

**2011 Pacific Northwest CESU Annual Meeting  
Managers & Executive Committees**

University of Washington, Center for Urban Horticulture, Seattle, WA  
November 16, 2011

**Recent PNW CESU activity summary, Chris Lauver, NPS and PNW CESU Co-leader**  
Use of the PNW CESU over the past two years. See PowerPoint presentation.

**National CESU update, Tom Fish, National Coordinator**  
Overview of CESU program development. See PowerPoint presentation.

Discussion

Fish said the national council is working on a national-level admission process for new members. Until now, each unit has established its own process and, although they're similar, they aren't uniform across the network. The national office is developing an open and transparent system that doesn't require a unanimous-approval vote for new members, so that a single cooperating partner cannot deny membership (and, therefore, access to federal funding) to an applicant.

An annual federal register notice about the CESU network would create more visibility for the program, and is under discussion.

The national office is working with USDA Forest Service to modify the CESU master agreement authorities and terminology so that national forests can use CESUs, in addition to USFS research stations.

**Northwest Climate Science Center (CSC) update, Nancy Lee, Acting Center Dir., USGS**  
Presentation on CSCs, their relationship to LCCs, NW CSC organization, stakeholders, goals, and budget. See PowerPoint presentation.

**North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) update, John Mankowski, UW**  
Presentation on North Pacific LCC mission, structure, funding, and, in general, what LCCs do and do not do. See PowerPoint presentation.

**Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) update, Sean Finn, FWS**  
Presentation on Great Northern LCC, its goals, leadership, science priorities, and information on how to get involved. See PowerPoint presentation.

**North Cascadia Adaptation Partnership (NCAP), Gina Rochefort, NPS, and Crystal Raymond, FS**

Presentation on partnership that began as climate-change adaptation case study at Olympic National Forest in partnership with Olympic National Park. The process involved four focus areas and continued for 1 ½ years. See PowerPoint presentation and [www.northcascadia.org](http://www.northcascadia.org)

## **Technical session panel: Processing project agreements, and issues related to processing**

### **What works: NPS agreements processing and upcoming changes, Lilette Baltodano, National Park Service (NPS)**

NPS is part of USDI. Under the NPS structure, PNW CESU is one of four CESUs in the NPS Pacific West Region. PWRO Contracting and Assistance Office deals with financial assistance agreements for all four CESUs.

NPS projects make up the overwhelming majority of actions processed against the PNW CESU cooperative agreement (see Lauver PowerPoint above). PWRO has developed information and documents to facilitate the process for NPS resource managers. A regional memo describing the process, deadlines, and contacts is sent to relevant agency staff each winter, and is posted on the PNW CESU website as well as the PWRO sharepoint site. Templates for task agreements and task modifications are posted on the PNW CESU website, under Forms and Templates, at <http://www.cfr.washington.edu/research.cesu/admin.htm>

NPS staff submit draft project proposals to the NPS CESU research coordinator (Chris Lauver for PNW CESU), who reviews and approves proposals, and then forwards them to the Contracting and Assistance Office with a purchase request, where final approval is granted. The C&A Office reviews proposals for allowability, allocability, and reasonableness under the authorities of the CESU master agreement.

Under the current agreements system, NPS announces CESU awards as Notices of Intent to Award on Grants.gov, noting single source awards when appropriate. If a CESU research partner has not already been identified for a project in development, NPS circulates Requests for Statement of Interests to CESU university partners.

The Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) is an online system developed by the Department of the Interior National Business Center for USDI bureaus. It will be deployed for NPS in November 2013, although procedures for the online system are in development now. One goal for FBMS is a greater emphasis on transparency and competition. NPS will make greater use of Grants.gov, using the website to solicit proposals for CESU projects for which a university partner has not previously been identified. The NPS process will also use single source justifications for CESU projects for which university partners are identified when planning originates.

### **Doris Washington, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

NRCS is part of USDA. The service has a dedicated contract specialist for processing CESU agreements. They do not use Grants.gov for the CESU process. In FY11, NRCS processed four task agreements under the PNW CESU, totaling \$343,000 in funding.

### **Ben Smithhart, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**

USACE is part of DOD. The corps does not use Grants.gov for the CESU process. Statements of Interest are posted for ten working days on the PNW CSU website (or other regional CESU website, depending on relevance to SOI study area). In FY11, USACE processed two task agreements under the PNW CESU, and one in FY10.

