

**PNW CESU 2017 Spring Partners Meeting Teleconference Minutes**  
**May 9<sup>th</sup> 10:00am - 11:30am (PDT)**

**Attendees:** Tom Fish (National CESU Network), Chris Lauver (NPS), Teresa Bresee (UW), Louisa Evers (BLM), Paul Heimowitz (USFWS), Simon Kihia (USFS), Jason Podrabsky (PSU), Kevin ? (SMUMN), Rachel Brown (Seattle U), Karen Schmitt (UAS), Matthew Carlson (UAA), Heather Crowley (BOEM), Sherri Whittaker (USACE), ? ADF&G, Julie Guggino (CWU).

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. New Member, Seattle University, represented by Rachel Brown. SU is interested in capstone design and solar and environmental studies, and partnering with NPS among other federal agencies.
  
2. PNW CESU Program Activity and Work Plan
  - a. Reviewed PNW CESU activity from 2015 (master agreement was renewed) through 2017.
  - b. New University of Washington Interim Director & PNW CESU Co-Leader Dr. Elizabeth Van Volkenburg.
  - c. Host Support Task Agreement issued for \$42,800 (9/20/2016 – 9/19/2020). Further FY16 and/or FY17 funding is anticipated.
  - d. Seattle University voting occurred in Dec 2016. All votes supported accepting Seattle University as a new member. All 12 federal agencies and 14 of our 18 partners voted and the Amendment is pending.
  - e. New PNW CESU website went live in May 2016 and 23 funding announcements have been posted along with completed projects' final reports, newsletters, and events.
  - f. Feb 2017 PNW CESU newsletter issued to 600 subscribers, opened by 150, and viewed 550 times.
  - g. Three organizations have expressed interest in joining the PNW CESU: North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Center for Natural Lands Management.
  
3. PNW CESU FY16 Fiscal Review
  - a. FY16 had a total of \$9.6 million, with \$6.2 million towards 50 new projects and \$3.3 million of additional funding towards 51 existing projects, a 28% increase over FY15.
  - b. While FY16's number of new projects and additional funding modifications have dropped, the funding amount towards new projects has increased from FY15 by 42%, with a slight increase in funding towards existing projects as well.
  - c. Agency funding:
    - i. National Park Service supplied the most funding (\$2.8 million) though this was a 15% decrease from FY15. Both the number of new projects and additional funding modifications dropped: FY16 had 16 new projects worth \$1.2 million compared to FY15's 35 new projects worth \$1.9 million. FY16 had 21 existing projects which received \$1.5 million, compared to FY15's 26 existing projects which received \$1.3 million.
    - ii. BLM and NRCS had record years, supplying the most funding since they joined the PNW CESU, with \$2.4 million from BLM and \$1.1 million from NRCS.
    - iii. USACE supplied \$1.4 million towards one modification and three new projects (details in Partner Funding below).
    - iv. USGS's FY16 funding increased 40% from FY15, and USFWS's funding more than doubled from FY15.

- v. NOAA added an additional \$619,331 towards an existing project (details in Partner Funding below).
      - vi. Since 2001 (PNW CESU's first fiscal year), over \$99.8 million has been supplied by our federal agency members towards 815 projects with our university and state partners.
    - d. Partner funding:
      - i. OSU received the most with \$3.1 million, which included 5 new BLM projects (\$1 million), 4 new NRCS projects (\$1.1 million), and \$535,000 in additional funding towards a USACE Willamette River project, *Willamette River Instream Ecological Flow*, along with additional funding towards 7 existing projects.
      - ii. UW (host) received the second most with \$1.7 million, which includes their first project with USACE (\$284,000), *Flora and Fauna Diversity in the John Day/ Willow Creek Project*.
      - iii. PSU received \$1.3 million from six different agencies towards 15 new projects and 5 existing projects.
      - iv. UID received almost \$1 million with over half of that coming from USACE for the *Columbia River Basin (CRB) Fish Monitoring* project.
      - v. Alaska Department of Fish & Game received \$325,685 for an NPS project, *Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve Harvest Studies*.
      - vi. University of Alaska, Anchorage, received \$619,000 from NOAA towards their existing project, *Kachemak Bay NEER*.
- 4. National CESU Updates (National CESU Network Director Tom Fish)
  - a. The MOU renewal is out for signature and expires this month.
  - b. Discussed the history and status of the IDC rate and Host Support funding.
  - c. 16 of 17 CESUs have received Host Support funding. The new mechanism has each federal agency supplying \$1,800 per CESU they have joined (with the exception of USFS and ARS). FY16 and FY17 funding is being accumulated, transferred, and will be disbursed later this year.
  - d. Howard University PhD student will be assisting the Network Office with database and program outreach and communication efforts.
  - e. National CESU Network meeting will be held the summer of 2018.
  - f. The CESU Council will be meeting next week to review, discuss, and vote on CESU renewals.
- 5. Technical Representative Role
  - a. Details of responsibilities and actions the Tech Reps can take to support the PNW CESU were discussed.
- 6. Strategic Plan
  - a. The Goals and Objectives section of the Strategic Plan were reviewed. Further discussion of the Strategic Plan will be held when the position of UW Director of School of Environmental and Forest Sciences is filled.
- 7. Partner Updates
  - a. BLM will have a shift in funding since they will no longer have climate change projects but instead will focus on advancing science projects.
- 8. Next Meeting will be held in the Fall of 2017.