

Patrick Kobernus

Principal



EDUCATION

M.S. Ecology

California State University, East Bay

TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES & EXPERIENCE

Patrick Kobernus is the owner of Coast Ridge Ecology, and has over 18 years of experience as a professional wildlife biologist. He currently manages a staff of six biologists and environmental specialists. He is experienced in supervising biological monitoring crews, conducting endangered species monitoring and rare plant mapping, and overseeing habitat management and restoration projects including invasive species control, grazing, controlled burning, and replanting projects.

Since 2010, Mr. Kobernus has served as the Lead Biologist for the Crystal Springs /San Andreas Transmission System Upgrade Project, Crystal Springs Pipeline No. 2 Project, Lower Crystal Springs Dam Improvement Project, Harry Tracy Water Treatment Long Term Improvement Project and the SFPUC Bioregional Habitat Restoration Program. Mr. Kobernus conducted extensive surveys and consulted on mitigation efforts for California red-legged frog, San Francisco garter snake, western pond turtle, steelhead, San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat, nesting birds and roosting bats. Mr. Kobernus has extensive experience with rare animal and plant species in northern and central California, including San Bruno elfin butterfly, Callippe silverspot butterfly, Smith's blue butterfly, Myrtle's silverspot butterfly, California tiger salamander, northern spotted owl, burrowing owl, several local bat species, and several local serpentine endemic plant species. Mr. Kobernus served as the Habitat Manager for the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan in San Mateo County for 13 years (1995-2007). He has worked extensively within the San Francisco Bay Area, conducting biological assessments and USFWS protocol surveys for protected species within San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Benito Counties, and electrofishing and trapping surveys for steelhead in San Mateo, Alameda, and Santa Clara Counties. Mr. Kobernus holds CA Department of Fish and Game Scientific Collecting Permit and USFWS 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit for the California red-legged frog and Callippe silverspot butterfly.

Mr. Kobernus has extensive experience in preparing Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Applications (JARPA), CA Department of Fish and Wildlife 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreements, Section 404 permit applications with the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and 401 Certification applications with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. Mr. Kobernus is a trained wetland delineator in the ACOE Delineation methodology (Wetland Training Institute, March, 2001), and has received specialty training in Applied Hydric Soils (WTI, May 2003).

Senior Biologist, Coast Ridge Ecology (2007 – Present)

- Lead Biologist for the Crystal Springs /San Andreas Transmission System Upgrade Project, Crystal Springs Pipeline No. 2 Project, Lower Crystal Springs Dam Improvement Project, Harry Tracy Water Treatment Long Term Improvement Project and the SFPUC Bioregional Habitat Restoration Program (2009 to present). Mr. Kobernus conducted extensive surveys and consulted on mitigation efforts for rare plants, California red-legged frog, San Francisco garter snake, western pond turtle, steelhead, San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat, nesting birds and roosting bats. Supervised relocation of California red-legged frog adults and eggmasses, capture and reintroduction of western pond turtles, capture and relocation of steelhead, monitoring of active raptor nests, dismantling and relocation of over 200 San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat nests, and exclusion and mitigation work for a maternity colony of Yuma bats.
- As a subcontractor working for Weiss and Associates, Coast Ridge Ecology and Nomad Ecology crews supervised and conducted western gull (*Larus occidentalis*) nests on a 2-acre warehouse roof at Pier 80 in San Francisco in 2008 and 2009. Monitoring consisted of daily monitoring of western gull nests over the breeding season and recommendations to prevent impacts to the

nesting colony from re-roofing activities. A depredation permit was obtained for the client from the Migratory Bird Treaty Office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service in order to move nests away from roofing activities.

