Summary Report for the Ohlone Tiger Beetle Recovery Workshop
January 12, 2009
9am – 1pm
Harvey West Clubhouse
Santa Cruz, California

Population Status

- Populations stable or increasing in Wilder Ranch, Marshall Field (UCSC), Glenwood, and Moore Creek (all public land).
- The Santa Cruz Gardens population is currently absent (no individuals seen 2008-2009).
- One adult and 1 burrow seen at IAA (on UCSC campus) in 2009.

Successful management strategies

- Wilder Ranch: Rotation of bike trails, biennial burns, removal of shrubs/trees
- Moore Creek: Extensive cow grazing May-September, directs cows with water
- Glenwood: Rotational horse grazing, direct horses with salt licks and water, scraping
- Marshall Field: Mowing in June, bikes allowed, no grazing, scraping

Unsuccessful management strategies

- Late grazing- grazing seems to work best when allowed early on (May or before)
- Gravel- gravelling roads and trails destroys the habitat
- Lack of disturbance- Pogonip only allows foot traffic, population absent since 2004

Enforcement and Policy

- A new Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) makes the Santa Cruz Gardens a conservation easement and includes language to management for the OTB
- FWS want to set up a management and uniform monitoring plan for each property
- View OTB as a metapopulation, so all unoccupied habitat needs as well as connections between habitat needs conserving
- FWS now making it easy to amend permits or HCPs to include beneficial actions
- New possible funding source through the new Coastal Program

Research

- OTB burrows are associated with bare ground (Vasey), but in a preliminary study, bare ground is similar in occupied and unoccupied plots (Rao/Ford)
- OTBs are on 10% or less of total acreage of Watsonville Loam soil- 85.5% of total Watsonville Loam appear unsuitable (Arnold)
- Future research will include habitat characterization (Ford/Rao), Population Viability Analysis (Cornelisse), Inbreeding and genetic studies (Cornelisse), effect of timing of grazing (Cornelisse), and response to warming (Cornelisse).