Co-Leader’s Corner

After a break in the publication of our PNW CESU Newsletter, we are pleased to return to full production with the able leadership of Tracy Woodman, our new PNW CESU executive program assistant.

The PNW CESU continues to expand to meet the pressing ecosystem research and training needs of the Pacific Northwest. Southern Oregon University and the Alaska Native Science Commission recently joined the PNW CESU bringing our total participants to seven federal agencies and 14 partner universities and organizations. We have also seen an increase in project activity that has been well distributed among our participating universities. While the National Park Service remains the primary federal agency utilizing the CESU, other agencies are increasingly making inquiries to take advantage of the CESU and its broad offerings. Among those offerings are the international opportunities available through the CESU. The PNW CESU remains the only unit in the country with an international partner, which is the University of British Columbia. We are currently in the process of developing an ecosystem based project with UBC, North Cascades National Park and the University of Washington—clearly an example of the kind of project and cooperation envisioned when the CESUs were established. This international effort is being led by John McLean (UBC), Regina Rochefort and Darryll Johnson (NPS), and Robert Gara (UW).

Darryll Johnson and I plan to continue individual meetings with some of our less active partners to answer questions and enhance understanding about the PNW CESU process. If you would like to schedule a PNW CESU informational meeting with interested members from your institution or agency please don’t hesitate to contact us directly.

Gordon Bradley, Darryll Johnson
PNW CESU Co-leaders

PNW CESU Program Brochure Now Available

The new PNW CESU brochure has been produced and is ready for distribution. The brochure serves to introduce the goals and workings of the PNW CESU and is a useful tool to introduce the program. Please contact Tracy Woodman at woodmant@uwashington.edu to request copies of the informational brochure for your institution or agency.

Mission Statement

The Pacific Northwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (PNW CESU) is a partnership for research, technical assistance and education to enhance understanding and management of natural and cultural resources.
This year for the first time, The PNW CESU and the Rocky Mountain CESU joined together for their annual meetings to share lessons learned and exchange ideas across organizations. Washington State University, a member of both the RM and PNW CESU, hosted the two-day event at their main campus in Pullman, Washington. While visiting Washington State University, participants had the opportunity to tour the WSU Grizzly Bear Research Facility and Wild Ungulate/Small Mammal Research Facility.

Benefits of the joint meeting were especially clear during the two working sessions How to get our partners more involved and Up and coming manager’s issues, when participants generated extensive lists of ideas, needs and solutions to some of the challenges faced by CESUs. The first session focused on identifying impediments to partner participation, identifying solutions to those impediments and increasing the involvement of partner minority institutions in CESU projects and activities. A sampling of ideas is given below:

**Identifying Impediments to Participation**

- Shrinking budgets and staff has reduced capacity and traditional relationships win-out. The CESUs are a new way of doing business
- Contracting staff misunderstanding/unfamiliarity with the system - not a grant or a contract, but a cooperative agreement
- Unlike the NPS, other agency partners have not benefited from appropriated CESU start-up funds or host university posted CESU Research Coordinators

**Solutions to Impediments**

- Hold workshops/courses for contracting personnel on how the CESU agreement works
- Could use a “research catalog” from each agency that would inform campuses not just about the research needs of the federal agencies, but also let them know what “resources” the agencies have (e.g. housing, collections of natural specimens of benefit to researchers)
- Make multiple one-on-one visits to agency and university partner offices to present info and answer questions about the CESU

The second working session generated a list of research, technical assistance and education project ideas well suited to the CESUs. A popular suggestion concerned the expanded role university partners could play assisting federal agencies in packaging and communicating scientific research findings both to the public and to managers within agencies. Given the sheer volume of scientific information that managers are expected to digest on a regular basis, participants agreed that university partners could facilitate this ongoing process by designing multiple information management tools tailored to different audiences (web-based, newsletters, annotated bibliographies, research summaries, workshops, etc). Other ideas generated include those given below:

**Research Ideas**

- Understanding the context of change in parks – incorporating the scientific and historical perspectives to help shape future ecosystem change projections.
- Recreational impacts on resource elements – soil, invertebrates, water, etc.
- Species viability characterized by ecotypes
- Develop and disseminate methodology for determining equivalent clear-cut acres, what thresholds affect animal species, what are the triggers?

**Tech Transfer/Education ideas**

- Engineering issues related to maintenance problems faced by agencies (e.g. living snow fence construction)
- Training on statistical and economic analysis for things other than timber sales

**General Management issues: How can CESU help?**

- Making scientific information available and accessible to managers in an understandable way. Can University partners assist with information packaging for managers? Integration of disciplines...making use of university resources for business and marketing techniques.
- Looking across agencies at differing mandates and management practices and how they affect one another.

