

CE Regional Coordinators – Conference Call Minutes

January 21, 2009 – 1:00 -2:30 p.m. ET

Call in 800-369-1652 passcode 97972

Forest Products Lab (FPL)	Rebecca Wallace (<i>out</i>)	R1	Julie Molzahn
International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF)	Carlos Cristobal-Dominguez (<i>out</i>)	R2	Linda Hecker (<i>out</i>)
Northeastern Area (NA)	Susan Cox, (Kathleen Diehl, Clare Long)	R3	Jean Szymanski Karen Malis-Clark (<i>out</i>)
Northern Research Station (NRS)	Barbara McGuinness (<i>out</i>)	R4	Carol Ryan (<i>out</i>)
Pacific NW (PNW) Pacific SW (PSW) Research Stations	Becky Bittner	R5	Lisa Fischer Tim Williams (<i>out</i>)
Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS)	Rita Brown	R6	Sue Baker Susan Thomas
Southern Research Station (SRS)	Livia Marques	R8	Sharon Waltrip
WO-Detached	Michelle Andrews Barbara McDonald (<i>out</i>)	R9	Don Howlett
Washington Office (WO)	Safiya Samman, Vicki Arthur, Pete Griffin, Sandy Frost	R10	Kristi Kantola

More Kids in the Woods Update

- Proposal acceptance closed January 16 – 176 proposals submitted. Regional review teams will have proposals back to review at end of January – reviews completed by end of February. Some Coordinators have not been contacted about inclusion on review teams – others have. Sandy will discuss with Kristen Nelson, and a clarifying note will be sent out soon.
- Important to clearly explain MKIW reporting requirements for successful project managers; get reporting info out early and consistently (have another MKIW reporting conference call for successful project managers in spring). Regional CE Coordinators can be helpful in making sure that reporting is done in a timely manner. MKIW WO team is looking at developing summary report for completed projects.
- Kids in the Woods photo contest is in final judging – plan to make an announcement end of Jan/early Feb.

CE Meeting

- Discussed need to have a face-to-face meeting. Need for possibly two meetings; one in the near-term for Regional Coordinators to focus on strategic planning, and one in the long-term for the community of practice to build skills, networks, etc.
- Small working group will meet to discuss options, and bring info back to the Network. Sandy Frost (WO) will lead effort, Sharon Waltrip (R8), Julie Molzahn (R1), Rita Brown (RMRS) will hold conference call by 2/8. Please send Sandy a note if you'd like to help!

National CE standardized CE position description

- Jean S. has District employee interested in finding PDs for education work, and was at a loss to provide direction.
- Supporting consistent PDs for education work is a challenge; Safiya has 1720 (professional educator) PDs for GS 11, 12, 13 and 14, and can get a GS9 classified. Iris emphasized the

interdisciplinary nature of the job and suggested advertising jobs as interdisciplinary with 1035, 1720, 401, 1001 series.

- Claire Long and Jane Weber also have PDs for focused education work, and would share them with the group.
- Many in the group take on CE as a collateral duty – and have different PDs – and different language in performance plans. WO could assist in providing consistent language for consideration for inclusion in performance evaluations.

“Connections” Newsletter Feedback

- General consensus that the newsletter was valuable; good to collect helpful info in one place, rather than a series of e-mails. Focus should remain on our internal FS audience. Content should drive the frequency and length of the newsletter rather than staying with a hard and fast schedule.
- Newsletter will highlight WO programs and those that have wide, national application. FS Intranet will serve as avenue for Regional information and stories.
- Mailing list issues will be worked on for next edition.

ROUND ROBIN

Northeastern Area – Susan Cox:

- Working on White Mountain NF with Clare Long (*WMNF*), Kathleen Diehl (*GMNF*) and Jesse Scott (*Urban Connections*) to coordinate CE efforts in Northeast.
- Continue to work with New Hampshire Department of Education (*Jan McGlaughlin*). May is “Science Outside” month; have developed a calendar of ideas and opportunities to teach science outside in May – many events are already scheduled; Susan will share list with the group.
- Gearing up for Spring session of Forest For Every Classroom. Application materials are just sent out.
- Upcoming PLT workshop on *Forests of the World* curriculum in Portland, ME; also FS will be well-represented at focus group meetings for PLT curriculum revision in coming months.
- Kathleen Diehl (GMNF) working with local teachers and youth group leaders to conduct training on CanonEnvirothon-Biodiversity focus. Bringing a variety of resources to leaders to help them prepare.

Pacific Northwest & Southwest Research Stations – Becky Bittner:

- Working on short write-up for Pete Griffin for the 2008 Accomplishment report – Working for Woods.
- Helping at Girl Scout Day at World Forestry Center.

Rocky Mountain Research Station – Rita Brown:

- Worked closely with scientists on 3 MKIW proposals – last year there were none! Looking forward to hearing results of Kids in the Woods photo contest.
- Getting reports back on the 4 modest projects that RMRS was able to fund last year.
- Also working with teachers in Ft. Collins area on personal basis.

Southern Mountain Research Station – Livia Marquez:

- Focused on promoting CE program in SRS; Babs McDonald has been very helpful in building networks and helping implement student scientist programs.

Region 1 – Julie Molzahn:

- Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center on the Lewis and Clark NF is opening new exhibit, "The Blackfeet Painted Tipi: Enduring Art, Spiritual Symbol." The exhibit explores the art work of two incredible women from Montana State College, who gained permissions to attend Sun Dances in Heart Butte, Browning, and Alberta to study painted lodges.
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/>
- MKIW winter programs on the Lewis & Clark and Bitterroot NFs are in full swing, and going well. 100s of children are strapping on snowshoes and experience Montana in winter.

