

Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs Tribal Outreach Meeting
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Albuquerque, NM
December 13, 2010, 1:30 p.m. to 5 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 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 (LCC)

Overview of LCCs – Presentation (Kevin Johnson, USFWS)

Please see the presentation.

- Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs: USFWS and BOR are co-leading the effort to stand up the LCCs. There are interim Steering/Scoping committees comprised of national and state agencies, NGOs, and universities helping to stand up the LCCs. Tribal participation is needed.

Input and Questions from Participants

- Is there any component of the LCC looking at policy?
 - LCCs are trying to fill a science niche; the focus is on looking at science gaps, although this could result in some policy recommendations.
- In addition to climate change, what are the stressors that will be addressed?
 - Examples include energy development and population growth.
- Time and resources are tight, impacting tribes' ability to participate meaningfully in various initiatives. Tribes need resources to be able to participate in collaborative efforts (e.g., to be able to send staff to meetings).
- Tribes have priorities other than/higher than climate change. This also limits ability to participate, and some priorities (e.g., economic development) may be at odds with climate change issues.

- Tribes have not received funding for implementing projects related to climate change. There is also concern that funding for LCCs will take money away from other initiatives.
 - LCCs are not intended to fund on-the-ground conservation, but we are hearing this need. LCCs can become a tool for demonstrating the need for on-the-ground conservation.
 - The LCC will make resources available for science; it will also foster information-sharing.
- Tribes have been excluded from the \$171 million DOI funding, yet they have a large land base in this region. Tribes are advocating that they get direct funding proportionate to their land base. How are tribes included under the current LCC funding scenario?
 - BOR hopes to have \$1 to \$2 million for each LCC in 2011, but the agency is under continuing resolution. Some of this would fund the coordinator positions but most will be for science.
 - The LCC Steering Committees will direct the funding for the LCCs; we would like tribes to be involved.
 - The Climate Science Centers might also be part of the \$171 million (\$3 to \$4 million per year for each center).
- Is this separate from the Department of Interior's Climate Change initiative?
 - LCCs are part of this plan, which also includes Climate Science Centers.
- Beware of creating expectations that are not met.
- Federal agencies have a trust responsibility for tribes.
- Who are the beneficiaries of the LCCs?
 - You do not have to participate to be a beneficiary, but to identify science needs, we need your input.
- How have you been conducting tribal outreach?
 - 300 letters went out, mainly to tribal chairmen, with staff copied. We worked with our tribal liaisons to develop the list. We've also gone to the National Congress of American Indians and the Southwest Regional Native American Fish and Wildlife Society.
 - We will reimburse for tribal representatives to attend meetings.
- Suggestions for future outreach: have another meeting for tribes; wait until February as leadership is currently transitioning. Consider geography and travel demands – have multiple meetings in different areas. Work with BIA and others. ITEP can help coordinate a meeting in Flagstaff. Use the BIA website to get the listing of all tribes; send letters to regional directors and identify the appropriate staff (e.g., natural resources directors).

Organizing the Southern Rockies and Desert LCCs

Overview (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.

- Each LCC will have a Steering Committee comprised of partners who direct the LCC.
- Each LCC will have an LCC Coordinator and a Science Coordinator.
 - If funded by a federal agency, the coordinator positions would be advertised through the federal OPM process.
- Each LCC has a Governance Document and Operational Plan.
- The hope is to have Desert and Southern Rockies steering committees in place early in 2011.

Discussion

- There is no shortcut to consultation with all tribes.
- One tribe cannot represent another. Intertribal consortia also do not represent tribes. Trying to select a subset of tribes for participation on the Steering Committee would be at your own peril. If decision-making is by consensus, you could have a tribal caucus to advance priorities.
- Look at the Rio Grande collaborative to see how it involved tribes.

Opportunities for Participation and Science Needs

Katrina Grantz (BOR) introduced the science needs collection process, which involves seeking input through outreach literature review. The needs will be prioritized. In the Desert LCC, a science committee formed of volunteers has been working on this; tribal representation is needed.

See Appendix 3 for participant input on science needs.

