



Seventh WRP Principals' Meeting Notes

August 11-12, 2015 • Reno, NV

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Seventh WRP Principals' Meeting Agenda

August 11-12, 2015 • Reno, Nevada

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

- 8:00 – 10:00 am **Registration**
- 10:00 – 10:30 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks by WRP Co-Chairs**
- Ms. Janice Schneider, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, DOI
 - Mr. John Conger, Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment
- 10:30 – 10:45 am **Nevada Welcoming Remarks**
- Mr. Ryan McGinness Director, Washington D.C Office, State of Nevada
- 10:45 – 11:00 am **WRP Overview and WRP Steering Committee Recommendations**
- Mr. Tony Parisi, WRP Steering Committee Chair
- 11:00 – 12:00 noon **Plenary Session #1: Cybersecurity and Protection of Critical Infrastructure**
- Cyber threats are increasing exponentially, making it more important for state, federal and Tribal entities to work together. During this session, WRP Principals will highlight how this issue impacts communications platforms and national security (e.g. interoperability, DoD mission and electric grid) and make recommendations for building resilience.
- Plenary Leads
 - Kelvin Coleman, DHS Office of Cybersecurity and Communications
 - Commissioner Keith Squires, Utah Department of Public Safety
- Panel Moderator: Mr. Pete Bakersky, Integration Branch Chief, DHS/FEMA, RVIII NPD (SC Member and MRHSDP&A Committee Co-Chair)
- 12:15 – 1:15 pm **Lunch**
- Invocation/Tribal Blessing by Ralph Burns, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
 - Presentation on success of WRP Southeastern Arizona/New Mexico Project:
 - Highlight of efforts by Tom Finnegan, WRP Natural Resources Committee Co-Chair
 - Fort Huachuca Mission by Jeffrey Jennings, Deputy to the Commanding General, US Army Intelligence Center of Excellence & Fort Huachuca
 - NRCS/USDA Involvement by Astor Boozer, Regional Conservationist, West
- 1:30 – 2:30 pm **Plenary Session #2: Species Management**
- Early conservation efforts (prior to a listing of a species) can maximize management options, reduce costs and ultimately eliminate the need for listing. WRP Partners spend significant resources to assist with environmental planning. Through enhanced collaboration among WRP Partners it may be possible to more effectively support species in a non-regulatory environment to benefit the species and land. This panel will share their insight and offer best practices.
- Plenary Leads:
 - Mr. Michael Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Department of Interior
 - Mr. Ted Koch, Field Supervisor, Reno Office, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 - Mr. Tony Wasley, Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife (& Past President of WAFWA)
- Panel Moderator: Ms. Shelley Smith, Deputy State Director, Natural and Cultural Resources, BLM Utah (Natural Resources Committee Co-Chair)

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2:30 – 3:30 pm

Plenary Session #3: Aviation

This panel will highlight changes in aviation over the past year such as FAA rule changes; Regional Emergency Transportation Coordinator (RETCO) role (how this supports aviation users); wildfires and drones issues; how the integration of UAVs is going along with thoughts on the future; Next Gen; mission of the National Transportation Safety Board and its involvement with aviation safety issues including meteorological towers; and aviation challenges and recommendations.

- Plenary Leads:
 - Dr. Kristi Dunks, Analyst/Senior Investigator, National Transportation Safety Board
 - Mr. Glen Martin, Regional Administrator, FAA Western-Pacific Region
 - Mr. Dave C. Suomi, Deputy Regional Administrator, FAA Northwest Mountain Region

Panel Moderator: Mr. Kim Stevens, NASAO (MRHSDP&A Committee Co-Chair)

3:30 – 3:45 pm

Networking Break

3:45 – 4:50 pm

Plenary Session #4: Energy

Panel to highlight major energy developments (renewable and transmission projects) over the past year and potential planning projects and issues, to include: DOE's Quadrennial Energy Review; Developments on Federally Managed Lands; transmission planning efforts within WRP Region and WRP Energy Committee efforts to identify potential mission impacts and recommendations (e.g. Military's ability to test and train and impacts on natural and cultural resources and on Tribal Lands).

- Plenary Leads:
 - Assistant Secretary Brad Crowell, Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy
 - Mr. Jim Kenna, State Director, Bureau of Land Management, California
 - Dr. Vijay Satyal, Senior Policy Analyst, Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC)

Panel Moderator: Mr. Paul Thomsen, Director, Nevada Governor's Office of Energy (Energy Committee Co-Chair)

4:50 – 5:00 pm

Closing Remarks for Day One

5:00 pm

Adjournment of day one

5:10 pm

Principals' Photo

5:00 – 8:00 pm

Evening Reception

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Wednesday, August 12, 2015

7:30 – 8:00 am

Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 8:10 am

Opening Remarks

8:10 – 9:20 am

Plenary Session #5: Water, Drought Planning and Wildfire Management

This past year has seen a significant focus on water issues such as drought, wildfire and fire management. This panel will highlight related issues including: Western Governors' Association Drought Forum; the latest on California's drought and efforts to address water supply; EPA's efforts to address drought resiliency in the Pacific Southwest; and DOI water-efforts, which include a significant wildfire management component. Panel members will share their related best practices and lessons learned applicable to the WRP Region.

