

Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs Outreach Meeting
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Albuquerque, NM
December 13, 2010, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For a complete list of meeting participants, please see Appendix 1.

Presentations from this meeting are available at <http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/lcc.html>.

Meeting Objectives

1. Provide information on LCCs in general and specifically in the Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs.
2. Determine agency and stakeholder interest in participating in Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs and identify other potential partners.
3. Provide an overview of existing regional, state and local partnerships that link science and management and discuss how Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs can build on and work with these partnerships.
4. Expand existing scoping committee (or other mechanism) to include other partners and to help guide future actions taken to organize and develop a charter for the LCCs.
5. Initiate identification of landscape-scale research and science needs.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs)

LCC Overview Presentation (Avra Morgan, BOR)

- What is an LCC?
 - Science-management partnerships to address climate change and other landscape stressors.
- Department Approach to LCCs
 - See the “Interior’s Plan” document.
 - The framework includes cultural resources.
- Map of Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs
 - There are multiple LCCs in some states; we are considering how to work across LCCs (e.g., through a water committee).
- LCCs and Climate Science Centers
 - CSCs work on fundamental science and LCCs on applied science.
- LCC Partnerships and Potential Partners
 - Trying to leverage what each other is doing.
 - Potential partners are broad: state, federal, local government; tribes; NGOs; private companies.
- What LCCs are NOT:
 - LCCs are not conservation funding agencies, replacements for existing organizations, or regulatory in nature.
 - LCCs are like a net that pulls together what is already happening, enables information-sharing, and fills in gaps.

- What products can an LCC deliver? Examples include:
 - Science-based decision support tools.
 - Species and habitat vulnerability assessments.
 - Biological and geospatial databases.
- Geographic scope of the Desert LCC
 - LCCs recognize the unique trust responsibilities of partners.
 - LCCs focus on climate change and other stressors.
 - For the Desert LCC, the direction from the Interior was to start in the U.S. and expand outward to Mexico.
- Geographic scope of Southern Rockies LCC (see map)
- Organizing the LCCs – Outreach, Scoping, and Formation of Steering Committee
 - There have been 5 previous Desert outreach meetings and 1 Southern Rockies outreach meeting.
 - Scoping committees have been working on draft governance documents and draft operational plans; they are still in the formative stages and open to feedback.
 - The Interim Steering Committee for Southern Rockies LCC will meet tomorrow (Tuesday, December 14, 2010) to continue to work on these documents.
 - Still reaching out to tribes and water resource managers.

Climate Science Center (CSC) Overview Presentation (Dave Busch, USGS)

- Consultation and Development
 - CSCs were originally a USGS entity created in cooperation with USFWS.
 - Secretarial Order 3289 (Ken Salazar) brought the CSCs into the departmental (DOI) realm.
- National and Regional Organization
 - There are 8 regional CSCs.
 - Only Alaska, NW, and SE have funding.
 - SW and North Central have been designated but have not been funded.
 - The South Central CSC has not been designated.
- CSCs
 - Management-driven.
 - Regional partners set priorities for research.
 - Focused on synthesis, modeling, assessment, integration, translation, and delivery.
 - Expertise networks (academic institutions are hosts, with partnerships with federal, state, science entities).
 - Broad range of natural and cultural resources (including social and economic science; not just archaeology).
 - \$3-4 million/year/center
 - About half is for USGS staff and the host institution's designated position; the other half is for research (some direct to CSC and some competitively awarded).
 - Awards to host institutions have been made through a competitive process; those that have not been designated will compete in 2011.
- Southwest CSC

- University of Arizona is the primary host, UC-Davis and UCLA, University of NV, University of Colorado Boulder, and the Scripps Institute are also hosts.
- Partners
 - The mechanisms by which new partners are brought in has not been defined, but it is not closed to anyone.
- Map overview – the boundaries of the CSCs are fuzzy.
 - NM straddles multiple CSC boundaries. It has not been worked out exactly how this will work.
- Science-Management Interface: CSCs will work with a spectrum of science from down-scaling climate models to adaptive management.
- CSCs will have stakeholder advisory councils.

