

CE Regional Coordinators – Conference Call Minutes

June 17, 2009 – 1:00 -2:30 p.m. ET

Call in 800-369-1652 passcode 97972

FPL		R2	Linda Hecker
IITF		R3	Karen Malis-Clark
NA		R4	Carol Ryan
NRS	Barbara McGuiness	R5	Tim Williams, Lisa Fischer
PNW & PSW		R6	Sue Baker
RMRS	Rita Brown	R8	Sharon Waltrip
SRS		R9	Don Howlett
R1	Julie Molzahn	R10	Kristi Kantola
WO-Detached	Michelle Andrews	WO	Sandy Frost, Harold Fuller-B

Agenda

Updates...

- Discussion on Agenda for CE Coordinators' Meeting – July 14 & 15
- MKIW Update
- Proposal for future Conference Calls

FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP...

- **Policy Analysis Survey of Education, Youth programs** – The ELC asked Policy Analysis for a snapshot of activities across the agency for the ways we work to connect children with nature – identify gaps, market successes.
 - Not clear how the info will be used. Trying to get a comprehensive grasp on all what we're doing in CE – an inventory – an internal audience – R6, R9, R2, NRS, have been contacted with a very broad request for information. Note from today requests input back to Policy Analysis by Friday!
 - Viewed as a positive that we get to comment!
 - Clarity of type of response required? Level of info may vary greatly – need consistent format, level of input.
 - Sandy will try to track down the survey “managers” – and get a note back out to the group to provide more clarity on responses needed from the field.
- **CE Agenda** –
 - Add information on MKIW – take time from Climate Change
 - National Strategy – what is the objective of Safiya's discussion? Provide clear objectives, and pre-work; perhaps better to be scheduled at end of day.
 - Shorten CC - key messages and science into one session – facilitated discussion have clear outcome of what we want to get out of it. Some resolution, some action plan – have actionable items. Clear objectives and goals for session. Next day, add in more KIW in partnership session.
 - MKIW – fit into 2nd morning 1st session
 - 2nd session – building capacity (take out G&A? – concurrent session) have a “Dr's In Session” format
 - G&A – especially important for SPF Redesign competitive grants
 - Discussion and initiation of planning for a second “gathering” meeting for 2010.
 - Important to be concrete and specific in objectives for each session – group doesn't want just discussions, but actionable outcomes from time spent.
 - Logistics – still looking at remote, conference call – would be very good – video conference for second
 - How do projects go from local to national – how to decide which RSA gets to pilot?
 - 20 minutes to each – and then 20 minutes for discussion
 - Steve and Susan are locked in for FFEC presentation
 - Bateman Get to Know Project – Tim and Sandy will present
 - Can we set up with smaller discussion groups? have breakouts and then come together?

More Kids in the Woods Competitive Funding –

- Word to successful project managers has gone out – sort of – some have received info and some have not – project recipients have received list – note to unsuccessful project proponents has not been sent out. Sandy will make sure that the list of selected projects is sent to all on call, so we're all on the same page.
- Group needs budget information ASAP so that they can watch the RSA allocations and make sure the \$\$s go where they are intended. send message to budget coordinators to CE Coordinators
- RHV is working on official letter under Joel Holtrup's signature. Not completed by Wednesday, should be out soon.–

GO Day Updates!

Vancouver – great success – national site, give-aways – 500-600 kids, great success put together in a very short time –

Denver designated flag ship event – 6 different villages, dancers, JR Camp – lots of kids went through camp – several hundred 7,000+ people – huge number of vendors – competition taking down tents and putting them up. Fishing – dragon boat festival – National AD Council launched campaign at Denver – tons of prizes, having a debriefing meeting on July 2 – once up and going – it went great – even a tornado warning.