- Plenary Leads:
 - Ms. Letty Belin, Senior Counselor to the Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
 - Mr. Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator, EPA Region 9
 - Mr. Wade Crowfoot, Deputy Cabinet Secretary and Senior Advisor, CA Governor's Office
 - Mr. Jim Ogsbury, Executive Director, Western Governors' Association

Panel Moderator: Colonel John Gamelin, Government and External Affairs, MCI West- Camp Pendleton (Natural Resources Committee Co-Chair)

9:20 – 10:45 am

Plenary Session #6: Military Readiness

Panel discussion highlighting the DoD mission in the WRP Region including: new weapons platform (F-35) and increase in unmanned aviation operations (UAS); current issues potentially impacting DoD's ability to carry out its mission such as foreign investment (security issues); frequency spectrum (limited resource); and how DoD thrives in a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous environment.

- Plenary Leads:
 - Major Gen Jefferson Burton, Adjutant General, Utah National Guard
 - Mr. Frank DiGiovanni, Director, Force Readiness and Training, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness)
 - Colonel Robert Stonemark, Chief of Staff, Twelfth Air Force (Air Forces Southern)

Panel Moderator: Major Brian Welsh, Regional Airspace Coordinator & ATC Training and Readiness Officer, MCI West (MRHSDP&A Committee Co-Chair)

10:45 – 11:00 am

Networking break

11:00 – 11:45 am

Business Session

- Confer Hanson Scott Award for Outstanding Leadership
- Recap of WRP 2015/2016 Strategic Priorities and Recommendations
- Discussion and Action by WRP Principals

11:45 – 12:00

Wrap up Discussion and Adjournment



Western Regional Partnership Seventh Principals' Meeting

Brief Meeting Summary

The Western Regional Partnership held its Seventh Principals' meeting on August 11-12, 2015 in Reno, Nevada. The mission of the WRP is to provide a *proactive and collaborative framework for senior-policy level Federal, State, and Tribal leadership to identify common goals and emerging issues in the WRP Region, and to develop solutions that support WRP Partners and protect natural resources while promoting sustainability, homeland security, and military readiness.* The purpose of the Principal's meetings is to review WRP actions and provide policy input for the next year. The meeting was attended by 126 people representing Tribal, State and Federal entities. This meeting was Co-Chaired by Mr. John Conger, Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment, and Ms. Janice Schneider, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Highlights from the meeting included:

- Opening remarks by Mr. Conger, Ms. Schneider, and Mr. Mower on behalf of Gov. Herbert
- Welcoming remarks by Ryan McGinness, State of Nevada
- An overview of the WRP and WRP Steering Committee recommendations for WRP Principals' consideration by Mr. Tony Parisi
- Invocation by Ralph Burns, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
- Presentation on the success of the WRP Southeastern Arizona/New Mexico Project
- Six Plenary Sessions highlighting WRP 2014-2015 Committee efforts along with agencies' involvement in the following plenary session themes:
 - Cybersecurity and Protection of Critical Infrastructure
 - Species Management
 - Aviation
 - Energy
 - Water, Drought Planning and Wildfire Management
 - Military Readiness
- WRP Principals' decisions:
 - For the first time since WRP was formed, added a state by including the State of Colorado in the WRP Charter, Mission Statement and the Vision/Mission document.
 - WRP 2015-2016 Strategic Priorities, which set the overarching goals for WRP Steering Committee; WRP Energy; Natural Resources and WRP Military Readiness, Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Aviation as well as the GIS Support Group to complete before the next WRP Principals' Meeting.
 - Approved 2015-2016 WRP Chair, Mike Mower & Vice Chair, Ryan McGinness.
 - No Changes to: WRP Structure (Including Committees); Vision Statement; Goals.
 - Kept WRP Tagline: *Reliable Outcomes for America's Defense, Energy, Environment and Infrastructure in the West.*
 - WRP Principals conferred the Hanson Scott Award (for Outstanding Leadership) to Mr. Tony Parisi, Mr. Tom Finnegan and Dr. Lee Allison.

The next WRP Principals' Meeting is planned for Salt Lake City, Utah in August 2016.

