

**Comprehensive Management Plan Update**  
**Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve**  
**Summary of Comments as of 12-5-03**

*Including initial staff comments, public meeting comments, emailed comments, and consultant's suggested updates*

Chapter 1: Natural, Physical and Cultural Context

- Include history of border area from open border to human impacts to current conditions and development of new infrastructure
- Include references to triple fence and potential ramifications/policy actions
- Update section on International Wastewater Treatment Plant/SBOO
- Consider adding additional maps and updating existing ones
- Update Living Resources section with latest PERL and other monitoring data
- Include section on “threats” possibly in this chapter (include more history of the Border Region)

Chapter 2: Core Principles

- Mission overhaul and updated 5-year mission to include effects of and response to projected visitation increase at BFSP due to population increases and improved facilities/infrastructure
- Update mission with focus on engaging watershed-based partnerships in addressing threats to the reserve (or some combination of this and that stated above)
- Expand regional resource context to include San Diego Bay reserves and Universities in Mexico
- Include MSCP discussion
- Define compatible uses for the reserve
- NERR system goals still current?
- Reflect all updated Programmatic Missions

Chapter 3: Accomplishments

- Model Marsh, Quarry restoration, Goat Canyon, Monument Road, property acquisitions, new lab, new education programs, international projects, coastal training program, new positions, voluntary closure of redundant BP roads, muster meetings with BP, success of cowbird trapping for vireos, invasive plant control program, binational real-time flood warning system

Chapter 4: Administrative Framework

- Acknowledge new members of Management Authority (or Advisory council)
- Consider adding member of public to Advisory Council (recreational interests?)
- Only add new members to MA bases on careful evaluation and a clear policy to avoid opening Pandora's box of numerous people who want to be on the MA
- Improvements in inter-agency coordination/communication
- Special events protocol and requirements should be clearly defined for public

- Fully include Border Patrol in Reserve management and provide more effective wildlife disturbance restraints
- Address future staffing and infrastructural needs
- Revise goals and mission
- Is description of NOAA bureaucratic structure/agency names accurate?
- Update number of refuges if needed
- Update BFSP acreage
- Update committees of Management Authority
- Update roles of each agency in each area
- Reference most updated NERRs Strategic Plan

#### Chapter 5: Resource Management

- Include “Threats” section
- water quality section/issues
- elevate Border Patrol education as resource management tool—monitor and report incidents with greater rigor
- MSCP
- Expand restoration section
- More comprehensively address impacts and management of public use to avoid impacts to vegetation, wildlife, water, etc.
- Apply the precautionary principle for resource management when data may be lacking (i.e., W. snowy plover protection)
- Recommend non-sale of invasive plants in local stores
- Expand ways in which research (Ch. 6) activities support and give guidance to resource management actions
- Expand ways in which education activities support resource management actions
- Update land acquisition table and map and goals
- Update mission/goals
- Update section on Goat Canyon
- Include invasive species program description
- Update predator control program
- Update INS/Border Patrol-related issues
- Update information on International Wastewater Treatment Plant, South Bay Ocean Outfall and any other relevant water treatment facility changes since 1998
- Update section on TETRP
- Goal: educational materials on how to do estuarine restoration

#### Chapter 6: Research and Monitoring

- Changes at PERL
- Include synthesis of 20 years of SWMP monitoring data plus current SWMP monitoring
- Plan for how the soon-to-be-available rain and water data for the watershed (from binational flood warning system) might be used by researchers
- Current GIS projects and research applications; GIS mapping needs
- Establishing reference sites for restoration