Input and Questions from Participants

- How do you put things on the ground?
 - The research needs are identified by on-the-ground organizations. LCCs are also part of a broader strategy that includes support for on-the-ground actions.
- It would be helpful to have managers identify limits of acceptable change and communicate this to scientists.
- How will the LCCs work together, across the boundaries?
 - There is a national network developing a strategy for this. There is also a team at the national level working on the issue of database integration.
- Need to work with other federal agencies, local governments, etc. and ensure the planning and science that comes out of this partnership will be made available to other entities and integrated into local planning efforts.
- Only part of New Mexico is in the Southwest Climate Science Center boundary; how will this work?
 - The map boundaries are fuzzy, and CSCs are also not the only source of science. There will be funding for other science; USBR is hoping to issue a funding opportunity announcement in early 2011.

Existing Partnerships and their Role in the Desert and Southern Rockies LCC

Presentations

LeRoy Daugherty: Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Stations

Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Stations is a network of agricultural and natural resources research stations housed within Land Grant Universities. The Stations are state funded with some federal funding. They are involved in a number of cooperative research projects on issues including fish, range management, soil, water, and agriculture.

Dwight Atkinson, EPA: Western Governor's Association (WGA) Strategy to Address Wildland Fire

The Success of the WGA effort was based on a strong set of core principles including multi-stakeholder collaboration, priority setting and an effort to target project selection for existing funding, accountability, having the right people engaged at the right level, and having an active feedback loop with managers.

Verlin Smith, BLM: Rapid Ecoregional Assessments

Rapid Ecoregional Assessments examine resources and risks at the landscape scale. Each process is designed to be completed within 18 months, and therefore the process uses existing data only and describes what is there but does not attempt to make management decisions. The process tries to involve as many partners as are willing to participate. The products are primarily geospatial; BLM has a vision for creating a central repository for the data.

Additional Partnerships

See Appendix 2 for a list of partnerships in the Desert and Southern Rockies LCC area brainstormed by participants (these are in addition to those listed on the handout provided to participants at the meeting).

Opportunities for Participation and Science Needs

Katrina Grantz (BOR) introduced the science needs collection process, which involves seeking input through outreach and literature review.

Participants suggested the following products/outcomes that would be valuable from an LCC:

- Keeping the science dynamic.
- Establishing a geospatial database that puts reports and assessments in a spatial context.
- Establishing a common set of goals for responding to climate change.

See Appendix 3 for a list of science needs identified by participants.

Organizing the Southern Rockies and Desert LCCs

Overview Presentation (Avra Morgan, BOR)

- The US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR) has looked at other LCCs and how they are structured. In general, the Steering Committees include 13-30 members; the composition tends to be representative of states, federal agencies, tribes, and NGOs; some have industry representatives; tribes and industry have less representation.
- Currently, interim committees are drafting governance documents including criteria for selection of the Steering Committee, based on outreach and scoping activities.
- Key components of an LCC:
 - Steering Committee
 - LCC Coordinator and Science Coordinator
 - Coordinators work to implement the vision of the Steering Committee.

- Desert has a permanent Science Coordinator and acting LCC coordinator.
 - Southern Rockies has not yet hired permanent coordinators.
 - Planning and technical staff
 - GIS capability
- There are many options for subcommittees.