Seventh WRP Principals' Meeting

Meeting Notes

I. Welcome by Mr. John Conger, DoD; Ms. Janice Schneider, DOI; Mr. Mike Mower, State of Utah

Mr. Conger, Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment, thanked the State of Nevada for hosting the meeting and welcomed the WRP Principals and meeting attendees. He noted the significant DoD presence in the West. The DoD focus is on completing its missions; many of the fundamental supporting requirements to complete the mission have commonality with other Federal, State and Tribal entities. The continued genuine engagement among such governmental entities is even more important in an atmosphere of further-constrained budgets, and that the DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program is a great example of how to leverage resources from multiple partners to achieve and further goals. WRP serves as a tremendous forum to assist agencies in accomplishing their mission and provides an opportunity to interact with high level members and find those common alignments. He recognized Fort Huachuca, winner of the 2014 REPI Challenge and a Sentinel Landscape designation, and congratulated Naval Air Station Fallon, recent winner of the 2015 REPI Challenge. He acknowledged Tony Parisi's leadership in WRP and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement.

Ms. Schneider, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Land and Minerals Management, added her thanks to Nevada for hosting the meeting. She noted WRP and its partners are unique in identifying and addressing challenges through collaboration and communication to find solutions to better protect natural resources, promote sustainability, ensure trust responsibilities to American Tribes are met, and protect the military mission. As Assistant Secretary, she has administrative oversight over four bureaus (Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Management, Bureau of Safety and Environment Enforcement, and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement) and highlighted their mission areas. She recognized the many other DOI agencies involved in WRP. DoD and DOI have complex missions to achieve on lands that are distinct and vital assets and noted some of the diverse land management challenges in the West. She recognized ongoing efforts to respond to the President's call for increased growth of renewable energy resources, and noted that transmission lines are a critical part of that challenge. More effective land management is needed to harness solar, wind, and other renewable resources as well as ensure other missions are successful. Sage grouse provides a great recent example of collaboration among agencies and partners, and fire strategy is another area where greater attention and collaboration is crucial. This year, more acres than typical have already been burned even though there have been fewer fires, which has required that DoD and DOI collaborate even more closely than usual to ensure that airspace is coordinated, no exercises occur on "red flag" days, and so on. This sort of continued collaboration is

encouraged in the future. Ms. Schneider emphasized she is a big believer that communication and collaboration, through forums and discussions such as this, help lead us to better decisions.

Mr. Mike Mower, Deputy Chief of Staff, representing Utah Governor Gary Herbert who is one of the three-WRP Co-Chairs and new NGA Chair, emphasized Governor Herbert's commitment to this multi-state collaborative forum and his appreciation of the continued dialog it provides for WRP partners of Tribes, Federal agencies and States. He acknowledged Mr. Ogsbury's attendance, thanked Mr. Parisi and Mr. Carter's leadership in WRP and noted Ms. Duffy's efforts. Mr. Mower stated that Utah looks forward to hosting the 2016 WRP Principals' meeting, scheduled for either August 17-18 or August 18-19. He relayed the Governor's regrets at not being able to attend this meeting, and introduced Mr. Ryan McGinness.

II. Nevada Welcoming Remarks by Mr. Ryan McGinness, Director, Washington, DC Office, State of Nevada

Mr. McGinness welcomed the Principals on behalf of Governor Sandoval who was unable to attend. He noted that the collaborative nature of WRP appeals to the Governor, and hoped that participants would work pragmatically and thoughtfully together. Nevada has a significant amount of federally managed lands (85%) and has experienced much population growth. There is a need to work together to address complex land management issues such as habitat preservation, energy development and DoD mission needs.

III. WRP Overview and WRP Steering Committee Recommendations

Mr. Tony Parisi, Head, Sustainability Office, NAVAIR Ranges, outlined the goals of the meeting. For Principals, Mr. Parisi noted the meeting is intended to provide the opportunity to share ideas, create more awareness among partners of WRP's mission and agencies' missions, seek to discuss and resolve conflicts and develop collaborative solutions. Principals will be asked for their approval on priorities for the coming year. He noted that the staff of the WRP Principals have been busy over the last year and in this meeting their accomplishments will be highlighted. Mr. Parisi provided an overview of the Plenary Sessions and that each session is moderated by a WRP Committee Co-Chair. He recommended attendees take advantage of the meeting breaks to meet/enhance working relationships.

