

**GP-CESU Conference Call**  
**June 12, 2007**

**Participants:**

Gary Beauvais, University of Wyoming  
Viola Hillman, Bureau of Land Management  
Kyle Hoagland, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Dennis Jorde, US Geological Survey  
RaeLynn Jones Loss, University of Minnesota  
Sheryl Kunickis, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Christine Lockert, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Rod Lym, North Dakota State University  
Bob Shaw, Texas A&M University  
Gary Willson, National Park Service

Guest: Ken Smith, New Mexico Highlands University

**Announcements:**

- The GP-CESU is hosting the University of Nebraska, School of Natural Resources fall seminar this year. This is an opportunity to showcase some of the research that is funded through, or otherwise associated with the GP CESU program. Ten speakers will be presenting information on their on-going/completed research projects. Representatives from South Dakota State University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Texas A&M University; as well as agency representatives from the National Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey will give presentations covering a variety of topics. See the attached schedule for more information.
- The CESU Network has had an interim coordinator, Mary Foley of the NPS, since January 2006. After a second announcement, five individuals were interviewed for the position of Network coordinator. An individual was offered, and accepted the position; final approvals are being sought. A formal announcement will be made once everything is finalized.
- The CESU Network display has been updated to include all current members of the network. The map now includes a GIS spatial component, so it should be easier to update and maintain. The map handout has a list of partners on the back. The partner matrix identifying all CESU partner institutions, organizations, and agencies; and which CESU(s) they are in, has also been updated. Both of these documents will be available on the GP-CESU web site, as well as the Network web site. [see attachments]
- The CESU Network web site is being moved and redesigned. A new webmaster is working on it, and will be keeping it current. It is possible that the URL will

have to change. We expect to see a mock-up soon, with the new site going live in July. If you have any information that you think should be included on the Network site, please contact Christine Lockert at [clockert2@unl.edu](mailto:clockert2@unl.edu)

### **Application of New Mexico Highlands University:**

Dr. Ken Smith, of the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute was on the call and gave a brief talk about NMHU and their proposal to join.

- Small university, > 70% Hispanic students
- Good natural resources program
- Trying to recruit land management entities to their campus
  - Southern Plains Inventory & Monitoring Network, an NPS program is relocating there. The basic goal of the NPS Inventory and Monitoring program is to provide park managers with comprehensive, scientifically-based information about the nature and status of selected biological resources occurring within park boundaries in a form that increases its accessibility and utility for making management decisions, for scientific research, and for educating the public.
  - At this time, 1 PhD (the Network leader), and 1 technician will be at Highlands, there will be a staff of 5-6 eventually (although not everyone will be stationed at Highlands)
  - Compliments what the New Mexico Forest and Water Restoration Institute does
- Lots of federal lands in the area – good recruitment opportunities for students
- Opportunities for collaboration with faculty and students through the SOPN and NMFWR

The application was sent out to our technical representatives on June 7, please vote no later than July 9, 2008.

### **Partnering in recruitment and student programs:**

Vi Hillman, Newcastle Field Manager, WY Bureau of Land Management. She inherited the responsibility of serving on the managers committee, and is new to the CESU program. BLM is predicting to lose 60 – 65% of their work force to retirement in the upcoming years. They are accelerating their work force planning and wanted to discuss possible ways to partner with the CESU to help recruit students/profs to work with BLM. Contact information for Vi will be on our web site, along with any additional employment/internship opportunities that she provides us. We can also forward this information to grad students and other technical representatives for distribution.

### **Grants.gov/cooperative agreements and CESUs:**

There currently is a draft Department of Interior Department Manual requiring competition of cooperative agreements and posting of opportunities on Grants.gov. NPS feel they can partner with any partner in a CESU without competition because the competition already occurred when the CESU was established. So they are not complying with the law at this time, it is being reviewed by DOI and they will wait and see what happens. NRCS is also not complying. Other agencies (BLM, USBR, USGS,

USFWS) are complying and posting to Grants.gov. Just be aware that some procedures have changed if you are going to be working with one of those agencies.

**Fall 2007 GP-CESU Meeting**

We plan to hold a meeting in Lincoln, NE in the fall. Our last formal meeting was in April 2006. Several dates were provided that coincide with other meetings, etc. We will try our best to select a date that will work for as many of you as possible. It will be announced very shortly. Possible topics for the meeting include: funding sources; continue to improve linkages between university/federal agencies to identify research needs; multiple agency project; and involving minority partner institutions. We are also hopeful that the new network coordinator will be able to attend.