of/regulate buses
 - Have City employee or docent with bus tours
 - Add signage with regards to keeping the noise level down
 - Bathroom on site or keep everything natural?
 - Off trail activity: dogs off leash pose major problem, danger to birds
 - Bike patrols to stop illegal activity
 - Sperling Lot too far for the elderly and kids
 - Coronado Dr. intended as the primary parking location at the beginning of acquisition
- Human use - Sperling Preserve/Ellwood Mesa Open Space
 - Dogs, fires, parties, dirt bikes, swings
 - Fri/Sat night especially bad
 - Bike patrol done weekly
 - Residents can call code enforcement, law enforcement
- Parking on Coronado Dr. – oversized vehicle ordinance (separate project)
 - See <http://www.cityofgoleta.org/index.aspx?page=1146>