Mr. Parisi provided an overview of the history of the WRP, unique aspects of the WRP region, current WRP mission statement and structure, WRP Steering Committee (SC) membership, WRP SC 2014-2015 accomplishments, WRP 2015-2016 priorities and the value of WRP. Some of the major changes since the last WRP Principals' meeting is Ms. Schneider became the DOI Co-Chair; the WRP SoAZ/NM project proved to be a very successful demonstration project (winner of 2014 REPI Challenge and designated a Sentinel Landscape) and many personnel changes with retirements. Mr. Parisi noted that the WRP Steering Committee (SC) has worked to balance priorities with resources and that participants were not here to create work, but to find solutions that help everyone in their day job and at the same time not overcommit Partners or contract support. He highlighted the tremendous value of the WRP SC and how they facilitated solutions for WRP Partners and kept WRP functioning. GIS and related analysis has proven to be helpful to WRP efforts and he noted the utility of the WRP Web Mapping Application (WMA)

and WRP's working agreements with States to improve coordination and collaboration. Mr. Conger asked if WRP Committees contribute to overall discussions on emerging issues, and Mr. Parisi responded that committee topics are generated both top-down – as directed by Principals and Co-Chairs – and bottom-up, as dictated by committee interest and emergent issues as they come up to the committees throughout the year (e.g. Sage Grouse, proposed species listings, etc.).

Mr. Parisi detailed the SC recommendations for decisions by WRP Principals during the second day of the meeting which included:

- Adding the State of Colorado to the WRP region and incorporating this change in the WRP Mission Statement, WRP Charter and WRP Mission/Vision document
- Adopting the 2015-2016 SC and Committee priorities
- Maintaining the WRP Structure, Vision Statement, Goals and WRP Tagline
- Approving Mike Mower and Ryan McGinness as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Steering Committee.

He noted that for this particular Principals' meeting, ten reports and two facts sheets will be delivered. Each year, WRP functions are evaluated to ensure efforts are focused on the most important items. For 2015-2016, the WRP SC recommends efforts be focused on one strategic report so that WRP will be more action- and result-oriented. Mr. Parisi provided an overview of the report, "*WRP Regional Strengths, Areas of Commonality and Emerging Issues*" and the roles/involvement of the WRP Committees to highlight efforts and areas of interdependency.

Mr. Conger offered his appreciation for everyone attending the meeting and encouraged all participants to take advantage of the information sharing and engage in conversation since such collaboration assists in more effectively meeting mission needs.

IV. Plenary Session #1: Cybersecurity and Protection of Critical Infrastructure

Mr. Peter Bakersky, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Integration Branch Chief and WRP Military Readiness, Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Aviation (MRHSDP&A) Committee Co-Chair moderated the panel and set the stage by highlighting:

- Cyber threats are increasing exponentially.
- Cybersecurity impacts communication platforms, national security, interoperability, DoD mission and electric grid.
- WRP is involved with disaster preparedness and homeland security and the MRHSDP&A Committee conducted a number of recent webinars.
- Since Mr. Duma (a plenary session presenter) was unable to attend, Mr. Bakersky presented his slides which noted common cybersecurity findings (e.g. passwords are too readily available, software is not up-to-date, social media engineering, less vigilant on mobile phones) and ten cybersecurity actions that can be taken to address these findings.

Mr. Kelvin Coleman, Director of Government Engagement for the Office of Cybersecurity, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), provided an overview of the vision and mission of his office and provided:

- There are known and unknown cyber vulnerabilities. Adversaries include nation states, criminal organizations, terror groups, and non-state actors.
- There are many cybersecurity incidents of significance such as the attack on the U.S. Office of Personnel Management; “Vikindom” DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) Campaign targeting public/private websites throughout the U.S.; and a 2012 attack on cyber-tax records in South Carolina, which cost \$25 million to fix and an additional \$25 million to shore up security.
- DHS launched the Critical Infrastructure Cyber Community (C³) Voluntary Program to assist the enhancement of critical infrastructure cybersecurity and to encourage the adoption of the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework.
- An overview of cybersecurity resources such as: Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center; Cyber Resilience Review; Cyber Hygiene; Cyber Infrastructure Survey Tool; Cyber Security Advisors; and various information sharing programs and platforms available.

Mr. Keith Squires, Commissioner, Utah Department of Public Safety, shared a state and local law enforcement/public safety perspective:

- Background on cyber intrusions (WikiLeaks; Anonymous Group activities; Occupy Wall Street, etc.) and the significance of these events.
- Cyber-attacks in Utah have included electronic transfer of \$2.5 million from a State of Utah account; a State Senate bill was targeted by Anonymous; Utah Medicaid Server was impacted; and “Cabin Crew” targets Utah Law enforcement.
- In 2010, there were 25,000 attacks against state databases. This year, there were 4.6 billion attacks in one day.
- To combat cyber-attacks, Utah has built capacity/expertise with subject-matter experts to think about issues like cybercrime jurisdiction. The Utah DPS Cyber Unit partners with many involved parties such as Utah SIAC, SBI, DTS, FBI, other federal and local agencies to look at critical infrastructure, gather information and build resiliency against cybercrime. They work through an association of law enforcement organizations and share best practices (cyber symposium).

