

CE Regional Coordinators – Conference Call Minutes

April 15, 2009 – 1:00 -2:30 p.m. ET

Call in 800-369-1652 passcode 97972

FPL		R2	Linda Hecker
IITF	Carlos Dominguez-Cristobal	R3	Jean Szymanski
NA	Susan Cox	R4	
NRS	Barbara McGuiness	R5	Tim Williams
PNW & PSW	Becky Bitner	R6	Susan Thomas
RMRS		R8	Sharon Waltrip
SRS	<i>(Livia has taken new job)</i>	R9	Don Howlett
R1	Julie Molzahn	R10	Kristi Kantola
WO-Detached	Babs MacDonald, Rachel Small, Michelle Andrews	WO	Sandy Frost, Don Howlett, Iris Velez

Agenda

Updates...

- Symbols.gov Update
- National CE meeting
- 2009 More Kids in the Woods
- National CE Web Update
- Annual Report & NICE

FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP...

Updates

More Kids in the Woods – Status of Project Selections -- Don Howlett

- WO Review team has reviewed proposals, and Directors have accepted recommendations – recommendations go to ADCs this afternoon and then to the Chief. Don't yet have solid plans to make announcements – but will let all know plans ASAP.

Symbols – Iris Velez

- Symbols.gov is back, up and running! Catalog works but only products, fax form that can be filled out and faxed to Symbols Cache. This is a transition – team is working on e-commerce solution that will replace this system.
- Smokey Bear Big Book is in final stage of production—should be available by Smokey's 65th birthday – August 9
- Will bring a Presidential Management Fellow joining CE WO staff – Harald Bennett-Fuller – MS at George Washington University.
- JFR – Spanish version will be available at Symbols Cache mid-May – Iris can make copies available free of charge, to market product – send Iris an e-mail.

GO Day Cluster of Events! – Sandy Frost

- Still encouraging more folks to get involved – Sandy will send a briefing paper to group with an overview of the cluster of 'kids and nature' projects that will be launched in various places on GO Day. Please contact Sandy with any questions regarding GO Day – and give her contact info to any of your network that would like to discuss GO Day opportunities.
- Concern raised about level of support Albuquerque effort is receiving from ARC. Sandy will contact Tara Little, R3 to discuss.

- Julie will contact the Idaho Panhandle NF about their GO Day plans.
- Attached to these notes is the spreadsheet of current FS GO Day sites – group encouraged to take a look and let Sandy know of missing or potential sites.

FS Conference/Meeting – Sandy Frost

- Team has worked on Decision Memo – Safiya has asked us to examine Denver as a possible site. WO staff is working on cost analysis. Understand importance of reaching a decision given the BUSY summer for all and the dwindling 'prep' time available.
- Discussed other options such as holding in early FY '10, or attaching meeting to professional conference. Mixed reactions to several proposals – but still support for the need for a meeting.
- WO will share info ASAP!

Annual Report & NICE Update – Don Howlett

- Annual Report – Contractor is creating annual report – Don and Iris appreciate fast response and input from all – hope to have a final version of the report to the printer and in your hands soon.
- NICE - new update to NICE completed – more user-friendly, better reporting features. Also having discussions between WO-CE and WO-WFWARP on merging CE and WFRP databases – all agree to consolidate reporting requirements.

Web Site – Sandy Frost

- The Web site is in the new FS CMS portal – one of first program areas to move to the portal.
- Folks can access the original draft site at <http://fsweb2.dv.r5.fs.fed.us:88/ce/> The new CMS Portal URL is http://fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/ut/pl_s.7_0_A/7_0_RU4?ss=119995&navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&cid=null&navid=10000000000000&pnavid=null&position=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&ttype=main&pname=Conservation%20Education-%20Home (don't worry! The permanent URL will be much better!!)
- PLEASE remember that the portal site is a 'work in progress' and many tweaks and enhancements are in the hopper. Contact Sandy with any ?? or comments.
- Michelle Andrews and Evelyn Morgan graciously volunteered to do a thorough, 'down in the weeds' review of the content – their input has not yet been incorporated in the draft site.

ROUND ROBIN

Region 10 – Kristi Kantola:

- Chugach NF recently made a presentation on engaging youth to the Regional Leadership Team. They described partnership efforts to get kids outdoors with the City of Anchorage, National Wildlife Federation, Alaska Geographic, and local youth organizations. A highlight was the youth panel whose members described a week long trip Alaska Geographic provided for them on the Chugach National Forest. Nothing beats that youthful joy of first discoveries in the outdoors.
- We've been working on updating agreements with Alaska Geographic and the Alaska Marine Highway.
- Across the Region we are adjusting to lower cruiseship visitation last year and even less projected for this year. That has caused an economic impact to tourism businesses and to our interpretive partner, Alaska Geographic. We are working to carry out interpretive and educational programming this year with lower direct support funding from Alaska Geographic. On the upside, we are not expecting lower visitation at our major visitor centers, because we offer some of the most affordable sites for shore excursions.
- ?? Does any R/S/A have an education web site? Julie is working on website for Region 1 – Region 3 has a CE site, but all links to other sites. PNW – "just for kids" – mostly links to other sites.

