

Western Governors' Wildlife Council Meeting

July 22, 2010

Meeting Summary and Next Steps

Decision Items & Next Steps	Who
State/Federal Implementation Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WGA will incorporate WGWC comments on a recommendation to Dan Ashe and Doug Austen (FWS/LCC) for consideration. WGA will work with Bob Broscheid on a letter to Secretary Salazar re: coordination of DOI landscape mapping efforts. Letter will include need for state coordination staff. WGWC will consideration draft on August conf. call. WGA will schedule a call to brief SFIG prior to sending letter. Individual states will determine how to engage on immediate BLM REA meetings. 	<p>WGA</p> <p>WGA</p>
Pilot Projects/DSS Subgroup <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WGA will work with pilot leads to flesh out what a technical pilot coordinator position would look like. Address agency leadership/staff support/internal communication through communication strategy and sharing information. To begin addressing data standardization needs, California and Wyoming will coordinate their existing minimum metadata requirements and transmit their proposal to WGA for discussion on the next WGWC call. The WGWC approved criteria for determining year 2 pilot funding. WGA will transmit this to the pilot leads. WGA will follow-up with Dave Stout, FWS, on status of federal data catalog. 	<p>WGA</p> <p>WGWC</p> <p>Kevin Hunting & John Emmerich</p> <p>WGA</p> <p>WGA</p>
Stakeholder Advisory Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WGWC approved SAG charter and ground rules. WGA will transmit to SAG. WGWC will transmit to SAG list of specific questions for advice. WGA will draft initial list and seek feedback from WGWC on August conf. call. Dave Risley and Josh Avey will work with WGA to develop a set of targeted questions they would like feedback on from the SAG related to their DSSs. Consider providing pilot briefings on future SAG calls. Schedule next SAG meeting in conjunction with October WGWC meeting. JD will provide Madeleine with contacts at the intergovernmental tribal council. 	<p>WGA</p> <p>WGA</p> <p>Dave Risley & Josh Avey</p> <p>WGA</p> <p>WGA</p> <p>JD Strong</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tod will provide Madeleine with contacts from the tribal fish and wildlife biologist group. 	Tod Stevenson
Outreach/Communication/Fundraising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WGA will work with Bob Broscheid (and any other volunteers) to draft a strategic outreach/communication/fundraising strategy for the WGWC to consider. WGA will develop PowerPoint presentation for WGWC use. WGA will develop a 1-page communication paper for WGWC consideration that can be customized for state-by-state audiences, including political transitions. WGA will draft a comment letter on American's Great Outdoors campaign for WGWC consideration. WGA will request WGWC feedback on funding received and in-kind support for pilots and DSS development. 	WGA
Future Meetings/Calls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next WGWC meeting will be sometime the week of October 12 (not starting before noon on the 12th). Exact dates TBD. The SAG and pilot leads will be invited to have corresponding meetings. The next WGWC conference call is Tuesday, August 10, 1 – 3pm MT. 	

A list of attendees is available at the end of this summary.

Meeting Summary

Demonstration of Alaska's Anadromous Waters Catalog

Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game, along with Kim Titus and Brian Frenette, presented the work Alaska has done to develop their publically available anadromous waters catalog, which is a regulatory tool. This can be viewed at:
<http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/SARR/awc/>.

Pilot Projects

Council members provided updates on their pilot projects, specific to a number of important issue areas.

Success of public systems – Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has conducted a soft release of their CAPS, hoping to work out any bugs in implementation in the coming months. The State BLM office is using CAPS in implementing their new oil and gas leasing policies for sage grouse. CAPS is also serving as a foundation for Montana's rewrite of their SWAP.

Arizona's DSS will be public around September. They have good support for the project from their Commission, and AZ Fish & Game is looking for ways to seek support from other state agencies with access to relevant data.

Agency leadership & staff support – Gaining and maintaining agency leadership and buy-in needs to happen at the Governor level, agency director level, and down to the staff

level. Some states are utilizing internal communication plans and pilot charters (pilot leads are posting those on the shared pilot site through Central Desktop) to help with buy in and support at various levels. MFWP staff presented CAPS to the Oregon Commission with very positive results. At some point it could be valuable to encourage a state agency MOU or Governor's proclamation to gain support for DSS development within state government. For now, the Council would like to address the issue of leadership through a targeted marketing strategy, focusing on messaging for how DSSs will make wildlife decisions easier in the future and engaging other interest groups to support efforts in the state.

Non-state agency data – The Council thinks it is very important to consider the quality of outside agency raw data (metrics, methodology) to deal with conflicting data and to credibly defend data once policy and management decisions are made. California has agency staff that review data submissions and apply that state's minimum metadata requirements. Arizona has an internal group discussing how to improve data standardization within the agency. The Council wants to explore the idea of developing minimum data requirements for non-agency data. Those offering non-agency data could be eventual supporters of DSS development and implementation.

Next Steps:

- *California and Wyoming will coordinate their minimum metadata requirements and will send to WGA for circulation to the WGWC for discussion on a subsequent call.*

Stakeholder involvement - Stakeholder involvement in the pilots is important, and the SAG will likely provide advice on this. NGO points of contact have already been established for each state, to help communicate their pilot project to the broader NGO community. Tribal interests are a group not yet engaged in the state DSS effort, nor are they yet represented on the SAG.

Communication/Outreach – In order to gain support for DSS development and the broader corridors and crucial habitat initiative the Council would like to establish a strategic communication strategy. This strategy would help with messaging about the DSSs, fundraising for DSS development, and gaining support for utilizing the DSSs once they are built. These materials would also help educate newly-elected Governors and new Commissioners about the value of state DSS development efforts.