- CRE prepared Section 404 and 401 permitting, replanting plans, CEQA documentation, and assisted with steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) relocation using electrofishing methods for the Sterling Bank Repair Project in Woodside, California (2008). CRE also conducted preconstruction surveys and biological monitoring for California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata*) and San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*) for the duration of the project. CRE assisted the client through the 10-month permitting process and prepared post construction monitoring reports for ACOE, RWCQB, and DFG.
- As a subcontractor to TRA Environmental Sciences, CRE assisted with fish relocation at the Stevens Creek Restoration Project in Cupertino, California (2008). Over 2000 fish were relocated using electrofishing methods (including the federally threatened steelhead, three-spined stickleback, California roach and Sacramento sucker) from a 0.5 mile section of the creek. Mortality levels were kept below 2% for the project. Project was coordinated by the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Sokale Environmental Consultants with assistance from EDAW.
- Provided biological surveys, wetland delineation, and agency consultations for the Harmony@One project EIR in Pacifica California (2006 – present). Species include Mission blue butterfly, California red-legged frog, San Francisco garter snake and San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat.

Senior Biologist, TRA Environmental Sciences, Inc. (June 1995 – January 2008)

- Acting Habitat Manager for San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan, 1995-2007. Supervised annual surveys for the Mission blue (*Plebejus icaricia icarioides*), Callippe silverspot (*Speyeria callippe callippe*), and San Bruno elfin butterflies (*Callophrys mossii bayensis*). Supervised rare plant mapping, exotics control, grazing, controlled burning and replanting projects. Principal author of the San Bruno Mountain HCP annual report for over 10 years (USFWS, Endangered Species Permit PRT-2-9818).
- Prepared biological assessments, habitat restoration plans, focused species surveys, constraints analysis, wetland delineations and biological sections of EIR's. Conducted and supervised reconnaissance-level biological surveys, vegetation mapping, rare plant surveys, rare animal surveys and wetland delineations.
- Conducted USFWS California red-legged frog protocol surveys for clients such as the Santa Clara Valley Water District (2006), Hanson-Permanente Quarry (2005), City of Cupertino (2005), and several individual landowners in Santa Clara, San Mateo and San Benito Counties.
- Conducted over 100 biological assessment reports for individual projects on the coastside of San Mateo County (Local Coastal Plan Area), Santa Clara County, Alameda County, Contra Costa County, Santa Cruz County, San Benito County, and Marin County.

Fisheries Biologist & Volunteer Coordinator for Alameda County Clean Water Program (Dec 1997 - March 1998)

- Assessed stream habitats and conducted fish rescue operations at the BART weir on Alameda Creek to move stranded steelhead to upstream spawning locations. Assisted in development of volunteer stream monitoring program and provided technical assistance to volunteer groups and teachers monitoring water quality, wildlife and fishes in Alameda County creeks.

Biologist, Gualala Redwoods, (April - May 1995)

- Conducted Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) USFWS protocol surveys and general wildlife surveys for Gualala Redwoods Inc., Gualala, California.

RESEARCH

- **Research under contract to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (2009 - 2010).** Conducted a study on the current distribution of the Lilian's silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria callippe liliana*) in the north San Francisco Bay Area.
- **Research under contract to the County of San Mateo for the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan (1995-2007).** Co-authored a paper on the analysis of 20 years of butterfly monitoring data and the impacts of coastal scrub succession on the habitat of the Mission blue and Callippe silverspot butterflies on San Bruno Mountain.
- **Graduate Research with Cal-State University East Bay (1995 - 1998).** Master's Thesis: Assessment of Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) Presence and Habitat in San Lorenzo Creek Watershed. Conducted surveys for fishes within San Lorenzo Creek watershed using visual surveys and downstream migrant trapping methods. Conducted habitat assessment of in-migration, spawning, rearing and out-migration habitat for steelhead within the stream system.

CERTIFICATIONS AND PERMITS

California Department of Fish and Game Scientific Collecting Permit
USFWS 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit for the California red-legged frog and Callippe silverspot butterfly.

PUBLICATIONS

Kobernus, P., 2012. Managing a Mountain: The San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan, Fremontia, Vol. 40, No. 2, May 2012.
Longcore, T.; Lam, C. S.; Kobernus, P.; Polk, E.; Wilson, J.P., 2010. Extracting useful data from imperfect monitoring schemes: endangered butterflies at San Bruno Mountain, San Mateo County, California (1982–2000) and implications for habitat management. Journal of Insect Conservation, 2010.
Kobernus, P., 1998. Assessment of Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) Presence and Habitat in San Lorenzo Creek. Masters Thesis, California State University, Hayward.