Region 8 – Sharon Waltrip:

- LBL – turning wildflower weekend into Earth 'weekend' – all about being green – green alternatives. Partnership with Tire & Alignment shop to do free tire pressure check – fishing festival, organic gardening, recycling – as well as wildflowers, and more.
- Planning for Great American Backyard Campout, June 27 – programs will include things to help get people comfortable with camping – partnering with Boy Scouts, Gander Mtn. and others
- Earth Day info sent for Nickelodean.

Region 6 – Susan Thomas:

- Very involved in integrating into Stimulus funding – OR youth initiative got funded to tune of 12 MM !! Also looking at WA state – lots of different projects have bundled in youth at work – been an excellent opportunity to get good work done, and engaging youth – very exciting. Pulling together new partnerships and alliances.
- Youth engagement funds – 6 model forests across Region 6 to build partnerships to engage youth - \$20K to each Forest to develop plans – funding from management – big scope-big things going on.
- IMBD – Kids in the Creek, Arbor Day lots of other ‘routine’ projects going on! VERY BUSY!!

Sue Baker (notes sent in!)

- working with Mt Hood, GP & R6 RO on developing long term partners for this area. Other places in R6 doing this is the MBS/OLY, Umatilla & Deschutes.
- Working with a team on using stimulus monies for employing young adults in OR this summer OYCC. Some politics going on with the State, but I'm not part of those negotiations.
- Attending a State park 2 day conference in May for agencies, nonprofits and individuals on what we all are doing to get people out onto public lands, and how we can partner.
- taking the Wheel of Fortune to Goldendale for Earth Day this Saturday. Will ask bird related and other east side ecology questions.
- Wild & Scenic Rivers work is increasing and taking more of my time (CE is only 20% of my job).

Region 5 – Tim Williams:

- Forest Conservation Days (March 23 - 29) was held and we reached over 1,500 students and families from the San Jose, California area .
- Memorial Tree Planting in Oakland, California for the fallen Oakland police officers. This was also Oakland's Arbor Day Celebration.
- The City of Vallejo, California occurred last Friday April 17, 2009 I planted trees with 700 students and I also handed out 700 California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (COBR) book marks.
- Met with Stephen Redner Kids for Trees Executive Director and he planted over 2,000 trees with kids in Southern California this weekend. He also included 2,000 COBR book markers with his package.5. Working with Get to Know Program . Region 5 is the pilot of this children's initiative from Canada.
- We are putting together programs under our new recreation theme Trees and Trails.
- California Children Outdoor Bill of Rights program at Julia Morgan School of Girls last month.
- I will be hosting an Earth Day event at Hercules High in Hercules, California April 22, 2009.
- I will be presenting a Leave No Trace program at North Face retail store in San Francisco, April 28, 2009.
- Working on Region 5's (29) More Kids in the Woods Grant Proposal critiques.
- Working on a Great American Backyard Campout with the City of Oakland's Rotary Nature Center for June 27, 2009.
- State and Private Forestry are planning an Arbor day celebration walk and museum tour this Friday April 24, 2009 in Vallejo, Ca.

Region 3 – Jean Szymanski:

- PLT – going well, Leopold Education Project
- Gave presentation at Regional Public Affairs conference
- Doing Regional training for seasonal workforce
- Lots of forests doing activities for Earth Day
- PLT – Green Works grants, want to establish a tree farm in NM – energy and effort invested in PLT in NM is resulting in getting
- ?? Betty Brinn Children's Museum exhibit – who is the contact?? – group will get back with Jean.

Region 2 – Linda Hecker:

- Regional Office has been consumed with planning GO Day – a huge effort with more than 100 partners involved!
 - Six different components – Activity Center with rock climbing, mountain biking; Junior Ranger Camp with outdoor skills and a certificate at the end; Sustainable, green living; Health; Cultural Center
 - Colorado Kids Outside is a major initiative of Lt. Governor – using GO Day as a kickoff for a full range of activities across the State – building partnerships and synergies!

- LOTS of work – but LOTS of fun – great partners

Region 1 – Julie Molzahn: will send a note!