Next Steps:

- *WGA will develop a standard PowerPoint presentation for WGWC use.*
- *WGA and WGWC will develop a 1-page communication paper that states can customize.*
- *WGA will draft an initial marketing strategy for WGWC consideration.*
- *More specifically, WGA will draft a comment letter for WGWC consideration regarding integration with America's Great Outdoors initiative.*

State/Federal Implementation Group

John Harja recapped discussions from the June 2 SFIG meeting in Washington, DC. The purpose of that meeting was to move forward on coordination between federal initiatives and state DSS development. The Council then discussed ways to expand coordination between BLM's Rapid Ecoregional Assessments, FWS's Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, USGS's Regional Climate Science Centers, and the states.

Discussion with Doug Austen, National LCC Coordinator

Much of Doug's role as the new National LCC Coordinator involves outreach. Doug's role will include considering the LCC relationship with BLM's Rapid Ecoregional Assessments and the USGS Regional Climate Science Centers. The LCCs are striving to determine needs, including in states, for landscape scale data and to help meet those needs. Following from the June 2 SFIG meeting, Dan Ashe and Doug Austen agreed to transmit a letter from the FWS Director's office to regional FWS staff and LCC coordinators highlighting the priority of aligning with the state DSS efforts. The WGWC reviewed and approved, with edits, language for FWS to consider.

Carmen Bailey, pilot lead for Utah, presented her conversations with BLM on their Rapid Ecoregional Assessments in the southwest. The REAs are very similar to DSS development and close coordination is required. Conversations have begun between BLM and the southwestern pilot project. Bob Broscheid recommended a next step to sit down with the SW pilots and BLM to review project similarities and differences, and determine how BLM contractors will engage with state DSS leads.

State capacity is limited, and technical assistance may be needed 1) to help coordinate the states across eight different pilot projects on a technical level; and 2) to help coordinate the states with multiple federal efforts like LCCs, REAs, and others. The WGWC considered position descriptions from WGA about the role and scope of two coordinator roles. They support a staff person to coordinate between state and federal efforts and as well as technical support staff to WGA to coordinate across state pilots.

At the end of the discussion Doug Austen promised to continue working with the Council on a letter from FWS, and thinking about future FWS/LCC meetings that the Council could participate in. Doug will also follow up with Dave Stout on future support for state pilot meetings with pilot leads and appropriate federal staff.

Next Steps:

- *WGA staff drafted language on LCC/DSS coordination, solicited WGWC feedback, and will submit it for FWS HQ's consideration in transmitting to FWS staff.*
- *WGA, working with Bob Broscheid and others, will develop a draft letter to Secretary Salazar for the WGWC to consider having the Governors transmit. The letter would support the need for coordination across all landscape-level mapping efforts (LCCs, REAs, and WGA state DSSs). The letter will build off of the MOU with the Governors and Secretaries and should include actual needs/actions suggested by states. This letter will also include the need for a coordinator position to help the states engaged with federal landscape mapping efforts.*
- *WGA will communicate the development of this letter to the SFIG before it is sent.*

- *WGA will develop a position description with the pilot leads for a technical staff person to guide coordination across the eight state pilots. This will go back to the WGWC for review.*

Stakeholder Advisory Group

The WGWC reviewed and approved proposed edits from the SAG to their charter, as well as SAG ground rules. WGWC members considered ways to provide direction to the SAG, and decided to send the group a set of specific questions for advice. These specific questions could include targeted feedback on the two public DSSs in Montana and Arizona, as well as reviewing the Council's marketing strategy once it is developed. Additionally, once the WGWC has agreed on criteria for non-agency data they will seek SAG review and comment. The Council also considered the value of providing periodic pilot updates for the SAG on future conference calls or meetings.

Next Steps:

- *Transmit to SAG list of specific questions for advice. WGA will draft initial list and seek feedback from WGWC on August conf. call.*
- *Dave Risley and Josh Avey will work with WGA to develop a set of targeted questions they would like feedback from the SAG on related to their DSSs.*
- *WGWC will consider how to provide pilot briefings on future SAG calls and meetings.*
- *Invite SAG to meet in conjunction with the October WGWC meeting.*
- *JD will provide Madeleine with contacts at the intergovernmental tribal council.*
- *Tod will provide Madeleine with contacts from the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society.*

WGWC Leadership

The WGWC charter calls for a review of the group's leadership in concert with the shifting of WGA leadership each year. The Council asked John Harja to remain as WGWC Chair for another year, and he accepted. Joe Maurier stepped down as Vice-Chair to focus on his WAFWA Chairmanship this year, and the Council agreed that John Mankowski would become the new Vice-Chair.

Future WGWC Meetings

The next in-person meeting of the Council will be held during the week of October 12 (not starting before noon on the 12th) in the Denver area. The meeting will try to coordinate with a meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Group to allow the Council to meet that group for the first time. A meeting with the pilot leads may also coordinate with the Council meeting, if it is timely for a project update.

Meeting Attendees

WGWC Members/Alternates

Alaska – Kim Titus
Arizona - Bob Broscheid & Josh Avey
California – Kevin Hunting
Idaho – Sharon Kiefer
Kansas – Keith Sexson
Montana – Joe Maurier & Dave Risley
Nebraska – Dave Dingman
Nevada – Laura Richards
New Mexico – Tod Stevenson
Oklahoma – JD Strong
Oregon – Jon Germond
South Dakota – Tom Kirschenmann
Utah – John Harja & Carmen Bailey
Washington – John Mankowski
Wyoming – John Emmerich

Attendees

Doug Austen, USFWS National LCC Coordinator
Brian Frenette, Alaska Game and Fish
Denby Lloyd, Alaska Game and Fish Commissioner

WGA Staff

Paul Orbuch
Madeleine West