Discussion:

- Mr. Conger noted that cybersecurity is a hugely important emerging area from a national security perspective, since critical infrastructure like utilities and electric grids can be hacked into and impact power to an installation or home. The grid and water supplies are outside of DoD purview, but impact DoD and many others.
- Observed that the offensive cyber operations can only be defensive for so long.
- It was noted that DHS will need additional young talent in cyber security areas.

V. Invocation/Tribal Blessing by Mr. Ralph Burns, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

VI. Presentation on Success of WRP Southeastern Arizona/New Mexico Project

Col. (Ret.) Tom Finnegan, WRP Natural Resources Committee Co-Chair moderated a panel on the Committee’s Southeastern Arizona/New Mexico (SoAZ/NM) Project and detailed the project

goals, background/timeline and three project focus areas. He offered that the project is a formula for success, and as a direct result of the project's efforts the area:

- Won the 2014 REPI Challenge
- Received funding from the AZ Military Installation Fund (state funding) for a conservation easement of 908 acres
- Designated a Sentinel Landscape
- Heightened awareness of the region's importance for natural resources and military operations.

A film highlighting the mission of Fort Huachuca was shown. Mr. Finnegan provided information on representative entities involved in the SoAZ/NM Project, thanked all who were involved and highlighted Mr. Lovasz and his team for their efforts on the GIS Suitability Analysis and Ms. Duffy for her outreach and coordination efforts.

Mr. Jeffrey Jennings, Deputy to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence & Fort Huachuca, described the Fort's unique natural topography and geology which protects the electromagnetic spectrum and shields developed areas from jamming activities. The Buffalo Soldier Electronic Testing Range (BSETR) is 1.6 million acres in size and includes DoD, BLM/DOI, State Trust land and private land ownership. While the Fort's aquifer is strong, development threatens the surface water that candidate, threatened, and endangered species rely upon. The REPI Challenge award and Sentinel Landscape designation will help the Fort protect the watershed that recharges surface water and protect the training, testing and operations missions of the Fort.

Mr. Astor Boozer, Regional Conservationist, West, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture (DOA), provided information on his agency's mission and their efforts through its financing and conservation programs to work with key stakeholders to preserve native grasslands, working lands and other key landscapes. NRCS works to preserve such key lands around military installations thereby supporting national security and local and state partners. The Sentinel Landscape partnership among DoD, DOA(NRCS) and DOI helps to leverage financial and technical resources and more fully collaborate. WRP facilitates the different agencies in meetings across the table and this is helpful to NRCS. Mr. Boozer encouraged meeting attendees to talk to the state conservationists in attendance and he looks forward to future discussions on best ways to collaborate and coordinate efforts to support key landscapes.

Mr. Conger congratulated Fort Huachuca, the federal agency partners, and the WRP Southeastern Arizona/New Mexico Project Team on their efforts. He noted the REPI Program allows DoD to partner with outside organizations to create buffers, and through the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership, DOD is working together with DOA and DOI to leverage additional resources in places where priorities are aligned.

Ms. Schneider added that DOI is very pleased to be involved with the Sentinel Landscape Partnership and congratulated Arizona BLM on their work with Fort Huachuca.

VII. Plenary Session #2: Species Management

Ms. Shelley Smith, Deputy State Director, BLM, Utah, and WRP Natural Resources Committee Co-Chair, moderated the panel and provided:

- Early conservation efforts (prior to a listing of a species) can maximize management options, reduce costs and ultimately eliminate the need for listing. Enhanced collaborative work is aimed at supporting species recovery in a non-regulatory mode.
- Overview of the WRP Natural Resources Committee related efforts over the past year, including two landscape level projects; coordination on efforts; webinars to share tools to facilitate land use planning; and working with Partners on species of concern. To address one of the Committee priorities on species priority much outreach and coordination with experts including USFWS offices was conducted. Subsequently a fact sheet was circulated requesting agencies' unofficial review and assessment on the top three species that, if listed, would most greatly impact their agency. Over 40 agencies provided input on over 50 species. The top consolidated input (by number of responses) was highlighted along with maps on range information. This information was detailed in the Committee report, "*WRP Partner Input on Species of Concern.*"
- Information on Federally listed threatened and endangered species in the US from 1967-2014, compared to 2014.

