Stakeholder Advisory Committee Online Meeting

MEETING NOTES
June 10, 2020 | 10:00 – 11:30 PDT

Attendees
Tribes and Tribal Organizations
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians – Chas Jones
Bureau of Indian Affairs – Keith Hatch
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission – Laura Gephart
Tribal Climate Change Project, University of Oregon - Kathy Lynn
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians – Kelly Coates
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission – Eliza Ghitis
Tulalip Tribes – Preston Hardison
Suquamish Tribe – Paul Williams

Federal Agencies
Bonneville Power Administration – Chris Furey
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association – Kevin Werner
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Jolyne Lea, Heather Hofman
USDA Northwest Regional Climate Hub – Jessica Halofsky, Paris Edwards
Bureau of Reclamation – David Denton
Bureau of Land Management – Bruce Hollen
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Sean Finn, Mike Hudson, Paul Heimowitz
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative - John Tull
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative – John Mankowski
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Linda Anderson-Carnahan
U.S. Geological Survey – Kyle Blasch
Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center – Nicole DeCrappeo, Betsy Glenn, Elise Elliott-Smith

State Agencies
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife – Lynn Helbrecht
Idaho Department of Fish and Game – Leona Svancara, Frank Edelman
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – Davia Palmeri
Invited Speakers and Observers
Boise State University – Lejo Flores
Oregon State University – Lindsey Thurman
University of Washington – Meade Krosby, Mary Ann Rozance, Amy Snover, Darcy Widmayer
Washington State University - Jan Boll, Julie Padowski
North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center - Aparna Bamzai-Dodson, Alisa Wade

Welcome and Introductions
Lead: Nicole DeCrappeo

Statement on Current Affairs
- Want to acknowledge the current moment and encourage people to think about this throughout our discussion
- Today is Shutdown Stem day – an effort to pause business as usual within academia to reflect on opportunities for change, for how to dismantle barriers/oppression in the STEM fields
- Input from SAC members:
  - Davia Palmeri
    - Need shared framework for how to address inequity in ODFW's Climate Adaptation Plan
    - Oregon conservation and recreation fund is building equity into projects they fund, making OR spaces more available to all for recreating
    - OR was founded as a state that banned all black people – this was in constitution until 2001
  - John Tull
    - Important that we all continue to talk about this
  - Preston Hardison
    - The Convention on Biological Diversity is looking at various funding, granting, loans and other monetary related criteria for biodiversity conservation, since funding is a control point for many things.
    - Do agencies have criteria built into climate funding criteria to do things like addressing equity, procedural rights, protecting traditional knowledge, etc.?
    - Project selection criteria - most are outcomes-oriented, but there are also process-oriented criteria (e.g.: community-, minority-, tribally-led criteria.
    - This is a good time to approach Congress for racial justice related amendments to public finance criteria.
  - Aparna Bamzai-Dodson
    - If you're a podcast listener, highly recommend the Seeing White season of Scene on Radio for gaining a better understanding of the history of institutional racism in the US: https://www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/
  - Keith Hatch
    - Continue to encounter glass ceiling at BIA NWRO
  - John Mankowski
    - Thank you for making space for this during this meeting. The Network for Landscape Conservation statement at: https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Black-Lives
We need to understand and acknowledge that the environmental field has left so many people behind

Amy Snover

A lot of reflection being requested around admissions policy. For the selection of research fellows, CASC is selecting/awarding fellowships to folks already admitted to universities. We are continuing to figure out what we can do in that role to understand diversity of applicants and advisors. Now ULT is broadening conversation to how we bring this learning to folks beyond the fellows at our universities, and how do we connect learning within/outside of university. Looking at changes directly under our control and change we can try to influence.

Sean Finn

One very small step is that the USFWS Science Applications program has earmarked $800,000 in FY20 specifically for diversity and inclusion - the intent is to engage young people from marginalized communities to have better access to career opportunities in natural resource conservation.

Eliza Ghitis

NAACP has great climate change resources – climate adaptation planning guide focused on equity / geared toward community organizers

NWIFC: NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program: [https://www.naacp.org/issues/environmental-justice/](https://www.naacp.org/issues/environmental-justice/)


Nicole

We have a hard time moving money directly to tribal partners – committed to figuring it out

Beyond that, we can definitely think more about how we can fund projects

**Operations & Strategy**

**Leads:** Nicole DeCrappeo

**Purpose:** Provide updates on upcoming SAC meeting, network changes and NW CASC strategic planning.

**Fall SAC Meeting**

- Virtual meeting
- Considering 1- and 2-day options
  - Will send out a poll to vote on options
- Content – strategy, tools, activities
  - Would like small planning committee – will be soliciting responses

**CASC Network Changes**

- As of Jun 1, Nicole is Director of NW & NC CASC
- NW CASC and NC CASC remain separate centers
- NW CASC will bring on Deputy Director detailee this summer and hope to have a
permanent Deputy in 6-12 months
- Looking for cross-CASC opportunities and opportunities to transfer best practices between regions

Strategy Updates
- Updating overall strategic plan
  o Need USGS approval of plan
- Updating strategies for our focus areas (except for science area - Science Agenda already complete)
  o Communications Strategy and Training & Capacity-Building Strategy will be internal operating documents

Supporting NW Tribes’ Climate Resilience Efforts
Leads: Chas Jones
Purpose: Provide an update on NW CASC Tribal Liaison activities.

