

Arana Meeting Notes 10-8-25

Present:

- Ako Culver (City)
 - Mike Godsy (City)
 - Bill Davilla (Ecosystems West)
 - Kathy Lyons (Biotic Resources Group)
 - Matt Quinn (Confluence Restoration)
 - Suzanna Schettler (CNPS)
 - Rachel Pausch (CCC)
 - Neighbors of Arana Gulch
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- City restructuring Open Space team
 - Ako Culver Field Supervisor, more staff incoming
 - Reports of encampments in riparian areas off of Agnes
 - 3 large encampments from Agnes and additional encampments observed on Capitola Rd. side
 - Currently social trails have been created, accessway proposed with brush work for Response team access (outreach notice of abatement) and provide services
 - Servicing will be 2x a week
 - Closed signs will be posted
 - Neighbor reports of debris to the north and in Hagemann
 - Engagement/cleanup City coordination includes: PD patrols, Public Works Encampment Assessment, Public Works Outreach Team, Parks Team
 - Homeless Response Director for City can coordinate with County
 - Update on grazing/mowing
 - Cattle currently in C and D, would like to move to Area A
 - Flail mowed Area A-SE (1.5 hr to do entire area), still lots of thatch
 - Experiment
 - 5 plots each in a Areas A North, SE, SW, and D (1m² plots)
 - Need to decide how many seeds to put out
 - Collected bulk density at each plot in September
 - Aboveground biomass collections for each plot, D still needs to be done
 - Now: Put cows in Area A-SE and A-North, add molasses barrel to attract
 - Once bare ground and 6 in canopy move to next most overgrown
 - Concentrate cattle effort to Areas A (and or D) because C is more easily mowed

- Sylvie still has fresh flowers; collecting seed mixed with chaff
- Thoughts for next year: compaction treatments, high grazing densities
- UCSC will target 40% disk achenes, 60% ray achenes
- Targeting early December outplant
- 500 outplants total from UCSC – 1 day outplanting
 - February, target A-SW (A-SE backup), need to manage canopy beforehand—cows in A-SW in January
- Will open gate to C
- AMWG meetings in June and late Sept/Oct
 - Rachel will schedule TAC meeting for early February
- Suggestion to look at census numbers correlation with when rain is occurring

ACTION ITEMS:

Ongoing Grazing/Mowing Guidelines– grazing to maintain canopy height and low thatch (bare ground visible), mowing to supplement canopy height

Kathy/Locatellis: Try to maintain max canopy height of 15 cm (6 in) in all plot areas (A-North, A-SE, A-SW, and plot areas in D (map below). Treat A-SW in late January so that UCSC outplants in February can be excluded. Prioritize thatch removal; City supplemental mowing can help control canopy height.

Kathy/Locatellis: Remove animals from pasture if detrimental herbivory observed (observations should be made monthly at a minimum during monitoring, more frequently if possible).

Locatellis: Maintain documentation of number of animals in each area and update as gates are open closed or number of animals change

City/Kathy: Kathy will let City know when supplemental mowing needs to keep canopy <6 inches, for portion of fall/winter while tarplant <6 in

- In late winter/early spring, if needed (i.e., grazing not controlling growth), mow height to 15cm (as long as tarplant is not taller)
- 3-6 weeks after first mow but before Memorial Day mow again. Blade height set to be above max height of tarplant.
- No more mowing until end of season maintenance.

Seeding (November/December)

UCSC: Seed prep; make 20 envelopes of seeds

City/Kathy: Rake seed into plots just before rain

Outplanting in February

UCSC/Kathy: Outplant 500 plants in existing plots in A-SW

Kathy: Monthly Monitoring (Begins when plots are seeded)

Bare ground (%)

Canopy height (cm)

Number of Santa Cruz tarplant (#)

Average height of Santa Cruz tarplant (cm)

Santa Cruz tarplant phenology notes

List 3(5?) most dominant species

Updates to TAC; recommendations for grazing scheme for coming month