Mr. Tony Wasley, Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife, shared state perspective on species-related issues and detailed:

- A brief overview of his Department's mission and funding (86% comes from Wildlife Fees & Grants).
- They address 892 unique species.
- Recently more efforts on supporting species and successful collaboration among diverse stakeholders such as those conducted in support of the Bi-State Sage Grouse.
- Importance of partnerships to support species and habitat management.
- His Department's appreciation for the 2015 REPI Challenge funding for NAS Fallon, and that species issues are more in the spotlight.

Mr. Michael Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) highlighted:

- He is new to WRP, and expressed gratitude for the partnership's strong emphasis on tribal consultation.
- BIA, within the government-to-government relationship, provides services directly or through contracts, grants, or compacts to 566 Federally recognized tribes.
- Noted the importance of partnerships and Tribal consultation.
- There are BIA programs to benefit species and habitats, maximize management options, reduce costs and eliminate a need for species listing.
- Tribal organizations carry out their own land management plans, and BIA provides competitive funding to assist Tribal projects that support compliance with the ESA. Additionally, they have an Invasive Species program to support Tribes' efforts to address plant and animal invasive issues. There is also a Hatchery Maintenance program to allow Tribes to manage Tribal hatcheries for the benefit of Tribally important cultural species.

- Trying to engage youth in the outdoors. In recent years, great partnerships for students with agencies like USFWS-Reno have taught students land management techniques while helping Tribes to manage natural resources and combat invasive fish.
- Looks forward to enhanced collaboration with WRP, and in particular on resource management issues.

Mr. Ted Koch, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-Reno, presented:

- DoD has been a tremendous partner in conserving species.
- ESA's first stated purpose is conserving the ecosystems on which species depend; passed almost unanimously in 1973.
- ESA has been used by a few to control issues, not as a conservation tool, but a way to wrest control from other partners.
- The success with the Bi-State Sage Grouse is a great conservation story and efforts by the following were noted: Hawthorne Army Depot, BLM, NRCS, Nevada Department of Wildlife and Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center. It is important to work together and have an agreement up front on species mitigation and conservation efforts; then listing does not matter as much. Current efforts are driving towards a shared vision of conserving the ecosystems, unified in the goal to preserve the species. A real threat to Sage Grouse is invasive species and fire. Cattlemen are looking at ways to graze livestock to reduce cheatgrass and preserve native grasslands and sage brush.
- Provided his appreciation to NAS Fallon and others for their success in winning the REPI Challenge 2015.

Discussion:

- Mr. Jim Ogsbury, Executive Director, Western Governors' Association (WGA) noted the 2016 WGA Chairman's Initiative (Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead) is Species Conservation and Endangered Species Act. Among other things, the initiative will: create a mechanism for states to share best practices in species management; promote and elevate the role of states in species conservation efforts; and explore ways to improve the efficacy of the Endangered Species Act. There will be a series of meetings and webinars dedicated to this issue.
- Mr. Conger provided information on DoD's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) and their efforts to support critical habitat and species management. He applauded BLM for releasing plans for the Sage Grouse at Yakima.
- Ms. Schneider provided DOI Secretary Jewell recently adopted a rangeland fire management strategy to address the threat of wildfire on critical Sage Grouse habitat. Ms. Schneider also noted interest in looking more into scientific studies that shows grazing management practices that may help restore native sagebrush and reduce cheatgrass.
- Panel members discussed state's roles in species management/ESA efforts and offered more could be done to ensure states had a more meaningful role.

VIII. Plenary Session #3: Aviation

Mr. Kim Stevens, Director of Communications at the National Association of State Aviation Officials, and MRHSDP&A Committee Co-chair moderated the panel and introduced the topics

for panel discussion as well as activities over the past year in the MRHSDP&A Committee related to aviation and noted:

- Held webinars, including one highlighting the Area Association of Bay Area Government's (ABAG) infrastructure and vulnerability and interdependencies study, which addressed the resilience of the area's 26 airports.
- Developed resources for WRP Partners over the past year including updating the *Airspace Sustainability Overview Report* and *MET Tower Fact Sheet*. Provided an overview of information available in the Report with focus on new technology and the new Google X Flying 84-foot-long Airborne Wind Turbines.

Mr. Glen Martin, Regional Administrator, FAA Western-Pacific Region, shared:

- Information on his region's footprint and focus areas.
- The FAA authorization expires September 30, 2015, under the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. The FY 2016 Reauthorization Proposal would modernize the aviation system.
- Current FAA Strategic Initiatives include: Risk-Based Decision Making; National Airspace System (NAS) Initiative; Global Leadership; and Workforce of the Future.
- FAA addressing safety issues at airports, including several programs and initiatives related to runway safety. The Runway Incursion Mitigation (RIM) Program to address confusing taxiway geometry was just rolled out.
- Details on current Next Generation (NextGen) Air Transportation System Programs and the benefits of NextGen (e.g. increase capacity, reduce delays, reduce emissions and fuel consumption, and reduce noise through 2025).
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) are becoming an increasing issue in the National Airspace System (NAS). FAA's 2012 reauthorization bill from Congress requires the agency to integrate UAS operations into the NAS. FAA will need to incorporate UAS operations while insuring the same level of safety. There are currently six UAS Test Sites nationwide. There is a proposed UAS Rulemaking and Regulation that would set parameters and standards related to UAS operations.