An informative project symposium was another highlight of the two day event. Projects presented ranged from big-ticket technology aided research to small but highly effective technical assistance projects, which the CESU network is uniquely capable of supporting.
Projects Presented

Delphi Surveys for Inventory and Monitoring the Greater Yellowstone and the Northern Colorado Plateau-- Edwin Krumpe, University of Idaho

Hypospectral imagery and the Elwha Corridor: an example of multi agency cooperation through a CESU agreement-- Jeff Braatne, University of Idaho

Glacier Film Project “Saving the Grizzly, One Hair at a Time”-- John Shier, Montana State University

How a research catalog, small amounts of money, good students and the PNW CESU agreement make significant contributions to North Cascades National Parks biological science program-- Regina Rochefort, National Park Service

Do military combat training overflights impact human users of selected Alaska protected areas: results from a large multi-agency social project-- Jane Swanson, University of Washington

Removing Heavy Metals from Ground Water Systems by Precipitation-- Edmond Wong, University of Idaho

Cultural resources management and Pacific West CESUs-- David Louter, National Park Service

Many thanks to all participants for their enthusiastic and thoughtful involvement in the meeting -- the success of the CESU Network relies, in the end, on the individual efforts of managers, scientists and administrators working together to build the organization’s capacity and effectiveness. For complete notes from the two-day meeting please visit our web site.

New and Improved PNW CESU Web Site

Be sure to visit the new and improved PNW CESU web site at www.cfr.washington.edu/research.cesu.

PNW CESU Projects - FY 2003

In this initial edition of Cooperative Ventures, a complete listing of all FY 2003 project titles, funding amounts and cooperators is provided on a convenient insert. In future issues look for an updated listing of all new projects since the last report. In addition to new projects, considerable funds pass through the PNW CESU in the form of project modifications. Fiscal year 2003 modification totals are listed on the project insert as well. For a complete breakdown of PNW CESU project activity since FY 2001 by type and cooperator, or for detailed project summary information, including project abstracts, please visit our web site at www.cfr.washington/research.cesu

Project Snapshot FY 01-03

project funds: $4,354,233
number of projects: 92
cooperators involved: 11
# PNW CESU Projects

**Fiscal year 03**  
(Oct. 1 2002-Sept. 30 2003)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number</th>
<th>Project name</th>
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<th>University partner</th>
<th>Agency partner</th>
<th>FY of funding</th>
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<td>Deploy Automated Profiling Vehicle on Crater Lake</td>
<td>5,500.00</td>
<td>OSU</td>
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<td>J9W88030010</td>
<td>Ecological Consequences of Recreational Use – Trapper Lake Basin</td>
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<td>J9W88030005</td>
<td>Develop Bull Trout Monitoring Plan and Critical Habitat Assessment</td>
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<td>Mapping Exotic Weeds at Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area</td>
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<td>J9W88030008</td>
<td>Black Bear Food Habits at Yosemite National Park</td>
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<td>Identification of Bat Roosts within John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, Oregon</td>
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<td>XXXXX</td>
<td>Ecological Effects and Control of Polygonum Cuspidatum</td>
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<td>J9W88030003</td>
<td>Coordination of Monitoring Program for the Northern Semi-Arid Network and Completion of Phase I Report for Monitoring</td>
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<td>J9W88030014</td>
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<td>J9W88030020</td>
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<td>J9W88030022</td>
<td>Craters of the Moon Archaeological Overview and Assessment</td>
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<td>Develop an Oceanic and Nearshore Research and Monitoring Database for the Southwest Alaska Network</td>
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<td>Selecting Visitor Carrying Capacity Indicators and Proposing Potential Standards for Mount Rainier National Park</td>
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<td>The Collection of Social Information Necessary for Resource and Visitor Management in the Backcountry of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve</td>
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<td>Recreational Activities and Associated Human Impacts near Lakes Stocked with Fish</td>
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<td>The Collection of Social Information Necessary for Resource and Visitor Management in the Dyea Area of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park</td>
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**Total new projects FY 03** $706,757.00

**Total Modification Funds FY 03** $874,302.00

**Total projet funds FY 03** $1,518,059.00

**Total project funds FY 02** $1,738,835.00

**Total project funds FY 01** $1,034,339.00

**Project grand total to-date** $4,354,233.00
Welcome Southern Oregon University and the Alaska Native Science Commission. The PNW CESU is in the final stages of signing Southern Oregon University and the Alaska Native Science Commission as new university partners. Final copies of the amendment will be mailed to all partners in the coming weeks.

Contact info:

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Executive Director
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The US Fish and Wildlife Service has appointed Paul Heimowitz as their new representative to the PNW CESU. After an initial visit with the PNW CESU co-leaders this summer, Paul looks forward to learning more about the CESU and facilitating the USFWS participation in CESU projects and activities. Contact info:

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Aquatic Invasive Species and Research Coordinator
US Fish and Wildlife Service
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Portland, OR 97232-4128
503-872-2763
paul_heimowitz@fws.gov

Cooperative Ventures is available online at www.cfr.washington.edu/research/CESU

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