- PLT- completed second facilitator training for Montana in March and 12 folks attended including 3 from Tribal Education Offices. The PLT group for the Province of Manitoba, Canada has asked to partner with PLT North Dakota and Montana in putting on training sessions.
- Forest For Every Classroom is launching its western replication on the Helena NF next week. Liz Soper, National Wildlife Federation-DC is attending for the original partner group from Vermont
- Liz is also going with Steve Kratville and I to meet with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) next week to discuss partnerships with NWF
- NFF's Treasured Landscape initiative will have a component of Conservation Education for the selected sites and it maybe FFEC that is used. Please look at NFF website for information on the initiative.
- Governor Schwietzer will be attending the state Arbor Day celebration at Columbia Falls, Montana. The Flathead NF and Regional S&P are cosponsors of the event.
- We have multiple Earth Day and Arbor Day events throughout the Region that Forest Service folks are participating in.
- MTDC and RMRS folks along with Jan Oliver, R1 webmaster are presenting social media training sessions. Social media networks will be available for use by Region 1 Fire Teams this year in cooperation with Google Earth and we are looking to expand this into all program areas soon.
- The Flathead NF is hosting the Family Forestry Expo the week of May 4. This Expo brings together 20 partners, all 5 grade classes in the Flathead valley and their families for outdoor classroom experiences. A total of 1250 students will attend this year.
- The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center hosted a webinar on their 2008 MKIW snowshoe program. It was a very successful webinar that many folks enjoyed. The webinar can be found at <http://healthinfo.montana.edu/RHI.html>
- I will be presenting a Powerpoint on Conservation Education at the Regional PAO meeting on April 29.

Pacific Northwest Research Station – Becky Bittner:

- Participated in Intel NW Science Fair – sponsored prize for participants.
- Working with OR Cultural Heritage Commission – on educational materials about a Scottish scientist .

Northern Research Station – Barbara McGuinness:

- Every one is very involved in Earth Day activities
- New products – Dave Bloniaris (sp?) and Vicky Arthur developed curriculum to use I-Tree in classroom - Lesson plan – took to NSTA in New Orleans – planning to pilot in a number of schools.
- New Agreement with Yale – student will help link I-Tree to Google Map and Google Earth
- New York City – participating in cool book signing – Restorative Commons – linking health and urban landscapes.
- Urban NR Institute – new webinar series – make people aware of urban research – tools and applications for managers – Barbara will send links –
- Investigator, middle-school science journal nearly completed!
- NRS is updating EL web page.

Northeastern Area –Susan Cox:

- Will attend the PLT “Changing Roles” workshop in Texas next week – working with Angie Solinger
- Did presentations at conferences – working on scientific literacy – using NI – very well-received, works well with upper grade levels.
- Getting ready to start new cohort of FFEC teachers – 15 teachers registered, starting weekend of May 15 – great group, widely scattered across state
- Emerald Ash Borer curriculum is being developed by the Peggy Notabaert Museum in Chicago – getting ready to field test – plan to present at next year’s NSTA conference.

IITF – Carlos Dominguez-Cristobal

- Diverse activities will take place next week (Earth Week) in Puerto Rico and the USVI. In Puerto Rico, in the preambulus of that celebration a rural school planted six hundred of trees of diverse species. The most important

activity will be next April 22; A special recognition of two municipalities with their school districts to dedicate a 300-yr old ceiba tree). It is consider a symbol to the communities of the municipalities of Comerio and Barranquitas.

- *Acta Cientifica*, a Science Teachers Association Magazine of Puerto Rico accepted the publication of an article about IITF's CE project in an urban middle school of Puerto Rico.
- Our program was invited to participated in the development of a CE program for a Ecotourism Project in the karst zone of Puerto Rico. The farm has about 100 acres with rivers and ravines near area elementary and middle school. The owner of the property knows about the efforts that we are doing for CE in PR and offer to us the opportunity to expand our projects.
- Our High School CE Program will be celebrated at a Symposium about their respective forest research at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus.(May 6)
- The development of the CE Manual continues
- At the end of the CE Conference Call, Iris Velez explained about the interest that the Washington office like to know about the students that participate in the CE nationwide (opinions, experiences etc). I explained that in our CE Bulletin we have a section in which our students and past students that today are at the university or in a professional level share with us the experience in the forest and how it influenced theirs lives. They like to know more about that.

Centennial Green – really great !! Be sure to get a copy and share broadly!!

Washington Office

- Sandy Frost:
 - MonarchLIVE's last set of broadcasts will be in mid-May, and will highlight what kids can do in their own backyard. The partnership is looking at extending MonarchLIVE through the coming years, and developing a PollinatorLIVE ed. Project.
 - Julie shared that R1 is working on a pollinator garden initiative to install gardens at every RD site – R9 has a similar initiative. Lots of interest and enthusiasm for educating about Pollinators. Sandy will share more info with the group on next call.
 - Look for opportunities to partners across Dept of Ag sister agencies, such as NRCS and CSREES.
 - WO-CE is working on next edition of html newsletter "Connections" – will highlight various national projects that are in the works. Should be out to the group by April 30.
- Babs MacDonald:
 - Thank you SUSAN COX for using the NI!!
 - About ready to finish new NIs – with NRS working with Barbara McGuinness – almost finished with the Investigator. Bioenergy ready to be printed in next two weeks Spanish version of Face Look is almost ready – should be available
 - Running out of older editions – plan to be print some, popular editions – provide input to Babs if you have suggestions where the demand is
 - Ecosytems NI is getting wrapped up – all to OC for design. This is the first edition that is written by collective team of writers. Anyone is invited.

Notes by Sandy Frost, April 15, 2009