

Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife Initial Framework Review

The arboriculture and wildlife communities in California are working together to develop ways to enhance habitat through tree care practices. Meetings were held in July and October to outline a strategic approach and to start drafting Best Management Practices. The BMPs will focus on tree care to protect birds and other wildlife during and beyond nesting season and enhance habitat for birds and other urban wildlife. The three-year project will also develop training and certification for tree care workers and public education materials.

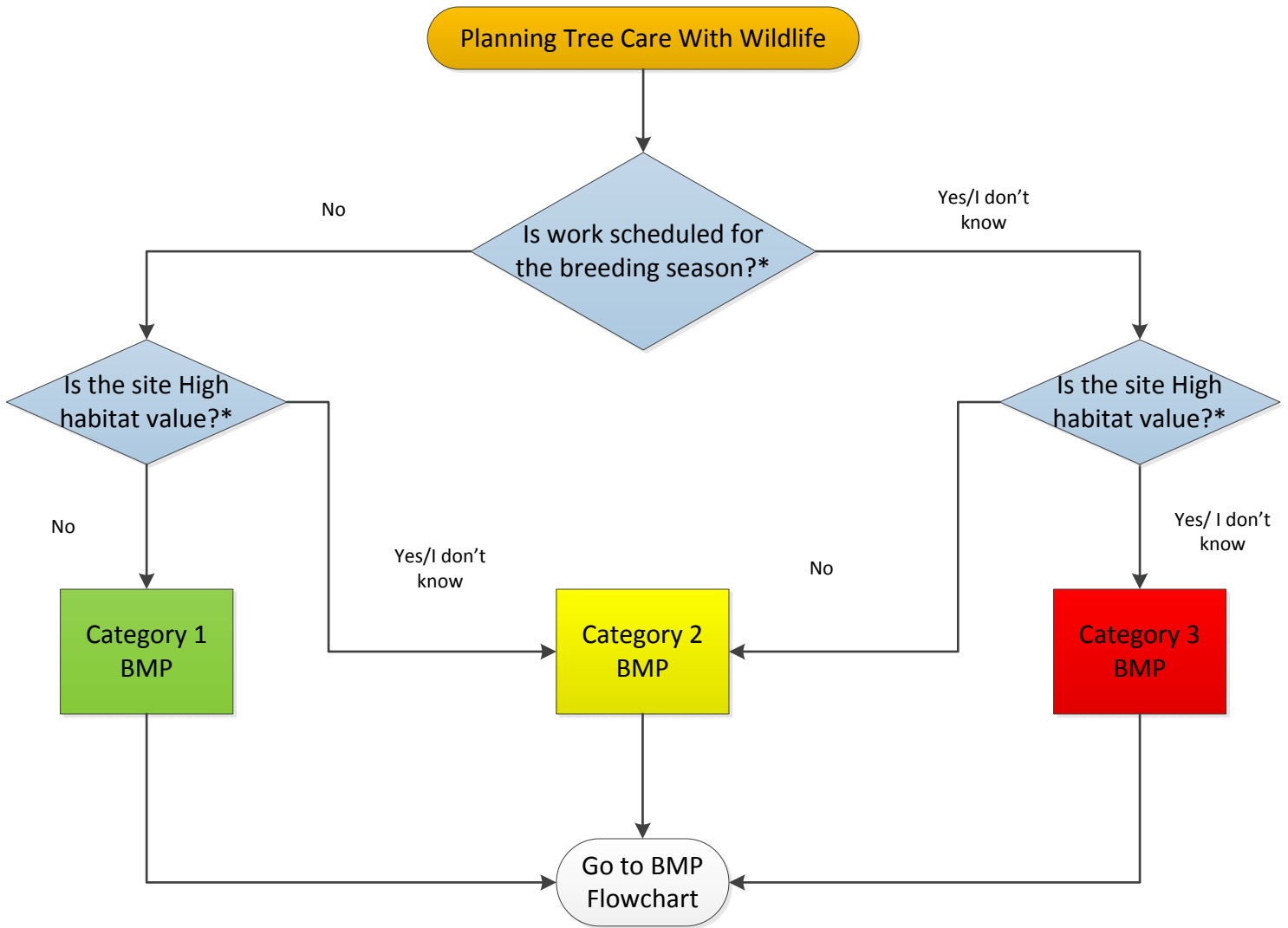
We are starting the first of two reviews. The initial framework review period will end on JUNE 10, 2016. We encourage questions and comments to be sent to Ryan Gilpin (HortScience Inc., 925.484.0211, ryan@hortscience.com). A future review period will be scheduled after the language of the document has been drafted. This document as well as others produced by the group are posted on our website at <http://treecareforbirds.com/documents/>.

The following pages are initial frameworks. These specific graphics may or may not be used in the final BMP document but are important in guiding the structure of the final document. All of the details cannot be shown in these documents, we expect the final product to be much more detailed.