Discussion and Participant Feedback on Steering Committee Structure

- Criteria for forming the Steering Committee:
 - Relationship with on-the-ground managers. Upper level decision-makers are often divorced from on-the-ground management.
 - Have at least one on-the-ground manager.
 - Research expertise.
 - Cultural resources expertise.
 - Diversity of institutions.
 - International component for Desert LCC.
 - Be inclusive.
 - Include industry; look at conservation-focused industry consortia and contact NRCS.
 - Consultants are appropriate if they are representing another group (e.g., a tribe)
 - Consultants should not participate in developing RFPs for which they would compete.
 - For States, have the governor assign; recognize that one agency cannot speak for another.
- Committees
 - Breaking up by geography may not be the most appropriate way to deal with landscapes. Issues cross landscapes – it may be more appropriate to break up committees by substantive and technical issues.
 - However, geographic break-up can facilitate participation and is consistent with watershed approaches.
 - If committees are issue-focused, have geographic representation within the committees.
 - It is too early to determine the committees.
- Additional Concerns:
 - Don't make it too big.
 - Provide access for remote participants.
 - How do you work across federal regions?

Recap, Next Steps and Closing

- The Southern Rockies Interim Steering Committee will meet Tuesday, December 14, 2010.
- There is still much to be done and it will take time; participation is open and encouraged.

Appendix 1: Meeting participants – Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs Outreach Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, December 13, 2010

Julie Alcon (USACE)
Linda Anania (BLM)
Dwight Atkinson (EPA)
Jen Bachus (USFWS Middle Rio Grande Branch)
Pam Benjamin (NPS)
Brad Bergsbaken (UNM)
David Busch (USGS - Pacific Southwest Area)
David Campbell (USFWS)
Frank Chaves (Sandia Pueblo)
Sharon Coe (USDA Forest Service)
Jason Corzine (The Trust for Public Land)
LeRoy Daugherty (NM State University)
Bob Davis (USDA Forest Service)
Warren Day (USGS)
Martha Desmond (New Mexico State University)
David Dubois (New Mexico State University)
Judith Dyess (USDA Forest Service)
Jody Erikson (The Keystone Center)
Alexander Evans (The Forest Guild)
Karen Freeman (Ecosphere Consulting Services)
Megan Friggens (Rocky Mtn. Research Station)
Susan Gant (USACE)
Tom Giermakowski (University of New Mexico)
Katrina Grantz (BOR)
Eric Hein (USFWS)
Greg Hiner (Trust for Public Land)
Jonne Hower (BOR)
Kevin M Johnson (USFWS)
Joe Jojola (BIA)
Stephen Kissock (USACE)
David Krueper (USFWS, Migratory Bird Program)
Dagmar Llewellyn (BOR)
John Longworth (NM Office of the State Engineer)
Estevan Lopez (Interstate Stream Commission)
Patrick McCarthy (The Nature Conservancy)
Kurt Menke (Bird's Eye View)
Robert Mesta (USFWS)
Lauren Meyer (NPS, Vanishing Treasures)
Jeremey Mikrut (BOR)
William Paul Miller (BOR-LC)
Avra Morgan (BOR)
Esteban Muldavin (University of New Mexico)
Mark Nelson (Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.)
Tom Owens (USGS)
Carole Palmer (National Wildlife Federal Tribal)
Jerry Pardilla (NTEC)
Yvette Paroz (BOR - AAO)
Carol Raish (USDA Forest Service)
Marikay Ramsey (BLM)
Susan Rich (NMSF)
Breece Robertson (Trust for Public Land)
Craig Roepke (Interstate Stream Commission)
Sharon Rose (USFWS)
Janet Ruth (USGS Fort Collins Science Center)
Tom Schreiner (CO Division of Wildlife)
Julie Shapiro (The Keystone Center)
Oscar Simpson (New Mexico Wildlife Federation)
Verlin Smith (BLM)
Howard Snell (University of New Mexico)
Abe Springer (Northern Arizona University)
Karyn Stockdale (Audubon NM)
William Walker (BIA)
Matthew Wunder (NM Dept. of Game and Fish)
Harrilene Yazzie (BIA, Navajo Region)

Appendix 2: Additional Partnerships Suggested by Participants, Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs Outreach Meeting, Albuquerque, December 13, 2010

