

***Ground Water Inventory, Monitoring & Assessment***

***Technical Guide Development***

**Date:** 6/13/12 (Final)

**Subject:** Core Team Conference Call

**Participants:** Allison Aldous, Devendra Amatya, Chris Carlson, Trish Carroll, Megan Lang, Andy Rorick, Steve Solem, Troy Thompson

**Unable to Join Call:** Joe Gurrieri, Kate Dwire

**Discussion Topics and Action Items**

**Next Core Team Call on September 13 @ 2:00 EDT/12:00 MST**

1. **Project Overview**

**Steve Solem reviewed the current project schedule with the group. The main “event” within the project schedule is revision of the Technical Guide based on comments from the Core Team that will be discussed later in the call.**

**Work on Environmental Flows and Levels and Remote Sensing are depicted as separate task groups on the updated schedule. Information from these two areas will be integrated with the rest of the Technical Guide prior to the Technical Review in October.**

1. **Groundwater Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Technical Guide**

**Steve Solem led the discussion of the following items related to the GW IM&A Technical Guide:**

**Core Team Comment Summary/Proposed Reconciliation – Core Team comments on all sections were reviewed and resulted in the identification of eight substantive comments that were discussed in detail. Megan Lang’s comments were sent just prior to the call and were not included in this analysis, so she added her comments into the discussion as appropriate. The attached comment summary and reconciliation documents the details of the Core Team discussion on the substantive comments.**

**Steve requested the Core Team to identify any suggested edits and comments provided during the review that individuals feel should not be made. If there are no objections, the editing team will proceed with making the changes.**

**Document Outline – The purpose of the TG is to describe inventory, monitoring, and assessment concepts and methods. As discussed on the last Core Team call, the current document outline needs revision. Steve Solem provided an overview of a draft outline showing where different sections of v2.0 and the supporting Technical Notes might fit within that structure. Primary issues by Technical Guide section include:**

1. **Introduction – this section is in pretty good shape**
2. **GDE Inventory – this section is in pretty good shape.**
3. **GDE Monitoring – Work on the GDE Inventory Field Guides deliberately focused on inventory, with few references to monitoring. Level II can be designed to serve as a basis for monitoring (e.g., the Montanore Mine case study). Environmental Flows and Levels could also be described as a monitoring component. At this time we lots of information on groundwater monitoring, but virtually nothing on GDE monitoring.**
4. **GW Inventory – Currently this section has some analysis/assessment information included that could move to the new Section on Analysis/Assessment.**
5. **GW Monitoring – This section is in pretty good shape, just minor reorganization of the content.**
6. **GW/GDE Analysis/Assessment – Content from the GW inventory section will flesh this out, but there is little to no information on GDEs.**

**Several Core Team members had questions regarding the proposed outline but supportive of the overall concept. Steve stressed that the common outline between sections needed revision based on discussions he was having with the Existing Vegetation Mapping, Classification and Inventory team on their Technical Guide revision. The general flow of activities should be:**

**Introduction 🡪Planning and Design 🡪Methods🡪Data Products and Application/Use**

**Group discussion also centered on how groundwater could be better integrated with and support Forest Planning and there were suggestions on how that could be dealt with in different sections.**

**Steve also suggested collapsing the GDE inventory and monitoring sections into one section.**

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| **Action:** | * **CT Review Comments to see if they have any issues that should not be made to Steve Solem by 6/29.** * **New Outline proposal and CT comment by mid-July** |

**Technical Review Group Status – Joe is actively working on recruitment and securing technical reviewers. A progress report will be sent to the Core Team since Joe wasn’t able to participate in the call.**

**Steve stressed that we still need to make sure our list of partners/affiliate reviewers is complete. All partner and affiliate reviewers will be provided an opportunity to comment on the draft.**

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| **Action:** | * **Joe will send out current roster and keep the CT posted.** * **Core Team members should provide suggestions regarding individuals who should be considered as potential reviewers and provide that information to Joe and Steve.** |

1. **Environmental Flows/Levels Pilot Test Update**

Allison Aldous provided the following overview of the pilot tests:

**Sheyenne NG/North Dakota –** The Sheyenne National Grassland has been selected for the first Phase II pilot site, starting in April 2012. It provides a unique set of circumstances for testing the EF/L framework and analysis methods. The issue being examined is the effect of a cone of depression from agricultural ditches on inter-dunal wetlands within the NG and possibly on nearby TNC preserves. The management goal of this project is as follows:

*How can drainage ditches in the Sheyenne Delta be better managed to meet the goals of agriculture while still supporting an acceptable number of groundwater dependent wetlands and species? Specifically, how can the extent, locations, placement, and management of ditches be designed and maintained to enable them to function more like natural drainages across the landscape?*

Oregon Dunes NRA/Oregon – The Oregon Dunes NRA within the Siuslaw NF in Oregon is the second pilot test. Community water rights/wells and their effects on inter-dunal wetlands within the ODNRA are the focus of the pilot. This effort is just getting started compiling background data and study design.

1. **Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Inventory**

**Joe Gurrieri and Chris Carlson provided the Core Team with an update on:**

**Inventory Field Guide Publication Status – Both Level I and Level II Inventory Field Guides have been published and are available at:**

[http://www.fs.fed.us/geology/groundwater.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/geology/groundwater.html" \t "_blank)

[http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/resources/pubs/watershed/index.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/resources/pubs/watershed/index.html" \t "_blank)

**All Technical and Field Guides are also posted on the EMC – Resource Information page. There is a placeholder for the Level I and II Field guides and database on this page. These links will be active shortly at:** <http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/rig/protocols/master.shtml>

**The GDE database and portable data recorder application are also available for use. These applications will also be posted on the M&G/WWFARP and EMC websites. In the meantime, contact Joe if you need them.**

**GDE Training and Implementation Support – Joe has been working with the National Minerals Training Office and has developed a one-hour training webinar on GDE inventory. The webinar was used as part of a “train-the-trainer” session in Region 4 last week that also includes a three-day field session. Following this session, the webinar will be available for use in other Regions.**

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| **Action:** | * **Steve will work with the EMC staff to post the Field Guides, GDE database, forms, and PDA application on the EMC-RIG webpage.** * **Core Team members should contact Joe about training information and access to the PDA application and GDE database.** |