

Chris Noddings

From: Karl Rider <karlrider76@gmail.com>
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To: Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan
Subject: Public workshop comments

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Dear commissioners,

Thank you for the efforts to tie together the many threads of interest involved in implementation of the Ellwood Management Plan.

I would like to caution on the less is more approach that was mentioned several times throughout the meeting. While there are widely divergent goals of the different shareholder groups, there could be enough consensus to move forward with active planning to implement the 2018 goals. Active management of these goals will be needed to accomplish the timeframe that was mentioned (5yrs) to be eligible for the funding if I understood correctly. Actively managed lands are more productive, more resilient to change, and allow greater opportunities for recreation. This land has been actively managed for the last 120 years and it's current use and importance is a testament to the success of actively managing land.

I encourage the commission to seek the advice of a forester, familiar with managing a similar stand type, acknowledgement of the fact that this may need to be sourced from the eucalyptus native range. The forester would be able to discuss stand management, harvest strategies, regeneration rates and timber uses of the stand. Active management of the stand can be accomplished while addressing the various stakeholders needs. In keeping with the planters goals for the stand, an avenue could be explored for utilizing the wood that could be fuel wood, building materials, chips for paths, grade control structures for riparian restoration or other uses that will enhance and help preserve the site.

I would encourage the establishment of an indigenous plant community dominated by the California fan palm, *Washingtonia filliformis*. The fan palm is adapted to the site, provides wintering protection and has a long lifespan better than 500 years in this fire dependent ecosystem. With the knowledge of what a 120 yr old eucalyptus stand looks like and it's difficulties of management, we can give future generations a more diversified landscape, able to meet the the many goals of conservation, preservation, production, safety and recreation. A diverse mosaic of vegetation types and ages is the most productive and resilient defense to a catastrophic event that is likely to effect the current monotype stand.

Thank you for the efforts to bring the stakeholders together and look forward towards working with the community on the restoration of this site.

Best regards,
Karl Rider