Recent Tribal Liaison Activities
- Invited/presented to Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Council
- Co-authored ATNI Tribal Infrastructure Relocation report for BIA
  o Estimated unmet need in CONUS: $1.45 B for implementation projects, $462M for planning projects
- Tribal Engagement Strategy
  o Continuing to work on this
- Planning efforts:
  o Tribal Climate Camp (rescheduled for May 2021)
  o National Tribal Leaders Climate Change Summit (rescheduled for Spring 2021)
- BIA Tribal Resilience Program FY20 Awards
  o US – 159 awards = $14M
  o NW – 36 awards = $3.5M
  o Chas assisted 6 tribes and 1 ITO with proposals = $970K in TRP funding

University Consortium Activities
Leads: Amy Snover, Meade Krosby
Purpose: Provide update on current and upcoming university consortium activities.

2020 - 2021 Fellows (Amy Snover)
- NW CASC’s Research Fellowship Program is an annual program to solicit and fund climate adaptation research aligned with science agenda priorities and provide training in the principles and practices of coproducing actionable science.
- Criteria for selection
  o New or ongoing projects
  o Research that is relevant to NW CASC stakeholders and aligns with Science Agenda
- 2020-21 cohort has been selected
  o Fellowships begin at end of summer and run through following summer
  o Funding for research, training through cohort calls, winter seminar

Deep Dive Workshop (Meade Krosby)
- Covers an emerging issue around natural resource management – what is the state of the science and practice around the issue and what are the gaps? Workshop leads to creation of an actionable science agenda.
  - First deep dive (Nov 2018) on westside fire
  - 2020 deep dive on Managing post-fire vegetation change in a warming climate (re-imagined from 2-day workshop)
    - kick-off webinar on June 3rd, 2020 – objectives and process
    - summer 2020 - working groups will develop knowledge syntheses
    - fall 2020 – actionable science agenda
    - implementation – NW CASC funding opportunities
- Who attended?
  - Tribal, academic, federal, NGO, state, private
  - Scientists, outreach policy-maker, resource management practitioners
- Syntheses
  - State of science
  - State of practice
  - State of policy

Northwest Climate Conference (Amy)
- Washington’s turn to host the next conference, lead by the UW Climate Impacts Group.
- UPDATE
  - Cancelled fall 2020 in-person meeting
  - Looking into options for remote conference in spring 2021
  - Stay tuned for input request

**Science for Managing NW Natural and Cultural Resources**

*Leads:* Jessica Halofsky, Darcy Widmayer, Paul Heimowitz, Betsy Glenn  
*Purpose:* Highlight current and recent projects.

Changing wildfires, changing forests (Jessica Halofsky)
- Jessica Halofsky - new director of NW Climate Hub & Western Wildlands Threat Assessment Center (USFS-funded – focused on applied science)
- Worked with Brian Harvey and Dave Petersen to develop *Changing wildfires, changing forests* synthesis
- Context – recent large and colliding wildfires
- Developed synthesis of published info on fire and climate change in PNW – looked at different types of info
  - Paleoecological, tree rings records, observed trends in warming, model projections
    - Ex: Paleo
      - Fire *did* change with climate in the past (pollen and charcoal from lake sediment cores)
      - As climate changed, so did vegetation
    - Ex: Tree ring records
      - Show that warmer and drier summers in past resulted in more fire
- What does this mean for forests in PNW?
  - High-severity reburns may occur before forests recover from the most recent high-
severity fires
  o Large fires creating larger and more homogenous patches of stand-replacing fire
  o Post-fire regeneration is very sensitive to climate (seedlings)
  o Drought, bark beetles and fires will likely interact
  o Forests will change in species composition and structure and in some places will transition to non-forest
  o How do we manage for resilient ecosystems in a warmer climate?
    ▪ Increase landscape diversity
    ▪ Manage stand density
    ▪ Prepare for and treat large disturbances as an opportunity
    ▪ Reconsider planting strategies

- Products
  o Fact sheet, story map, published synthesis in fire ecology (open access)
  o See NW CASC’s announcement about fire synthesis and links to products: https://nwcasc.uw.edu/2020/02/06/new-nw-casc-funded-synthesis-explores-the-effects-of-changing-climate-conditions-on-wildfires-and-forests-of-the-northwest/

Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment Special Issue on Climate Change Refugia (Darcy Widmayer)
- New special issue in *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* about climate change refugia – published on June 1st
  o 9 papers and a guest editorial, all open-access
  o Research from Climate Adaptation Science Center researchers, including researchers funded by NW CASC, affiliates and resource managers from across the network
  o Covers diversity of climate refugia-related research – reflects on how far research has come in recent years, provides real-world examples of refugia conservation strategies and identifies ongoing research needs to effectively manage refugia in a changing climate
- Work born out of the work of the *Refugia Research Coalition* (RRC). The RRC is funded by the Northwest and Northeast CASCs to bring a network of scientists and managers together to advance refugia research and translate it into conservation on-the-ground
  o Effort led by Dr. Toni Lyn Morelli, USGS Research Ecologist at the Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center
- Coordinated communications effort between NW, SW & National CASCs to announce the special issue
  o See the announcement and links to the special issue: https://nwcasc.uw.edu/2020/06/01/climate-change-refugia-special-issue-buying-time-for-biodiversity-to-adapt-in-a-changing-world/

NW Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change Network (NW RISCC) (Paul Heimowitz)
- Framework to help resource managers and biologist incorporate climate change science into invasive species prevention, early detection, control, monitoring and research activities
  o Replicate successful aspects of NE RISCC
  o Advisory team, stakeholder list, regional workshop/webinar
  o EcoAdapt, NW CASC, USFWS
- Comment from Preston: Invasive species are easily shown to have many adverse impacts. It would be good to involve tribes, because they may have some different perspectives. Many
are intensively managing invasives. Some, however, have become dependent on some invasives because of displacement of native species. Their belief systems may see invasive species differently. There is a small literature on beneficial values of invasives (e.g.: as foundation species).

- Just prepared a report for the Local Biodiversity Outlook (LBO) on the implementation of Aichi Target 12 on invasive species that should be up online soon. I will provide a link when available.

Question for Chas about Tribal Climate Summit
- 2020-21 Tribal Climate Summit cycle not funded by BIA

**SAC Organizations’ Climate Adaptation Activities**

*Leads:* SAC members

*Purpose:* Report out on SAC organizations’ current and planned climate adaptation activities.

**Chris Furey: BPA Update**
- Columbia River Systems Operations EIS (BR, Army Corps) – looking at different operations for Columbia River hydrologic
- RMJOC-II Climate Modeling – looks at climate impacts on streamflow
- Pollinator Corridors in Transmission ROWs
  - Collab to create pollinator coordinators – feed mixes and wildflowers in rights-of-way
  - National pollinator week coming up – virtual events
    - To receive pollinator lecture links, recipes, art tips, buzzing music, obscure pollinator facts, and to LIVE STREAM the new film, sign up here: https://eventme/E5b1DD
- Ongoing Habitat Restoration Actions
  - Reconnection project – working with other agencies to raise Hwy 14 to 500-yr flood level / reconnecting river to historic floodplain ($25M dedicated to this)

**Jessica Halofsky: NW Climate Hub Update**
- Upcoming webinar on drought risk aimed at NRCS field staff/partners
  - Partnership with NRCS & National Drought Mitigation Center
  - Registration available soon

**John Mankowski: Update**
- Now independent contractor working on landscape conservation
- CCLC – Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative (https://www.ctoclc.org/)
  - Looking at regional challenges – theory of change
  - Bringing people together around shared values for this landscape in the future – understanding the rich suite of ecosystems and looking at landscape-scale challenges
  - Conservation blueprint for future
  - Mapping shared / collective values
    - Working lands – farms and forests
    - Conservation priorities – species, connectivity, climate impacts
  - Drawing on science from many on this call
Lynn Helbrecht: WDFW Update
- Legislature - New gg emissions reductions standards
- Legislature - Encouraging agencies to focus on sequestration
- $50M proviso to fund climate
  - Denied due to COVID
- How to protect biodiversity ecosystem function values as state pursues decarbonization?

Davia Palmeri: ODFW Update
- Governor Kate Brown
  - Executive order on new gg emission targets
- State agencies to set up specific programs - cap and trade programs
- ODFW – produced report on how to incorporate cc into all work
  - How do we make decisions to protect fish and wildlife under climate change
- Statewide climate adaptation framework
  - Will include decision-making - interagency framework for making decisions (ex: make sure pump stations for new solar power doesn't overlap w/ coldwater refugia)

Mike Hudson: USFWS Update
- Regional climate seminar series
  - Quarterly, internal
  - First one focused on agency's carbon footprint around flying
  - Second will focus on what has been learned from COVID – how to keep some positive practices in place that can reduce carbon footprint
- Invasive species work
- Managed relocation
  - Overarching issue amongst partners as well
  - Talking with USGS and human dimensions experts
  - Comment from Preston: Can provide perspective on managed relocation. Again, tribal and social issues at point of origin in destination. Corridors have similar issues, adding potential defaunation. Complex, and no easy solutions.

FY20 Research Project Portfolio (Betsy Glenn)
- 6 projects