



Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit and Pacific Northwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Quarterly Meeting, July 21 10:00am PDT, 2021

Federal Managers Present: Aileen Anderson, NRCS; Alison Ainsworth NPS; Elizabeth Gallinoble, DoD; Frederick Klasner, BLM; John Tull, USFWS; Keirith Snyder, ARS; Mark A. Ricca, USGS; Vi Ta, USFS

CESU representatives present: Ahmad Itani, GB; Alison Ainsworth, GB/ PNW; Carrie Busha, GB; Kayla Armbruster, GB; Rohit Patil, GB; Teresa Bresee, PNW

Welcome

Ahmad Itani, Director of GB CESU and Ali Ainsworth, Co-Director of PNW CESU and GB/PNW CESU Research Coordinator, National Park Service welcomed the federal partners to the collaborative meeting. The federal partners introduced themselves and the agency they represent.

Great Basin CESU Background and Five-Year Strategic Plan

The University of Nevada, Reno has served as the host institution since the inception of the Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (GB CESU) in 2001. In 2021, GB CESU partners include 12 universities, 10 federal agencies, and three non-profit organizations. The Great Basin States have one of the most federally managed lands, and addressing management requires science-guided management.

The GB CESU has completed a comprehensive five-year strategic planning process and engaged stakeholders to define strategic objectives for the next five years.

1. To facilitate research and technical assistance in support of federal management.
2. Foster collaboration and information sharing
3. Enhance Natural and Cultural Resources and Education
4. Ensure Operational Effectiveness.



Pacific Northwest CESU Status and Highlights

In 2020, the National CESU Council approved the PNW CESU for a fifth five-year term (2020-2025). A five-year summary was shared that highlighted a few National Parks PNW CESU projects to capture the scope of science being conducted related to climate change such as; glacier changes, cultural resource threats, plant species, and park infrastructure. From 2015-2020 NPS funded 132 Cooperative Agreements and 146 modifications to total \$19,174,787.

Reporting Schedule and Expectation Reminder

In October, the PNW will conduct an annual data call and contact their federal partners for data of new projects or modifications. The PNW CESU would like to use the website to showcase projects from various federal agencies. [Science You Can Use \(in 5 minutes\)](#) is a non-CESU example of the type of project summary that could be showcased for CESU projects on the website.

Annual Meeting Planning

There was a discussion about holding the annual meeting in a virtual format. Federal managers are still uncertain about what travel restrictions may be in place in December 2021, therefore the consensus is to plan for a virtual meeting this year. A downside about the virtual format was mentioned that it does not allow for managers to visit the regional area and plan a visit to project installation sites, which often occurs with the in-person annual meetings, there could be a hybrid format to accommodate the in-person attendees.

There was a discussion about having a joint annual meeting with Pacific Northwest and Great Basin. Overall federal partners like the idea of a joint meeting to minimize repetition and to increase collaboration. One suggestion was given to have a break-out session for the PNW and GB if time is needed to get into the details and nuisances for each regional CESU.

Great Basin CESU Experts Database

There was a demonstration of the [GB CESU Experts Database](#) and the features that are current in the database to be used for the managers to connect to experts. The listings of experts is not yet complete and it would be helpful if managers can promote faculty to [register](#) and the GB





CESU Host institution will continue to contact faculty. It was suggested to share a success story if the database is used to faculty connect with a federal agency for a project to highlight the utility of the experts database.

Open Discussion

The Department of Defense has a cultural resource project request and a non-profit was unable to become a partner with a CESU for the project.

Partners will be contacted to find a suitable time for the next quarterly meeting and the annual meeting for December 2021. The GB & PNW director and co-director thanked the federal managers for attending and the meeting adjourned 11:00am.