Proposal for future CE Conference Calls –

- Kristi Kantola proposed that on CE Coordinators calls, we feature just one or two programs – spend more time on fewer subjects – talk for 5-10 minutes, with questions. Presenters would develop and share supporting materials before the call.
- General RSA updates would be sent to Coordinator Call notetaker for inclusion in call notes.
- Group was very supportive of idea – will discuss further at July meeting.
 - Suggest looking at Google Docs as a platform for sharing materials. FS just established a special FS site for sharing documents. Need to investigate a bit more – and check out public domain issues.

ROUND ROBIN

R10 – Kristi Kantola:

- The Alaska Region and interpretive and education partners - the Alaska Geographic Association, Discovery Southeast, and Alaska Discovery are offering a two-day field seminar, "Wildflowers of the Chugach;" a six-day teacher's workshop, "Bears and Wilderness of Admiralty;" and seven-day teacher's workshop "the Whales of Icy Strait" this summer. The seminar costs \$195 and the teacher's workshops cost \$850 and \$900. The courses have gained in popularity and registration closed within a few days of opening.
- On the Tongass National Forest Faith Duncan conducted Certified Interpretive Guide and Certified Interpretive Host training this spring. Although both are interpretive classes, they teach skills can be used in Conservation Education also. On the Chugach National Forest there is a great deal of work being done on Children's Forest programs, including a "Youth Media Expedition," the "Youth Managed Forest" proposal, and a project mapping the natural and cultural history of Prince William Sound. For more information, visit the Alaska Geographic website at <http://www.alaskageographic.org/category/10/main-category> and click on "Children's Forest."

Region 9 – Don Howlett: Pass

Region 8 – Sharon Waltrip:

- LBL signed a participating agreement with Stewart County School System for field trips to Devils Backbone project area.
- LBL is hosting a free program on Saturday, June 27, offering tips for beginning and seasoned campers from 11am to 3pm at Golden Pond Visitor Center. *Are You Ready for the Great American Backyard Campout®?* is especially for those who are new to camping or are interested in trying it for the first time with their family in order to gain helpful hints on how you can have a safe, fun family outing in the great outdoors. Staff from LBL and Gander Mountain will be on hand offering helpful hints for spending a night outside with the kids covering such things as how to pick a campsite and set up a tent, how to be safe in the outdoors, how to make a campfire and prepare a meal, and ideas on lots of fun things to do while outside. Visit the Great American Backyard Campout® online at www.backyardcampout.org.

- Cradle of Forestry has **Woodsy Owl's Curiosity Club** -- Summer nature series for children ages 4-7 years old. Each day a variety of outdoor-oriented activities will explore a forest related theme to engage young children in the natural world around them. Programs will take place Thursdays from June 11 to August 6. The Curiosity Club's blend of investigation and creativity can be a step to help children "lend a hand, care for the land." .
- Another series is Song Catchers Music Series: Enjoy the colorful music of Appalachian heritage each Sunday afternoon in July. Concerts begin with a 30-minute opening act at 4:00. After a short break the featured performer will begin.
- Christopher Rose of the George Washington Jefferson NF has been volunteering with the Tree Steward program in Roanoke, Va. One of his projects is to work with the forester for the City of Roanoke and the Virginia Department of Forestry to develop "Urban Tree Walks.
- LBL also has a variety of offerings over Fourth of July week-end including
 - Homeplace Scavenger Hunt
 - Family Sunset Hike
 - Independence Day 1850 at the Home Place
 - All-American Scavenger Hunt @ Nature Station
 - Creatures of the Night
 - Summer Nights: *Journey to the Edge* at the Planetarium & Observatory
 - 19th Century Photography @ the Home Place
 - Truly American Animals
 - Let the Turtle Race Begin! @ Nature Station AND
 - Moonlight Canoe Trip

Region 6 – Sue Baker:

Sue Baker

- Get Outdoors Day has been primary focus recently – great success! (see previous note)
- Susan has been EXTREMELY busy with school groups, camps etc.