## **Vi Ta, US Forest Service (USFS)**

PNW Research Station Grants & Agreements Lead, Vi Ta, provided answers to questions commonly asked about U.S Forest Service (USFS) participation in the PNW CESU. USFS is part of USDA. The USFS has three branches: 1) National Forest System (NFS), 2) Research & Development (R&D), which Pacific Northwest Research Station is under, and 3) State & Private Forestry (S&PF). All three branches have different Grants & Agreement groups and they all have different grants & agreements processes (although they are relatively similar), and authorities given to carry out the work. Under current USFS guidelines, the PNW CESU can be used only by the PNW Research Station. For example, the Rocky Mountain Research Station, which is another station under the R&D branch, cannot use the PNW CESU agreement and cannot process their agreements through the PNW Research Station. The Rocky Mountain Research Station, for example, has its own corresponding agreement with the Rocky Mountain CESU.

In the PNW CESU cooperative agreement, paragraph C. 1. states that “the USFS cannot reimburse ‘state cooperative institutions’ for indirect costs, pursuant to 7 USC 3103(16) and 7 USC 3319. Indirect costs may be used to satisfy USFS cost-sharing minimum requirements of 20% of total project costs.” A state cooperative institution can be defined as a land grant institution, or an institution that receives McIntire Stennis funding.

Per 7 USC 3319, which is under the USDA authority National Agricultural Research Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977: “Funds made available by the Secretary under established Federal-State partnership arrangements to State cooperative institutions under the Acts referred to in section 3103(16) (1) of this title and funds made available under subsection (c)(1)(B) and subsection (d) of section 450i of this title shall not be subject to reduction for indirect costs or for tuition remission.” Basically this says that state cooperative institutions (as defined in Section 3103(16)) indirect costs and tuition remission will not be reimbursed under USFS partnership agreements.

7 USC 3103(16) The term ‘cooperating forestry schools’ means those institutions eligible to receive funds under the Act of October 10, 1962 (16 U.S.C. 582a et seq.), commonly known as the McIntire- Stennis Act of 1962. Furthermore this applies to other state cooperative institutions under such Acts as:

7 USC 3103 (17) The term ‘State cooperative institutions’ or ‘State cooperative agents’ means institutions or agents designated by -

(A) the Act of July 2, 1862 (7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), commonly known as the First Morrill Act;

(B) the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), commonly known as the Second Morrill Act, including Tuskegee University;

(C) the Act of March 2, 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361a et seq.), commonly known as the Hatch Act of 1887;

(D) the Act of May 8, 1914 (7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.), commonly known as the Smith-Lever Act;

(E) the Act of October 10, 1962 (16 U.S.C. 582a et seq.), commonly known as the McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962; and

(F) subchapters V, VI, XI, and XII of this chapter.

**Pamella Sterling and Teresa Spickerman, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

BLM is part of USDI. The bureau's financial assistance officers in the Oregon State Office process CESU agreements for Oregon and Washington. A funding opportunity is posted on Grants.gov after the action to process an agreement (project) has been initiated. BLM's process includes a Request For Application, which serves as a notice of intent to sole source the project work. A university that receives funding is notified of award through Fed Connect (if university is registered), and mailed a hardcopy. BLM began issuing awards through FBMS (see Baltodano presentation above) in 2009. To accommodate the FBMS program, BLM no longer processes task orders; each project is now created with a memorandum of understanding that references the CESU indirect rate of 17.5%. Relevant BLM documents and templates are posted on their sharepoint site for BLM staff accessibility.

**Kathleen Jewett, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

NOAA is part of Department of Commerce (DOC) and the newest federal member of PNW CESU. To date, NOAA's NW Fisheries has not processed a project agreement under the PNW CESU agreement. NOAA has used an individual-award system. DOC and NOAA recently have reviewed guidelines, and started to coordinate and streamline a process for single-source awards with CESU criteria. More information will be posted on the PNW CESU website as it evolves.

**Faith Graves, US Geological Service (USGS)**

Graves was not able to participate as planned. See the information on USGS CESU agreements she submitted at:

[http://www.cfr.washington.edu/research.cesu/participants/federal\\_agencies/USGS.asp](http://www.cfr.washington.edu/research.cesu/participants/federal_agencies/USGS.asp)