

Meeting Ground Rules

This meeting is intended to be a constructive and collaborative dialogue and information exchange that helps interested members of the public and organizations to understand the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) development process and to provide meaningful feedback to State Parks so that the HCP better reflects your concerns and interests. It is not structured as a traditional "hearing", where people speak but no one apparently "listens". These ground rules are offered as a way to maximize the productivity of the dialogue so that everyone gets heard.

Terms of Engagement:

1. No decisions regarding a Habitat Conservation Plan will be made at this meeting; this meeting is about information sharing, interaction, and feedback that will lead to a draft HCP that clearly addresses community needs and habitat conservation issues.
2. Differing perspectives about issues and approaches will be regarded as problems to be solved rather than as battles to be won.
3. Focus on the future, instead of getting stuck in the past.
4. Separate the people from the problems we seek to solve -
 - a. Avoid characterizing the motives of others;
 - b. Acknowledge and try to understand others' perspectives;
 - c. Avoid taking "cheap shots", name calling and otherwise disrespectful behavior.
5. Share the responsibility of ensuring the success of the process and the quality of recommendations.
6. Stay focused on the task at hand and share airtime with others - ensure that every participant has the opportunity to speak.
7. Be a good listener - listening does not require agreement.