

**Annual Report
Western Coordinating Committee -21
Revegetation and Stabilization of Deteriorated and Altered Lands
January 29 and 30, 2004
Salt Lake City, Utah**

Attending Members

Bruce Roundy (Host), Brigham Young University
James Dobrowolski (Chairperson), Washington State University
Dennis Neuman (Vice Chairperson and Acting Secretary), Montana State University
Thomas Thurow (Administrative Advisor), University of Wyoming
Mike O'Neill, USDA-CSRESS
Roy Jemison, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station
Cindy Salo, USGS, Snake River Field Station
Stuart Hardegree, Northwest Watershed Research Center, Agricultural Research Service
Gene Schupp, Utah State University
Norm Harris, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Nancy Shaw, USFS-RMRS-Boise
Jeanne Chambers, USFS-RMRS-Reno
Dave Pyke, USFS-FRESC
Steve Whisenant, Texas A&M University
Edie Allen, University of California

Venue

The 2004 WCC21 Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the 57th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management.

WCC21 Business Meeting – Morning of January 30, 2004

Introduction and Agenda (James Dobrowolski – WCC21 Chairperson)

Goals and objectives for this Annual Meeting are to discuss and take action on the following items:

- Annual committee research reports and deadline
- Charter renewal
- CSREES administrative report
- WCC-21 website
- WCC-21 poster
- Past and future committee activities report
- WCC-21 membership and participation
- WCC-21 photo-database
- Nomination/voting for committee secretary
- Annual meeting location for 2005
- Meeting Field trips

Annual Committee Research Reports and Deadline

Tom Thurow (WCC21 administrative advisor) provided detailed information and policy regarding the timing of WCC21 reporting requirements determined by the NIMSS administration. Two reports will be filed within NIMSS within each year:

1. The NIMSS reporting system requires that an annual report be filed within 60 days of the annual meeting. This report, compiled by the secretary, should discuss the activities that took place during that meeting and the plans for activities throughout the year. The secretary should then forward the report to all WCC21 committee members. The WCC21 administrative advisor will post it on NIMSS.
2. Activity Report - To accommodate the calendar year reporting structure associated with most institutions, the WCC21 Activity Report submission deadline is mid-February. This year, the deadline for submission is February 13, 2004. The activity report will be assembled by the chair and contain the following information: 1] research report from each scientist (relevant research being conducted by other scientists within the a WCC21 scientist's organization {department, group, unit, division} may be cited in the introduction of their report {this would probably be most efficiently done by providing relevant web links}.); 2] relevant publications; 3] reference web site address for report on last committee meeting and discuss committee activities conducted since last committee meeting; and 4] other committee activities (e.g., photo-database, poster, participation of scientific meetings). Each committee member is responsible for submitting a research report by mid-February to the committee chair. The committee chair would then forward the report to the WCC21 administrative advisor who will post it on NIMSS. The suitability of the annual report is evaluated by NIMSS administrators using the following criteria: 1] progress reports filed in a timely manner; 2] coordinating linkages; 3] information exchange and technology transfer; and 4] member attendance at the annual meeting and participation in WCC21 committee activities.

Charter Renewal

The current Charter expires in the fall of 2004. Jim Dobrowolski, as Chairperson will prepare the Charter renewal using the current language, which specifies a description and justification for the Committee, objectives, expected outcomes, educational plan, participants, and operational structure. A short discussion was held to regarding the objectives for this committee, and no changes to WCC-21 objectives were recommended. Each member was asked by the Chairperson to submit, along with the calendar report, WCC21 related activities they participated in since the last renewal. Jim Dobrowolski will compile a list of these activities and present it as an appendix to the charter renewal. The renewal will be submitted through our Administrative Advisor to the appropriate evaluators.