Dr. Kristi Dunks, Transportation Safety Analyst/Senior Air Safety Investigator, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), discussed:

- NTSB is mandated by Congress to investigate every civil aviation accident in the U.S. and other significant accidents in other modes of transportation (rail, highway, marine, etc.) to determine probable cause and provide safety recommendations.
- Information on NTSB Structure, office location and products (preliminary report, factual report, probable cause, safety alerts and safety recommendations).
- Addressed the hazards associated with Meteorological Evaluation Towers (MET) and what the NTSB is doing to address them. METs evaluate wind data with minimal ground footprint. are quick to put up, not very visible and sometimes can be camouflaged. Many towers are built under 200 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) to avoid the FAA rule requiring coordination of any structure 200 feet or taller. Some states regulate these towers or require marking and but others do not. For example, Texas enacted legislation in May 2015 requiring towers be marked. Since METs can literally go up over night, they can impact all types of low-level flight operations where a pilot discovers the MET while flying. In January 2011, an ag pilot with 26,000 accident-free hours crashed

into a MET and died. The NTSB issued a MET safety alert in March 2011 detailing information on dangers of METs and notes resources available to pilots for additional information. The NTSB also issued MET safety recommendations to American Wind Energy Association, FAA, States and Territories, DOI, USDA, and DoD in March 2013 to better inform operators about FAA guidance on issue.

Mr. Dave Suomi, Deputy Regional Administrator, FAA Northwest Mountain Region, shared:

- He serves as the US Department of Transportation (DOT) Regional Transportation Coordinator (RETCO) designated to carry out critical functions for DOT in response to disasters as documented in the National Response Framework. FAA has RETCOs across nine regions; all emergencies are at least initially handled locally. RETCO representatives deploy to FEMA, coordinate all transportation emergency response and all modes of transportation (e.g. rail, marine, aviation, etc.). Airspace is managed based on emergency needs, such as firefighting. Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) are issued to assist with the restoration and recovery for transportation systems.

Discussion:

- Mr. Conger remarked that historically military installations were located in remote areas, but as those areas are often no longer remote, how to best accommodate the need for additional restricted airspace to meet the needs of DoD for future missions. Panelists offered more efficient use of existing airspace and to coordinate with other aviation users.
- Mr. Bartridge thanked the MRHSDP&A Committee for offering the ABAG webinar since it provided very useful information.
- Ms. Dunks offered (in response to a question) that the NSTB is still waiting for MET response from many of the various governmental agencies to inform those who are constructing towers on lands to provide notification.

IX. Plenary Session #4: Energy

Mr. Paul Thomsen, Director, Nevada Governor's Office of Energy, and WRP Energy Committee Co-Chair moderated the panel and noted:

- WRP's involvement in energy is to share information with a focus on new energy projects and transmission lines; identify potential trends impacting energy projects; conduct webinar series; and produce deliverables/reports.
- The Energy Committee's extensive webinar series and information shared.
- WRP Energy Committee Reports including their purpose and information available: *Renewable Energy and Transmission Siting Coordination and Potential Impacts to the Military Mission*; *WRP 2014-2015 Energy Committee Webinar Summary*; *2015 WRP Energy Guide*; and *2015 Renewable Energy Development on Tribal Lands*.

Mr. Brad Crowell, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, DOE, detailed background information on DOE with a focus on the Quadrennial Energy Review (QER):

- There is a changing US energy landscape: increasing energy production; changes in policy developments; energy security changes; and technology advances.
- The QER was directed by the President in 2014 and his memo stipulated specific requirements to be met.

- QER included extensive analysis and stakeholder engagement. Information on the stakeholder engagement (meeting, location, statements, meeting summary and transcripts) by local, state and regional stakeholders can be found at www.energy.gov/qer
- Regional disparity in electricity usage across the U.S. proves no one size or solution fits all. For example, the northeast is vulnerable due to its aging infrastructure. There is, however, funding available for state grants to provide financial and technical assistance to implement recommendations in QER.
- DOE is focused on disasters and their impacts to energy infrastructure and how best to proactively address vulnerabilities (e.g. physical and cyber) throughout the U.S. energy grid.