- Direct applications of research for management and planning efforts
- Recommend pure research on public use impacts on endangered species
- Recommend year-round monitoring of wildlife and threatened and endangered species
- Development of a volunteer coordination program to assist staff with monitoring efforts
- Coordination with educational efforts
- Direct research toward filling knowledge gaps with larger geographic scale implications
- Update and include all past and present GRF research and how it has benefited the reserve (update number of total GRFs for NERR system)
- Update mission; add to goals
- Check on NERR system goals—still current?
- More specifics on chain of command and review process for research project approval (among operating agencies)
- Update Research Projects at TRNERR table with current info (goes up to '94 in 2000 plan) (possibly move all but most recent ones to appendix?)
- Update Research committee names and responsibilities (now combined with restoration)
- Enhance information on how research is disseminated to various audiences
- SDSU/PERL to hold seat on Management Authority in future? Update role of PERL
- Update information on TRW GIS project accomplishments and status
- Section on specific role of Research Coordinator
- Update monitoring table and monitoring needs
- Include SWMP summary—current and needs

#### Chapter 7: Education and Interpretation

- Curricula with local high schools
- Expanded docent training
- CTP as top priority
- Goal: develop additional educational materials related specifically to research and restoration
- Specific strategies to target specific audiences
- Incorporate draft 5-year plan
- Update mission
- CDMW-expand section
- Update partners
- Update visitation numbers for more current years

#### Chapter 8: Public Access, Involvement and Use

- Possible synergies with County Regional Park
- Increase media outreach binationally
- Promote ecotourism outreach efforts
- Add a chapter on media and create a “marketing plan”
- Increase press releases regarding recreation and conservation success stories, natural events
- Study highly used refuges and reserves to get information on managing increased usage and balancing habitat and recreational needs

- Actively monitor impacts of increased visitation, recreational improvements, and especially trails. Devise management responses to these impacts, provide enforcement, seasonal trail closure, etc. as needed and follow up with ongoing monitoring. (Torrey Pines as model, possibly) (some of this could spill into Ch. 9)
- Consider requiring that all users clean up after their animals while on reserve property (horses, dogs, etc.) due to health and environmental impacts
- Divide this chapter into 1.) active resource management items (to go into Resource Management chapter, possible to be renamed “Stewardship”) and 2.) Communications
- Update needs
- Update and expand BFSP access goals to incorporate new road, etc.
- Update visitation numbers table
- Include discussion of Border Fence in barriers to public use section?
- Update equestrian trails, role of MAU
- Goals OK, but tasks to be updated

#### Chapter 9: Facilities, Buildings, Roads and Trails

- Expansion of visitor center
- Discuss adding stormwater runoff treatment options at appropriate locations
- Add the loop trail
- Add hitching post on Border Field mesa
- Address possible base closure of OLFIB
- Discuss North-South coastal trail and East-West regional trail including Otay Valley Regional Park
- Discuss relationship with and future of Tijuana River Valley Regional Park
- Consider replacing grass at BFSP with some other type of ground cover
- Consider adding trail on North side of river next to Ream Field
- Improve mission (very dull-sounding)
- Update table of short and long-term facilities improvements
- Update accomplishments—lab, garage expansion, new BFSP facilities, etc.
- Goals sound good, tasks to be updated (this is a common theme throughout the chapters)

#### Chapter 10: Watershed Coordination

- Program to work with government and activists in Mexico to control erosion, tire use, etc.
- Include participation on international flood warning committee
- Programs for Yogurt Canyon/Cañon de los Sauces
- Switch out Goal 5
- Coastal Training Program efforts (include under education instead? Under both?)
- Move bio-regional efforts to Ch. 11 and discuss current emphasis on outreach and coordination with Mexico in immediate watershed area in Ch. 10
- Expand Goat Canyon focus
- Update current watershed project
- Show how watershed projects, together, form a cohesive watershed policy approach (or insert goals to work toward a cohesive policy)

- Move domestic and international elements that are outside the watershed to Ch. 11

Chapter 11: Regional/International Coordination? (this would be a new chapter)

- SCWRP program and coordination with NERR
- Possibility of adding Penasquitos Lagoon to TRNERR site
- Pursue Marine Protected Area designation (for offshore regions)
- Pursue a WHSRN designation for TRNERR
- Tie in with mission statement
- Specifically identify key areas of interest in the bioregion
- Clear goals and descriptions of where reserve intends to be in the next 5 years as far as its role in the bioregion

Appendices

- Remove or add appendices?