

San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan Trust

Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2025

The meeting convened at 2:00 p.m. virtually and in person at COB 101, 1st floor in 455 County Center.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Christina Fernandez (City of Brisbane, standing in for Jeremy Dennis), Sharon Ranals (City of South San Francisco), Mike Callagy (County of San Mateo)

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Thomas Piccolotti (City of Daly City)

STAFF PRESENT: Evan Cole (SMCP), Emma Kroencke (SMCP), Brett Jones (fiscal auditor), Austin Lam (SMCP)

1) Public Comment

No public comments at this time.

2) Action to Set the Agenda and Approve the Consent Agenda Items

Consent agenda included minutes from June 2024 meeting and FY2023-24 Audit.

Action: Motion/Second Callagy/Ranals to set the agenda and approve the consented agenda items.

Motion carried 3-0.

3) Report Backs

a) Update on HCP Amendment

- Evan Cole provided an update on the amendment being facilitated by the city of Brisbane, for the developer looking to redevelop the quarry at San Bruno Mountain. The EIR has been put out for comment, though responses are still pending. County has been involved in conversations as habitat manager to facilitate amendment and review items - USFWS and Parks will strictly operate in a review capacity.
 - Callagy – any contemplations to fee structure? Evan noted that there have been conversations for a higher fee agenda, for County Parks to receive and regarding dedicated lands that will be a part of the amendment as mitigation, though nothing has been concluded yet.

b) Updates on Grant-funded Project Activities

- Only currently active grant is from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the conservation grazing pilot program
 - o So far: \$15,000 has been spent for the grazing strategy, which is completed and publicly online
 - o Remaining funds are to be used for infrastructure, installation, and other associated tasks, such as engineering and remaining CEQA items (ISMND/EIR). The previous ISMND for the HCP only covered cattle and not the impacts from infrastructure installation, so another will be necessary though infrastructure plans will need to be finalized before the process can begin.

No action required for this item.

No public comment for this item.

4) Review and Approval of San Bruno Mountain HCP Budget

a) Review and Update of Planned Expenditures for Habitat Conservation Activities within the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan area for FY 2025-26

- Unrestricted fund balance has decreased in order to spend down balance more aggressively, as requested by Trustees a few years back
 - o Larger-scale habitat restoration projects have been implemented in recent years as a result
- Vegetation management budget has increased, due to increased staffing capacity with Parks to implement more shaded fuel break projects.
- This year will also see increased efforts to obtain fees from property owners.

Action: Motion/Second Ranals/Callagy to approve the budget.

Motion carried 3-0.

5) Review of FY 2024-25 Annual Activities Highlights

- Vegetation management: 509 total acres treated for this FY - primarily oxalis, coyote brush, and fennel. There also has been a pushback of native scrub that threatens grasslands. Hand tools were used to avoid impacts to butterflies and their habitat, while mechanical mastication was used in more dense areas to remove larger swathes of scrub, with a focus on habitat that has seen more significant reductions in butterfly populations.

- Butterfly monitoring: Mission Blue surveys were completed in 2025, Callippe Silverspot and San Bruno Elfin surveys in 2024. Annual reports released every year – 2024 report to be published in the next month.
- Mission Blue translocations: occur annually in partnership with the National Parks Service and USFWS to translocate butterflies to Milagra and Sweeney Ridge.
 - Ranals: asked about Twin Peaks translocations. Evan noted that this has occurred in the past, but haven't been completed in the past few years.
- SFPUC genetics study: Staff from SFPUC came out to collect Mission Blue butterflies and use wing clippings to conduct genetic studies and see how populations at San Bruno Mountain, the SFPUC watershed and NPS lands may differ. Overarching goal of study is to learn how to better improve population management and metapopulation preservation.
- Bay Checkerspot reintroduction: finished with reintroductions and have switched gears to monitoring.
- Rare and endangered plant species restoration: Restoration has been performed keeping in mind the many other rare species on the mountain besides from butterfly host plants – ex: restoring endangered manzanita with help from San Bruno Mountain Watch as mitigation for PG&E impacts.
- Ridge fire: Occurred on July 2, 2024. Parks' contractor stabilized site to reduce sediment runoff and stabilize any seeds in the burn scar. Site visit on March 2025 revealed a notable increase in viola (Callippe Silverspot host plant) and other native plants coming back.
 - Callagy: commented that fire seemed to help restore the habitat. Evan explained that fire is an important means of disturbance on the mountain – historically natives would burn the land to regenerate, and later settlers' cattle would disturb the landscape and manage the thatch build-up. Such purposeful disturbance ceased after acquisition of the mountain. Parks has not ruled out the introduction of prescribed burning, but implementation would face various roadblocks (SFO flight path overhead, high risk due to surrounding urban setting). Evan noted that grazing will hopefully obtain similar results but in a more manageable manner.
 - Ranals: At Sign Hill, South SF's Parks and Fire departments are looking seriously at conducting a controlled burn.
- Bog Trail habitat restoration: Parks contractor removed eucalyptus, cotoneaster, and other species that have been crowded out natives in the riparian zone.
- Fuel reduction update: shaded fuel break at Crocker Gate to be completed in coming months.
- Grazing update: grazing strategy and monitoring plan have been completed. Next steps include infrastructure planning, grazer selection, and continued public outreach. Parks attended a conference last fall advertising program to grazers, also plan to solicit through grazing communities and follow up with field meetings to confirm interest and determine best course of action between licensing or leasing the land.

- Partnership with Signatory Cities: Parks would like to have a dedicated conversation with City Managers in coming months to retroactively establish agreements regarding roles and responsibilities for dedicated lands. Parks Department has been accepting parcels but is not set up as a public works department to manage drainage ditches or other infrastructure. Conversation could also be used to talk about cooperation for the grazing project (eg water tie-ins) – though Parks is managing the project, it is ultimately an HCP project and would require efforts from other signatories.
- Comments:
 - o Ranals: noted that a Parks presentation to councils might be good, to help them better understand what they're doing and how the HCP budget is being used.
 - o Fernandez: noted that HOA will be having a meeting in July to decide if they will forgo the maintenance of the ditches at Toll Brothers property. Also asked who to contact in terms of coordinating emergency response and preparedness for incidents that occur on the mountain. Callagy advised to reach out to the head of the Department of Emergency Management, Evan stated he can also put her in contact with rangers of San Bruno Mountain.

No action required for this update.

6) Upcoming & Recent Meetings

a) Natural Resource Coordination – Quarterly

i) Next meeting in early August.

b) Trustees Meeting – June 2026

Action: Motion/Second Callagy/Fernandez to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried 3-0.