CREES Administrative Report

Mike O'Neill, CSREES representative from Washington, stressed that WCC-21 is an information committee with potential significant stakeholder influence on programs and structure of CSREES. The committee may want to position itself by interacting more fully with CSREES. WCC-21 might review the most pertinent Request for Proposals from CSREES and use the meeting as a "listening session" to provide some recommendations about future directions. Jim Dobrowolski will take the lead for this endeavor by contacting key deans, e.g., Dr. Fee Busby, College of Natural Resources at Utah State University and Dr. David Thawley, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources at the University of Nevada, Reno. He will also provide some guidance as to how this activity might link into ECOP (Extension Committee on Organization and Policy), ESCOP (Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy) and ACOP (Academic Programs Committee on Organization and Policy). The WCC-21 might also consider participating with Coordinated Agricultural Program (CAP) activities.

WCC-21 Website

The WCC-21 website is www.fs.fed.us/rm/wcc21/. This site is maintained by Roy Jemison. Roy has initiated a list server so that each of us can communicate with the entire committee. A discussion of members not currently on the list serve, and security issues was held. Individual members can send links to their institutional and personal web sites and Roy will link to the WCC-21 site. In addition, each member may send Roy information that can be placed on the WCC-21 web site. It was suggested that each member view the current web site and send changes and updates to Roy for posting.

WCC-21 Poster

Roy Jemison updated the WCC-21 Poster last year. The poster now lists all committee members. If any one would like to send images, Roy will update the poster with these. Roy will continue to be responsibly for the poster with assistance from Cindy Salo. Within the past year the poster has been displayed at several regional and national conferences including Society for Range Management, Society for Ecological Restoration, American Society of Mining and Reclamation, Billings Land Reclamation Symposium, and the International Seed conference.

Past and Future Committee Activities Report

A brief discussion of the 2003 WCC-21 meeting in Alaska was held. Members attending this meeting shared their experiences and knowledge with special emphasis on the field tours of the wind research being conducted at Fort Greeley, the operation and reclamation at two different gold mines, and the reclamation activities and research being conducted at an Alaskan coal mine.

WCC-21 Membership and Participation

All members must be registered through the NIMSS system. For employees of non-land grant university institutions (e.g., federal employees, Brigham Young University), this is easily done and can be initiated by the WCC21 administrative advisor. For those associated with the Land Grant University Agricultural Experiment Stations, each scientist must solicit their Director's approval so that each can be officially registered through their AES on NIMSS. Land Grant University employees who are not registered by their institution on NIMSS are not considered to be official members of WCC21.

There is an expectation that each member of the committee will provide a research report, participate in committee activities, and attend the annual meeting whenever possible.

WCC-21 Photo-Database

John Harrington, past committee chairperson will coordinate this ongoing committee activity. This will include how images are to be identified and entered into the database with newer software (MS Access and ThumbsPlus), available queries, and outputs via secure and limited web access and/or CD. This is a committee wide activity, and participation by all members was discussed.

Nomination/Voting for Committee Secretary

Nominations for WCC-21 secretary were held with Norm Harris elected by committee acclamation. Gene Schupp was also elected to follow Norm as secretary next year.

Annual Meeting Location for 2005

The next WCC-21 meeting will be held in Boise, Idaho on June 28 and 29, 2005. A half day business meeting on the 28th will be followed by 1 ½ day of field trips. Hosts for this meeting will be Cindy Salo, Nancy Shaw and Stuart Hardegree.