- Forest For Every Classroom is completing syllabus, and is soliciting teacher participation for first session.
- Julie is working on the Regional Climate Change education team; appreciates materials and information provided by Vicki and Safiya.
- Working with a variety of partners developing materials to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of major fire blowup – using anniversary as a ‘teachable moment’.
- Working with Montana PLT steering committee; working to get this up and going in Montana.

Region 3 – Jean Szymanski (NM):

- Working with PLT in NM; received 2 development grants and will be busy offering facilitator workshops, and helping build PLT infrastructure and support for NM.
- Regional Office is working with American Recreation Coalition on a large National Get Outdoors Day event in Albuquerque this summer.

Region 3 – Karen Malis-Clark (AZ):

- Busy with MKIW proposals.
- Planning for Capitol Christmas Tree "Ornament Outreach"..... this year's tree will come from Arizona, from the Apache-Sitgreaves NF. Making the ornaments that will adorn the tree becomes an educational activity for school students. I've been asked to assist with the Ornament Outreach, contact with the AZ Dept of Educ, etc. My proposed theme is "Cultural and Natural Diversity of Arizona"
- Working with AZ Assoc for EE biennial conference this Sept in Flagstaff – Aldo Leopold theme.
- Helping with a few PLT workshops in this part of Arizona.
- Helped coordinate invitation from NOAA education folks for Smokey to attend Weatherfest public day, Jan 11 in Phoenix, affiliated with AMS conference this week.
- **Educational Tidbit to share!**....Did you know obsolete Forest Visitor Maps, when properly documented and labeled, can be given away freebies for "educational purposes"??
From FS Directives 7140 Geometronics, 7149.21 p.44

5. Disposition of Old Maps. When maps are revised, remove previous editions from circulation according to Federal Property Management Regulations using AD-112, Report of Unserviceable, Lost, Stolen, Damaged, or Destroyed Property. Some old maps stamped "OUT-OF-DATE/NOT FOR SALE" may be used for limited educational purposes where map content and accuracy are not critical. Recycle or destroy the remaining maps. List the total number of maps recycled or destroyed on the Annual Map Inventory Record (FSM 6532.7, para. 6).

Region 6 – Sue Baker:

- Working on ‘Sustainability Team’ for upcoming NAAEE conference in Portland, OR.
- Working with national Project WILD Facilitators meeting in April to coordinate a fieldtrip of Columbia River Gorge.
- Working with new educator to develop NOAA grant proposal; helping pull other Gorge educators together and building new networks.
- Busy planning 2009 Water Jam, educational event in southern Washington focused on watershed education; conducted mid- to late-May.

Region 8 – Sharon Waltrip:

- Busy working on NAI Regional meeting at LBL, Feb. 17-20. Focusing on linking interpretation and education. Currently more than 114 people registered.
- Reorganizing at activities at LBL to build on Earth Day theme. Interested in any funding that might be available.
- Linking Girls to the Land – helped GS of Middle Tennessee receive \$5K grant; working to incorporate EE activities into residential camps. 17 GS Leaders coming to Brandon Springs to meet with local resources and discuss ways to incorporate CE into GS offerings.

- Interested in initiating WO review of LBL education programs. Sharon and Safiya will discuss.

Region 9 – Don Howlett :

- Hiawatha NF involved in a highly-successful exhibit at the Upper Peninsula State Fair. The “Growing UP Foresters” interactive exhibit at the U.P. State Fair featured all aspects of the forest including habitat, environment, products, and economic impact. The exhibit recently one three prestigious awards at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions. http://www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125-1572_28248-205406--,00.html

Region 10 – Kristi Kantola :

- Busy working on Interpretation & Conservation Education Gathering in Ketchikan in early March. Regional meeting conducted every three years. Tied up with completing meeting justification required by USDA – meetings >\$20K require significant levels of review and approval. If interested in requirements, check out 12/16, 1360 letter from Chief.

Washington Office—Detached – Michelle Andrews:

- *Investigator* is very close to being completed!
- Design of BioEnergy edition of *Natural Inquirer* if ready for review.
- Climate Change edition of NI is completed, and available on the web for download and ordering. Edition features 4 articles on climate change research.
- EUGENE – non-formal EE evaluation tool is moving forward; website is under development and final testing of survey questions is underway. Tool will be hosted on MEERA.

Washington Office:

- Submitted abstract to upcoming World EE Conference in Montreal. Abstract is accepted and Safiya is working with Research to develop presentation.
- Announcement for Asst. Director’s job is out, and open until 2/17/09. Go to the following AVUE link for additional information, and to apply. Please share this announcement broadly!! <http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/ftva.asp?seeker=1&JobID=78712153>
- Vicki Arthur – With PLT, conducted special project on MLK National Day of Service with DC-area school. More than 200 people participated in event which featured kids performances, information about the GreenSchools initiative, and ceremonially planting a dogwood. Service project included painting ‘habitat’ murals in school.
- Pete Griffin – on detail for 1-month from Juneau, Alaska. Working on 2008 accomplishment report and greatly appreciates everyone’s help.
- Iris Velez – many Symbols projects in the works, and will update group soon. Draft of the Jr. Snow Ranger materials will be ready in a few weeks, and will be tested by more than 20 educators.

Comments from the group...

- Susan Thomas – how can we build on what we do (MKIW in particular)?; make an extra emphasis on telling our story effectively – celebrating the success and building on the successes. AmeriCorps was a hit with the Obamas in the inauguration parade. how do we tell our story better. Let us share best practices to tell our story.
- Clair Long – Developed orienteering course for use in Phys Ed classes. It’s been very successful, and other schools in region have expressed interest in adopting program more broadly.

Notes by Sandy Frost, January 21, 2009