Partnerships in both the Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs

- NM State, University of NM (Dr. Mark Stone, Dr. Julie Coonrod, Department of Civil Engineering)
- Joint Fire Science Program, SW Fire Science Consortium (forest ecosystem focus, and Desert) (Alexander Evans)
- Birds Eye View (Kurt Menke)
- Western Regional Partnership
- Trust for Public Land
- Natural Resource Conservation Districts (county level) and National Association of Conservation Districts
- Association of County Governments
- Cooperative Extension Service
- Agricultural Experiment Stations
- NM Forest Watershed Coordinating Group (Susan Rich)
- USACE Response to Climate Change Program (Edwin Townsley)
- Silver Jackets (Susan Gantz)
- NM Interstate Stream Commission (Estevan Lopez)
- Wildlands Network (Kim Vaciriu)
- Wild Earth Guardians (John Horning)
- Avian Conservation Partners; Partners in Flight (land birds); and equivalent bird conservation initiatives for water birds and shorebirds
- NM Riparian Council (Adrienne Ogilby)
- State Riparian Councils (see the National Riparian Service Team for all Western State Riparian Councils)
- USACE Rio Grande Environmental Management Program
- Grand Canyon Trust
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Ecological Restoration Institute (Diane Vosick)
- Audubon Society (national, states, chapters)
- State Resource Advisory Councils (RACs)
- Sierra Club
- Audubon Society
- National Parks Conservation Association
- National Integrated Drought Information System (NiDIS) (Roger Pulwarty, Jim Verdin)
- NRCS
- State Water Quality Groups
- NASA – remote sensing
- NOAA climate centers

Desert Partnerships

- Cooperative Extension Service (Land Grant Universities; Desert – CA, NM, Texas A&M, Arizona State)
- California Academy of Sciences (Healey Hamilton)
- Sonoran Institute
- Sky Island Alliance
- Naturalia A.C. (Juan-Carlos Bravo)
- Northern Jaguar Project (Peter Washall)
- Joint Advisory Committee (Carlos Rincon)
- NPS Sonoran Desert Inventory and Monitoring Network
- NPS Desert SW CESU

Southern Rockies Partnerships

- Rocky Mountain Fire Science Consortium (Mike Babler)
- Cooperative Extension Service (Colorado State, University of Wyoming, Utah State)
- Wyoming Wildlife trust (Bob Budd)
- Center for Native Ecosystems (Connor Bailey)
- NPS Southern Colorado Plateau Inventory and Monitoring Network
- NPS Colorado Plateau CESU (Judy Bischoff (NPS))

Appendix 3: Science Needs Suggested by Participants, Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs Outreach Meeting, Albuquerque, December 13, 2010

In General

- All resources – what we had, what we have, and how it will change over time; need this information in a geospatial database

Water

- New Mexico data historic and future precipitation and discharge
- Water quality – temps for habitat, pollutant loads, etc.

Ecosystems (none provided at this meeting)

Wildlife Population

- Gather data from university museums (specimen-based collections)
- Genetic preservation

Wildlife and Plant Habitat

- Wildlife corridors- connectivity
- Forest inventory assessment (need more \$ to finish project started with ARRA – NM)

Human Environment

- Pathogens in desert soils (human health)

Threats

- Define potential impacts to cultural resources (e.g., cultural landscapes, historic resources, archaeology, etc).
- Impact of mineral resource development on landscape change
- EfX of population growth

Decision Support Tools

- Remote Sensing

Monitoring Needs

- Adequacy of climate monitoring (e.g., basic climate T, rain and soil moisture, T)
- Inventory of “assets” (Vegetation, etc.) in a geospatial database and assessment of impacts, including cultural resources
- Long-term monitoring- vulnerable habitats
- Integrating remote sensing into models

Needs for Infrastructure/Training (none provided at this meeting)

Soils

- Change in erosion rates and correlations with water quality