2022 CESU National Meeting

June 21st-23rd

June 23rd

* Round Robin of All CESUs and their updates
  + Pacific Northwest – Teresa Bresee
    - Focus mostly on building their identity – created new logo
    - Two co-leaders
    - Revising front page and website – added pins to the network map
    - Have a project database
  + Californian – Nick Mills
    - Nick Mills ending his term in the C-CESU and a new director – Dennis Baldocchi
    - 59 partners and 13 federal agencies and 18 other partners
    - Since 2019 = eight new partners
      * Two museum partners
    - 124 projects funded in 2020
    - Project highlights
      * Rocky intertidal monitoring analysis
      * National monument museum and archive
      * Geomorphic assessment of Tuolumme River
      * Historic trail public history
      * Mexican Period and WWII resources
    - Encouraging greater student participation and revitalizing website
  + Cheasepeak Watershed – Matt Fitzpatrick
    - One of the largest – 81 partners
    - More historically black colleges and university partners than any other CESU
    - 8 new partners since 2020 and 43 since 2016
    - Data request from partners since renewal
    - Recently published new strategic plan
    - 4 major goals
    - Revamping website
    - A lot of projects based on cultural development
  + Colorado Plateau – Yeon-Su Kim
    - 50 partners
    - Building database platform
    - ~60 projects since 2020
    - Five strategic goals
      * Improve communication
      * Broad engagement in info to federal partners
      * Increase tribal and minority institution involvement
      * Facilitate student research education and internships
      * Maintain effective and efficient organization
  + Great Basin – Carrie Busha
    - 25 partners
      * 12 academic, 10 federal, and 3 NPO
      * 89 projects since 2016 and 32 in 2021
      * Strategic plan building
      * Videos for lightning talks, project highlights, quarterly and annual meetings
  + Great Lakes Northern Forest– Ben Findlay
    - 41 university partners, 9 NPOs and 11 federal
    - New website in 2021
    - Challenges
      * Member engagement
      * Project tracking – lacking standard procedures
  + Great Plains – Paul Hanson
    - Updated website and have a twitter and facebook
    - 13 federal partners and 25 non federal partners
    - 3 new partners in the past year
    - Student award for someone who has worked on a project in the parklands – find better ways to highlight these awardees
  + Great Rivers – Pat Market
    - In a rebuilding phase
    - New NPS Research Coordinator
    - New director
    - Website updated this year
    - 24 institution and 8 federal partners
  + Gulf Coast – Debbie Danford
    - Recent five year review and assessment
    - New website
    - 73 partners, 46 uni, 14 NGO, 13 federal agencies
    - 2021 = 71 projects funded
    - Recovering Texas ocelots
    - Tortoise Translocations at airforce base – Dr. wade ryberg
  + Hawaii Pacific Islands – Sheron Ziegler-Chong
    - Unique aspects
      * Remote
      * Threatened native species ecosystems and communities
      * Vulnerable to climate change
      * Close-knit community
    - 27 partners – 2 new members
    - Project highlight - Explore early park management and those involved
  + North Atlantic Coast – Judith Swift
    - 37 non federal partners, 9 federal partners
    - Self assessment underway
    - Onsite visits promote nonfederal project partnering
    - Need new NPS research coordinator
    - Develop website and social media coverage
    - Promote ancillary educational tool
    - Enhance institutional profile
    - Improve employee and student recruitment
    - Heralds federal investment in environment and cultural applied research
    - Provide taxpayers with positive investment news
    - Improve diversity and student engagement
    - Developing funding opportunity dispersal protocol
    - Promoting cooperative between public and ecological health
  + Piedmont-South Atlantic Coast – Nate Nibbelink
    - Two new partners
    - New website launch las year
    - Annual partner meeting in the fall
    - Highlighted projects – assessing trail and river use at mammoth cave national park and stock origins of loggerheads and green turtles
    - More projects = thin layer placement and analysis of ecosystem response and statistical support for long-term natural resource monitoring
    - 10 federal partners, 22 uni and 12 non-academic
  + Rocky Mountains – Lisa Gerloff
    - 10 federal, non federal 28
    - Created a student research fellowship along with glacier national park – open to all CESU students
    - Spring online seminars about justice, equity, diversity and inclusion
    - Student awards each year
    - Launching a student internship
  + South Florida Caribbean – Evelyn Gaiser
    - Main research topics, Everglades, conservation, response, water, hydrologic restoration
    - One new member this past year
    - Hub transfer form university of Miami
    - Website revamp and new strategic plan
    - Career forum for the graduate students
    - Special session at LTER all scientists meeting
    - Highlighted Project = RECOVER
    - Currently 36 projects at 7 institutions
    - 9 federal partners
  + Southern Appalachian Mountains – not here
* State of the CESU Network
  + Early Days – mission-oriented research , provide technical assistance, and offer educational programs to federal agencies and partners concerned with natural and cultural resource management
  + Before this, there was no multi-agency, university-based, broadly interdisciplinary, and ecosystem oriented research system currently providing scientific research, technical assistance and education to federal resource managers
  + CESU council
    - Setting policy, communicating to agency leadership on CESU matters, etc.
  + Focus areas = collaborate, evaluate, innovate, generate
  + 509 partners in entire program – trend of more non-governmental organizations
  + Increase in funding from 2020 to 2021
  + Very few tribal partners and state local government
  + 17 active federal partner agencies
  + 5 potential new agencies to enroll or reenroll

Insights from breakout groups

* Challenges of the next 20 years is getting folks together, need to know the NGO folks better
* Next 20 years biggest concern: climate change influences all other items on that list – ecological health messages to the general public – healthy environment can equal a healthy economy
  + Climate change is a symptom of over population and do we have the will to tackle this
* Tik-tok = a lot of themes were what we are doing in the CESU – concisely communicate results to the public and decision makers – use technology to collect and disemminate information
* Caution about oversimplification
* Necessity for better integration amongst disciplines and more strength among partners