2004 Meeting Action Items

The following action items were identified:

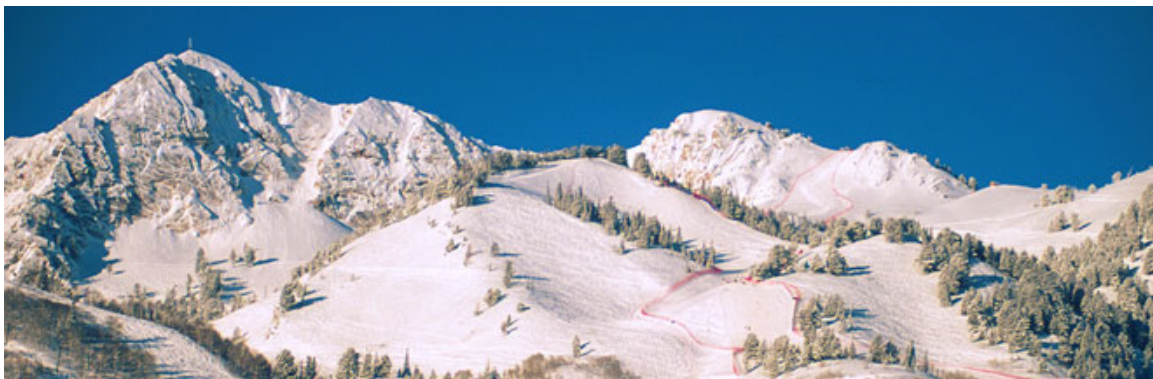
1. Annual activity reports are due by February 13, 2004. These reports are to be submitted to James Dobrowolski. Also to be concurrently submitted is a list of accomplishments, and two images for the WCC-21 Poster.
2. Electronic links to organizational and personal web site may be sent to Roy Jemison. PowerPoint shows may also be sent to Roy and he will link from the committee website.

3. The committee was challenged by Mike O’Neill to identify critical issues and research necessary to address them. He provided specific names of the pertinent CSREES National Program Leaders and administrators such as Anna Palmisano, Deputy Administrator of Competitive Programs, Diana Jerkins, Competitive Programs/Managed Ecosystems, Mark Poth and Deborah Sheely. Competitive Programs/National Research Initiative. James Dobrowolski will take the lead for this action item by drafting a letter from the committee to these individuals. Lastly it was suggested that this interaction between the committee and CSREES become part of the committee’s Annual Meeting and perhaps added to the committee’s Charter.

Meeting Field Trips

Snowbasin Resort – January 29, 2004

The WCC-21 Committee co-sponsored (with Society for Range Management) a field trip to Snowbasin Resort, the site of the 2002 Winter Games Downhill and Super G alpine ski events. This trip included a tour of the mountain facilities and in depth presentations by the representatives of US Forest Service and the mountain manager. These presentations focused on how the resort developed new mountain terrain for the events and how reclamation and restoration activities were conducted so that the development could be done in an environmentally benign way. In order to achieve a construction schedule to host these events, the development was exempted for the National Environmental Policy Act, but all other federal and state environmental laws and regulations were mandated. Stakeholders representing environmental advocacy groups, the USFS, developers, contractors, regulators, and others acted together to address and solve environmental and technological issues regarding hydrology, native species, wetlands, erosion, sensitive terrestrial and avian species, hazardous chemicals, and others during construction and during the 10 days of actual skiing competition. An estimated 30,000 people per day witnessed the competition.



Snowbasin Resort – Site of the 2002 Winter Games Downhill and Super G Alpine Ski Events.

Rocky Mountain Research Station/Shrub Science Laboratory- January 30, 2004

Bruce Roundy arranged a tour and research presentation at the RMRS Shrub Science Laboratory in Provo, Utah. Dr. Susan Meyer, Research Ecologist, lectured on current research being conducted at the Laboratory regarding biocontrol of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum* L). Typical approaches to the control of this species include mowing, early season fire, herbicides, and biocontrol using a systemic pathogen – “smut”. Research includes investigation of genetic factors controlling smut and levels of disease, and concurrently a study of environmental conditions that may control infection.



Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum* L).

Ms. Terry Williams escorted the committee members to Rock Canyon, the site of applied restoration research at a popular recreational area in the mountains above Provo. Native plant species are being used to help stabilize and restore plant communities in a community cooperative effort.



WCC-21 Committee Members and Dr. Susan Meyer.



Rock Canyon Restoration Project, Provo, Utah.