Region 5 – Tim Williams:

Lisa – Hawaii received a competitive grant focused on CE – wonderful new PLT coordinator – working closely with her – everyone in Hawaii is in agreement – focusing on developing CE Strategic Plan –

Tim

- I attended the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks, and Tourism meeting in Sacramento (6/16/09) yesterday. The big issue affecting us all in California is the potential closing of numerous California State Parks this fall. The Parks will be open this summer but if they close this fall and will not be open next summer, this will affect all residents, Government Agencies and non-profits in California. The California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (COBR) is still being promoted by the Roundtable and I will be developing new COBR projects focused on health professionals, schools, educators, and the States Hispanic communities with new Spanish translations of the COBR initiative.
- My out door program with one of the premiere Youth Academy in California (Outdoor Outreach) will take place on the Cleveland National Forest next week in San Diego County.
- The G2K program.
- I have a "Kids Challenge Program" started on the Mendocino National Forest. This program is a partnership with the East Bay Regional Park and the Forest Service.
- I am planning on participating in the City of Oakland's Great American Backyard Campout on June 27th. I will be conducting several California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights program and several "Web of Life" demonstrations.
- This Saturday I will be participating in a Juneteenth Festival in Vallejo, California.

Region 4 – Carol Ryan:

- Idaho has started a large Kids Outdoors initiative –
- Edna Vizgirdis is working with Sawtooth Institute – botany seminars throughout summer
- Carol is working with Uinta-Wastach-Cache plan for NF

Region 3 – Karen Malis-Clark

- National PLT conference
- NM camp went very well—
- GO Day – Phoenix AZ went well – float river on inner tube – Joel Holtrup on the website, and Hank Kashdan attended this year!
- Capital Christmas tree – ornament outreach info posted – a little too late to tie into teachers and educators (talk with Susan Thomas for ideas)
- Annual Hispanic Camp – RMRS is hosting in September – recruits Hispanic students to learn about forestry and natural resources –
- Research – work ingclosely with Research – received funding for ampitheater at outskirts of Flagstaff – great infrastructure for use for education
- Coconino NF – summer interp program in full swing – whole menu of great offerings, Smokey & Woodsy
- Smokey's 65th birthday – planning for big celebration!

Region 2 – Linda Hecker

- Focused on GO Day – just getting back on feet after MAJOR event (see previous notes)
- Planning Smokey's 65th birthday – at Monument Fire Camp – using Junior Forest Ranger

Region 1 – Julie Molzahn:

- FFEC summer teacher institute is in progress this week and next. A summary will be developed to share with others after this summer. If folks wish to see the program, the fall institute will be September 25 and 26th on the Helena NF.
- The 50th Anniversary of the Hebgen Lake Earthquake is August 14-17. Julie will be doing childrens programs for the 4 days, so if you have a geology program please let Julie know.
- Julie is on the planning committee for the Idaho Environmental Education Association 2010 meeting. Julie and Steve developing presentations for the Montana Education Association meeting in October.
- We have lots of programs occuring this summer, so many of our units are busy with this work.
- We are assisting our partners with the Montana Natural Resource Summer Youth Camp. The Fire Lab's Helen Smith will be putting on one of the sessions.

Northeastern Area –Susan Cox:

- Really busy month – great PLT conference – early brain research – how people learn
- Envirothon season for states – busy time. For those working with older kids – MS Envirothon really encourages teams to do service learning. Follow Envirothon themes – very impressive projects – guidelines posted on line.
- All <http://www.interfacesouth.org> . Fact sheets and case studies – much is southern-flavored –
- Have started new group of FFEC
- Closing out math-science partnership with state – and starting a new cycle. One teacher really took on the concept of taking kids outside – has made a huge difference in the classroom – great testimony. Starting new round (60 teachers) of math-science
- Involved in Environmental Literacy Plans for New Hampshire.

Notes by Sandy Frost, June 22, 2009