A brief explanation of each of the following pages follows:

- Page 2 – This is a flowchart representing different categories that we can break jobs into depending on whether work is being performed during the breeding season and in high habitat value areas. Essentially when in a low habitat value area during the non-breeding season less training and restrictions may be recommended compared to a high habitat value during breeding season. Defining habitat value and breeding season would be very important, and preliminary definitions are provided at the bottom of the page. The category of the project on this page will dictate the starting place on the next page.
- Page 3 – Depending on which category you determined from the previous page, this flow chart outlines the steps to minimize impacts to wildlife. The steps in Category 1 apply to the others as well, rec
 - Category 1 can be accomplished by people with little to no training. We hope to write a BMP allowing someone with little or no training to understand when and how they can work safely and when they will require advice from a trained individual.
 - Category 2 requires a person with at least 8 hours of training. The Category 2 level will involve a training program that we are designing. We anticipate a one day training focusing primarily in performing a pre-work nesting survey and determining if a nest is active or inactive.
 - Category 3 requires a person with expertise in wildlife biology. When working in a high habitat value location during the breeding season or when an active nest is discovered. A biologist with expertise in birds and wildlife will need to give advice on if/how work can proceed safely.
- Page 4 – We are brainstorming tree care activities with the potential to improve habitat for wildlife in our urban forests. There are three primary aspects of our urban forests that we think can most be improved for wildlife: the amount of habitat available, the diversity of habitats and how resilient the urban forests are to an uncertain future. We hope to supply a variety of options for property owners, managers and practitioners to be able to improve wildlife habitat depending on their specific situation as they work in the urban forests.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this Initial Framework Review of the Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife. If you have any questions about this review or desire to participate in future meetings and crafting of the program, please contact Ryan.



Definitions

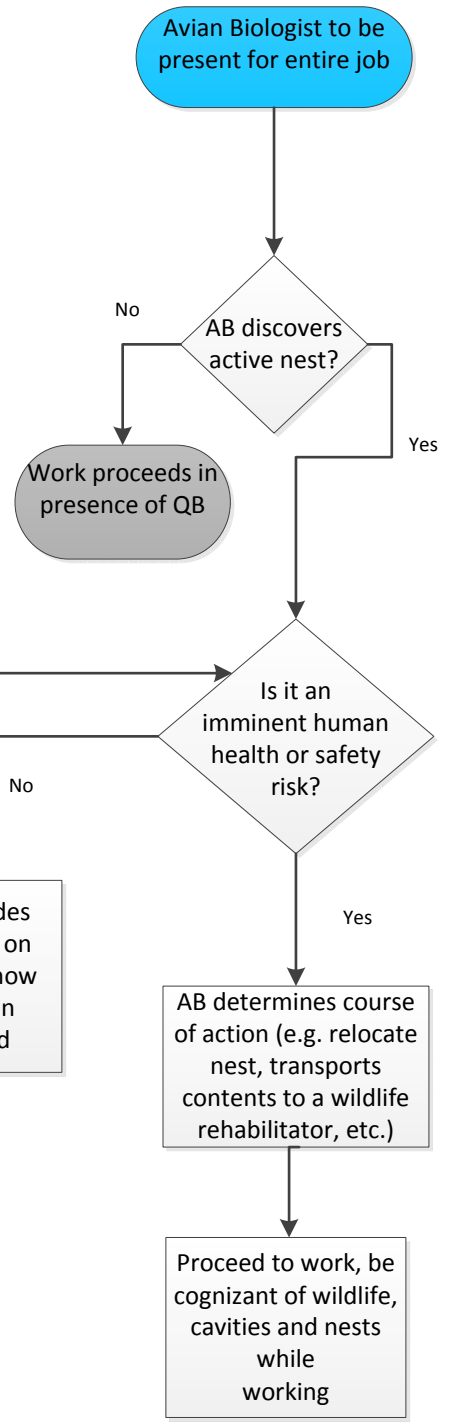
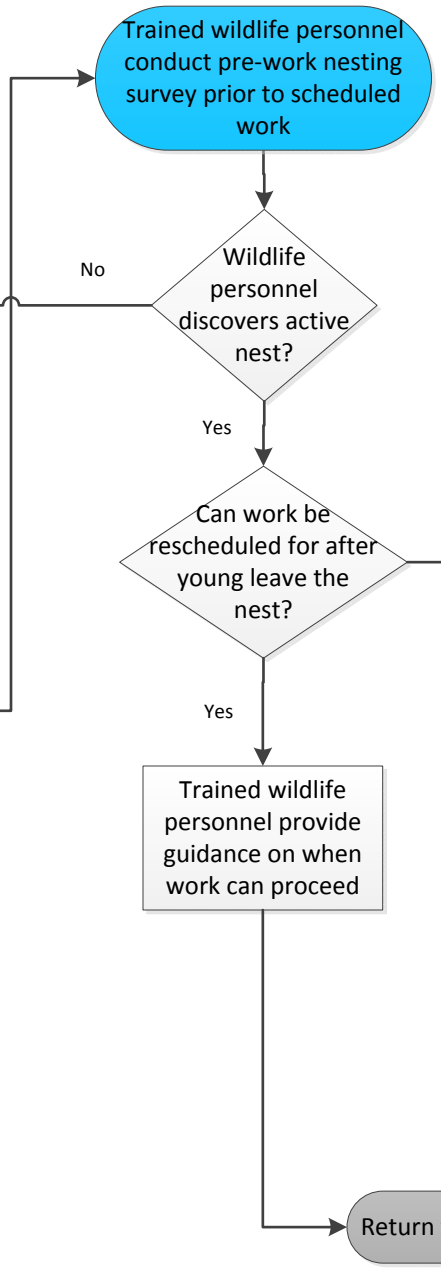
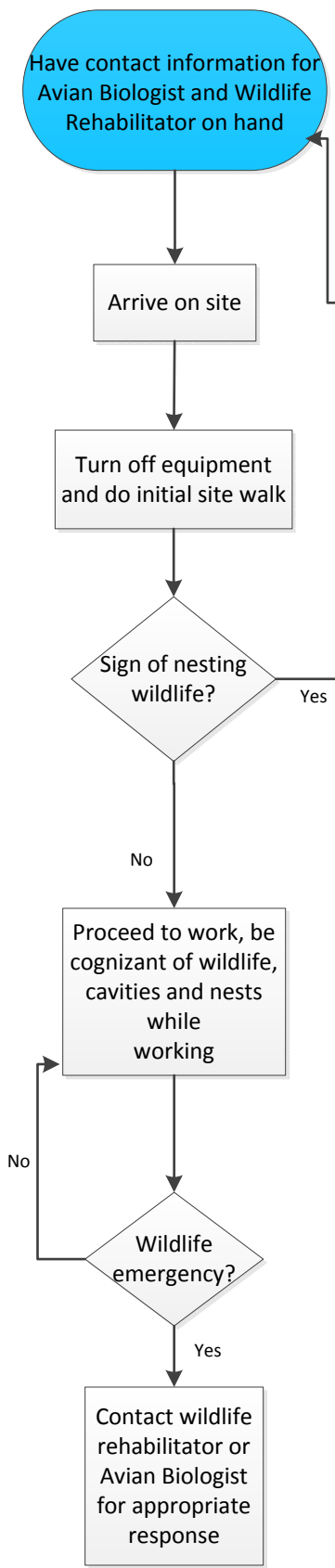
Breeding season – Typically February 1 to August 31 in Southern California