Discussion

- There are data gaps for basic science data on tribal lands that need to be filled.
- Issues with collection of data on tribal lands include:
 - Lack of information sharing - Tribes do not always see the data that is collected on their lands by federal agencies.
 - Lack of permission - There are protocols for the collection of data on sovereign lands that must be met.
- What would be needed in terms of consultation to share and collect data? Are there issues with non-tribal people working with tribal data?
 - Southern Ute: Must have clearance from the Council to share data. Water information is not typically shared. Other data (e.g., wildlife, air quality) is more commonly shared.
 - Tribes may be willing to work with agencies to gather and share data if they have funding and staff to do this.
 - Some data is confidential (e.g., eagle data).
 - Western Regional Partnership is trying to collect data.
- How can the LCCs use Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)?
 - This term was unfamiliar to many, and it varies from tribe to tribe.

- TEK can provide anecdotal data/observations on past conditions – e.g., where the dunes were or what the river was like. It is informally collected.
- Knowledge/data related to sacred traditions is not shared.
- Don't get stuck in data collection – how is this going to make a difference on the ground?
 - Applied science to support decision-making.
 - Bringing together existing data and looking at the gaps.

Current Activities and Existing Partnerships

Climate Science Centers (CSCs) (Dave Busch, USGS)

- CSCs are part of the Department of Interior climate change strategy (as are LCCs). They are envisioned as having university research staff, USGS staff, and other staff. University of Arizona is the lead host institution for the Southwest; it has not yet received funding. Research will include social and cultural science. Stakeholder advisory councils will inform the research.

Current Tribal Activities Related to Natural Resources

- The Southern Ute tribe is writing a water conservation plan, working on streambank restoration, working on wildlife issues with various entities, implementing a reutilization of ag lands, and working to put historically irrigated acres back into production.
- The Hopi tribe is working on floodplain projects, an arsenic mitigation project, uranium contamination, vegetation studies on grazing lands, and a forest inventory.
- The Navajo tribe is working on watershed restoration and tamarisk removal; writing conservation plans for large agricultural areas; working with USACE on floodplain delineations for 100 year flood plains; developing drought contingency plans, and developing a water development strategy for the nation (including water rights).

Additional Partnerships

See Appendix 2 for additional partnerships brainstormed by participants.

Recaps, Next Steps, and Closing

- Information will be posted to the BOR website.
- An additional tribal meeting will be conducted in 2011.
- The Southern Rockies Interim Steering Committee will meet Tuesday, December 14; participation in the Committee is open.

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

David Busch (USGS - Pacific Southwest Area)
Frank Chaves (Sandia Pueblo)
Jody Erikson (The Keystone Center)
Katrina Grantz (BOR)
Clayton Honyumptewa (DNR- Hopi Tribe)
Jonne Hower (BOR)
Kevin M Johnson (USFWS)
Joe Jojola (BIA)
Sabrina Long (NNDWR-WMB)
Mary Manuelito (BIA, Navajo Region)
Jeremey Mikrut (BOR)
Avra Morgan (BOR)
Carole Palmer (National Wildlife Federal Tribal)
Jerry Pardia (National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC))
Julie Shapiro (The Keystone Center)
Teresa Showa (NNDWR-WMB)
Larissa Sommer (N. Arizona University – ITEP)
Tami Sweldon (Southern Ute Tribe)
Jessica Tracy (Sandia Pueblo)
Sue Wotkyns (Northern AZ University)
Harrilene Yazzie (BIA, Navajo Region)

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

- Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, Northern AZ State University (ITEP) (Sue Wotkyns)
- National Wildlife Federal Tribal Lands Conservation Program (Carole Palmer, Garret Bogestker, Mira Wolensky)
- National Tribal Environmental Council
- Tribal Colleges
- American Indian and Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group (Dan Wildcat-Haskell University)
- Our Natural Resources (ONR)
- Intertribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) (Elaine Wilson (environmental group); John Wilson (president))
- Intertribal Council of California

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

In General

- Basic data (e.g., soils and water) on tribal lands
- Past, current, future trends (vegetation)

Water

- Navajo lake quantity
- Water quality – exceedances and how quality and quantity interact to impact fish and wildlife

Ecosystems

- Desertification

Wildlife Population (none provided at this meeting)

Wildlife and Plant Habitat (none provided at this meeting)

Human Environment (none provided at this meeting)

Threats

- Monitoring effects/effectiveness of invasive species efforts (e.g., tamarisk removal)

Decision Support Tools

- Data management for Tribes
- Feedback loop, decision support tools/system for using data in adaptive management and identifying potential projects

Monitoring Needs

- Evaluate current methodologies (e.g., electro-shocking for invasives)

Needs for Infrastructure/Training

- Assess built irrigation project drawing

Soils

- Soil survey for Navajo lands