

Fish and Wildlife Break Out Discussion Group
March 3, 2010

Break out discussion group members were asked to state their interests and needs, which were then organized by common theme.

Physical watershed processes and how they relate to the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. Water storage and funding for storage. The impacts and benefits of the physical infrastructure on the water system. Reconstructing past water usage data.
Community based / driven watershed science. Stakeholder groups. Need to integrate water plans with CSU (also needs funding). Need to coordinate with the public. Environmental Justice communities. Integrate with agriculture.
Mitigation based on the whole watershed. Programmatic grants for landscape conservation. Science-based decision making. Need funding to do ecosystem level planning. Full system. Marine ecology. Land management and conservation. Plant sciences and agricultural programs. Restoration and adaptive management.
Partner in environmental programs. Partner with wineries and other groups that are contributing to water pollution. Successful partnership.
Global climate change (graduate program). Public education. Funding climate change research.
Get students interested in resource science jobs.
Would like to hear what others are interested in.
Species recovery. Fire systems and their effect on threatened and endangered species.

Break out discussion group members were asked what benefits might be created by establishing partnerships between CSU institutions and between CSU and agencies. Additionally, they were asked to identify who would benefit and what the downsides / challenges would be regarding such partnerships.

Benefits	Challenges
CSU can provide additional services / share admin staff	Would be working from different locations
Share staff and lab equipment	Matching funds required by some grants
Can help fulfill the public education grant requirement	Difficult to maintain deadlines with student and staff workload flux
Could increase the ability to find matching funds	Deadlines are sometimes missed, would have to provide training
Could get underrepresented students more involved in local policy	Some programs require agencies to do 50% of the work
CSU can help diversity agencies	
Academics will get an agency what it wants and then some while a consultant will get you something on time but it may not be what is needed	
Would enhance education and create job skills	
Students are not burned out therefore they try things that may not have worked in the past	
Resource/information sharing and finding new tools	
CSU allows agencies to get information from gray literature	
CSU system can receive sole-source contacts from the state	
Who will benefit: students, CSU faculty, agency staff and resources	

Commitments

Break out discussion group members were asked what might they do next to achieve these outcomes. The following ideas were brought up during the brainstorm session:

Go back to own CSU and see what resources exist	Get initial project done and build from that success
Look at what is out there that has worked in the past. Focus on community based projects	Brand projects and share with community members (get information out via phone books, agencies and interest groups)
Meet up for coffee and enhance personal network	Agencies come to speak in classrooms and help to develop programs

Break out discussion group members were then asked what they would be willing to commit to do.

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service committed to writing up a proposal on how CSU can integrate with the agency to work on climate change. There is funding coming in for this purpose. The best way to do this is through programmatic grants.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and CSU faculty members committed to work together in the future to enhance science-based decision-making and identify data gaps. They will help each other conduct an assessment and evaluation of current needs paying particular attention to contacting more than just the usual points of contact.
- Both agency and CSU staff agreed to continue to talk about opportunities as they arise.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stressed the importance of getting CSU staff to the March 18th California Landscape Conservation Cooperative meeting.
- CSU staff agreed to get involved with the development of Integrated Regional Water Management Plans and associated projects and grant writing.

Future Discussion and Communication Steps

- Creation / enhancement of a data base of CSU faculty.
- Connect at the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative meeting on March 18th
- Agencies could have a website where they post their needs in advance. Focused not just on grants, but also in developing future agencies employees. Structure grants to have research assistants.
- Tap into the education mission of CSU and enhance public education on climate change.
- CSU needs to identify what they can do and work with agencies to develop a program that focuses on education.
- Should hold a follow up meeting in a few months.
- Email out the notes from this meeting so group can follow up.
- Agency staff will go back and propose the climate change cooperative program idea to their senior management.
- Develop a white paper as a group.