High habitat value – An area likely to support breeding wildlife populations, especially: riparian areas, wildland areas, high canopy cover suburban areas, non sports field parks and golf courses.

Category 1 BMP – No or minimal training

Category 2 BMP – Trained wildlife personnel present

Category 3 BMP – Avian Biologist present



Definitions

Trained wildlife personnel - a person with at least 8 hours of specific training in wildlife habitat, locating nests, determining if nests are active, identifying birds and nests and proper practices around nesting wildlife.

Avian Biologist - Person with knowledge and experience in identifying bird and wildlife species that may occur in the area along with nesting requirements and suitable survey methods.

Sign of nesting wildlife - bird breeding behavior such as carrying sticks or food, acting agitated, distress calls, nests that may be active, eggs, young, wildlife reliant on nest.

Tree Care Activity	Increase Habitat Amount	Increase Habitat Diversity	Increase Habitat Resilience
Increase Canopy Cover	x		
Plant Trees	x		
Diverse species		x	x
Species adapted to future climate			x
Spatial heterogeneity		x	x
Right tree right place		x	x
Natives when appropriate		x	x
No invasives	x	x	x
Fall/winter food sources		x	
Fruit trees?		x	
Preserve existing trees	x		x
Focus on mature trees	x	x	x
Maintain tree health	x		x
Follow pruning BMPs	x		x
Prune only to accomplish objective	x		
Limit reduction pruning	x		
No topping/heading cuts	x		
No wound dressing	x	x	x
Remove no more than 25% of crown	x		
Limit root pruning?	x		x
Integrated pest management	x	x	x
Pesticide use only when necessary	x	x	x
Narrow spectrum	x	x	x
Short residence time	x	x	x
Increase insect diversity	x	x	x
Plant flowers	x	x	x
Increase down woody debris	x	x	x
Decrease pest vectors			x
Removed pest infested trees			x
Limit movement of firewood			x
Increase under-represented habitats		x	x
Dead, dying and decayed trees		x	x
Preserve dead, dying and decayed trees		x	x
Recruit snags		x	
Create artificial cavity nests		x	
Nesting boxes		x	
Bushes and understory	x	x	x
Add and diversify bush and understory	x	x	x
Brush piles	x	x	x
Add dead branches as structural elements	x	x	x
Master, community and urban forest plans	x	x	x
Reduce habitat fragmentation	x	x	x
Create habitat corridors/greenbelts	x	x	x
Plan undisturbed habitats	x	x	x