

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 24, 2010
REAC Committee Field Trip to Indian Mound Station Sanctuary
Attendance List**

RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jim Durocher
Murray Hahn
Jim Heath
Doug Sphar

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Paul Schmalzer, Selection and Management Committee

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Mike Knight
Brad Manley
Xavier de Seguin des Hons

CITIZENS

Jack Lembeck

Approved May 13, 2010

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REAC Committee Field Trip to Indian Mound Station Sanctuary
Minutes**

The Recreation and Education Advisory Committee (REAC) met at the Indian Mound Station Sanctuary in Titusville at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 24, 2010. This trip was scheduled so that Committee members could tour the site prior to considering a revision of the proposed public access plan at an upcoming REAC meeting.

The tour began with a discussion about scrub restoration on the site which includes mechanical vegetation reduction (chopping) and prescribed fires. Due to the density of fuels, and the site's proximity to homes and roads, including I-95, the approximately 85-acre site has been divided into multiple small fires units.

The group stopped at the base of the Native American burial mound. Staff described the preservation and restoration process thus far. Prior to EEL acquisition, the mound was subject to vandalism and looting. Since the boundary of the site has been secured with fencing, these activities have ceased. An additional fence around the base of the mound was installed to further protect it. Chain link fencing was used to cover the exposed top of the mound to prevent digging, and it was covered with truckloads of fill soil. Additional material with more organic content is planned to be added to increase the depth of coverage, and provide more fertile soil for plantings.

The group moved on to the beginning of the proposed trail. It was discussed that the parking area and trailhead would be located near the existing gate on Holder Road, just inside the boundary fence. It would accommodate six to eight cars, and be surfaced with natural compacted material, such as crushed coquina.

Staff described the strategy in locating the trail was to keep the trail separate from firebreaks and site it out of restoration zones to the extent possible. The trail location is being taken into consideration as restoration planning and implementation progress. Efforts will be made to retain shade trees for the benefit of the trail where their presence would not compromise restoration goals. It was discussed that volunteers should be utilized for trail maintenance to the extent possible.

The group, with the exception of Jim Heath, then walked the trail. The proposed trail had been cut by hand with machetes by EEL staff, such that vegetation could easily recover should the proposed location not be adopted. As the group walked the trail, areas that would be effected by restoration were pointed out.

A stop was made at viewing point for the bald eagle's nest; two juvenile eagles were spotted on the nest. Staff described the guidelines for restoration in the buffer zone around the eagle

nest that include limitations on when work can be done, limits to tree reduction and other constraints.

The field trip was concluded at approximately 11:30 a.m.