Mr. Jim Kenna, California State Director, BLM, briefed:

- Collaboration at the landscape level in California around renewable energy is remarkable, in part due to alignment between federal and state of California policy on energy.
- Deploying renewable energy is complex; environmental and land use; transmission/interconnection; grid stability; financing; etc.
- Background on renewable energy collaboration in California among diverse stakeholders (e.g. DOI-DoD MOU; REAT, etc.)
- Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) background and importance of the area. The DRECP balances land uses and interests with the expected demand for renewable energy development.
- Significant increase in wind and solar projects between 2011 and 2015 in the DRECP area. DRECP Phase I (BLM Decision) of the plan is anticipated in early 2016. Phase II of the plan is focused on county and non-federal land decisions.
- California's Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0 is the State's effort to implement the Governor's policy.

Mr. Vijay Saytal, Senior Energy Policy Analyst, Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), noted:

- WECC history, background, mission, regional planning coordination groups within WECC region and roles in the industry. WECC is a non-profit corporation, federally designated entity that coordinates electrical transmission in the fourteen western states, two Canadian provinces, and Northern Baja Mexico.
- WECC is involved with key planning efforts including planning (is the system sound, stable and reliable), transmission and reliability assessment.
- WECC's transmission planning focus is on congestion assessment and system adequacy. They develop ten and twenty year plans to determine short-term impacts to the grid and necessary capital investments.
- WECC's Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC) has four main functions: 1) oversee and maintain public databases for transmission planning; 2) develop, implement, and coordinate planning processes and policy; 3) conduct transmission planning studies; and 4) prepare Interconnection-wide transmission plans.
- Focus is on congestion assessment and system adequacy. Evaluate need for use of transmission capability depending on various case studies.

- 2024 Common Case Transmission Assumptions (CCTA): an overview of regionally significant transmission projects that have a high expectation of being in service in a 10-year timeframe given current trends.
- Future challenges include an evolving resource mix (i.e., increased renewable energy penetration and regulatory factors), newer market mechanisms, and timing and coordination of future energy projects with utility resource planning.

X. Closing Remarks for Day One

Ms. Schneider noted that it was a very productive day and appreciated everyone's involvement. She offered that the WRP reports that she has read she found to be good. She looks forward to the discussions tomorrow.

XI. Plenary Session #5: Water, Drought Planning and Wildfire Management

Colonel John Gamelin, Government and External Affairs, MCI West – Camp Pendleton and WRP Natural Resources Committee Co-Chair, moderated the panel on WRP's new water priority, added during the 2014 WRP Principals' meeting and noted:

- Efforts this first year have been to leverage existing resources and linking efforts to better support key projects. Information collected on available water data and water-related resources such as the Western Governor's Association Drought Forum, WSWC, and other WRP partner efforts were highlighted in the WRP report, "*Brief Overview of Water-Related Resources Available to WRP Partners.*" Several webinars were held throughout the year on these topics.
- Col. Gamelin reviewed illustrative examples of the progression of drought in the west from 2000 to today.

Mr. Jim Ogsbury, Executive Director, Western Governors' Association (WGA), shared a video on WGA's Drought Forum (available: <http://www.westgov.org/initiatives/drought-forum>) and provided:

- WGA serves the Governors of nineteen states and three US-Flag Pacific Islands.
- The Chairman's Initiative (2015) of Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval fostered a regional dialogue to share best practices on drought policy, preparedness and management. In addition to hosting meetings that focused on specific sectors (energy, mining, agriculture, water supply, and recreation and tourism), the Western Governors' Drought Forum created an online resource library with a growing collection of drought resources such as webinars, case studies, best practices and drought tools.
- The Western Governors' Drought Forum report highlights the seven themes that emerged from the workshops and webinars: data and analysis; produced, reused and brackish water; forest health and soil stewardship; water conservation and efficiency; infrastructure and investment; working within institutional frameworks; and communication and collaboration.
- Next steps for the drought forum: more research about most useful role for western governors in combating drought and wildfire.

Ms. Letty Belin, Senior Counselor to the Deputy Secretary, DOI, provided the following information on long-term water planning in the southwest:

- U.S. drought conditions (per U.S. Drought Monitor) for July 28, 2015.

- Projections for spring precipitation and annual runoff.
- Percentage increase in the average number of days with very high precipitation from 1958 to 2007).
- California is experiencing one of the worst droughts in recorded history.
- Colorado River basin historical water supply and use. Colorado is an appropriate addition to the WRP given the fact the Colorado River Basin is a significant contributor to the region's water supply.
- Focus is on the long-term outlook on drought, that is, the supply side: precipitation amounts, amount/timing of runoff, and frequency of heavy precipitation events.
- The issue is that not only is it drier, but when precipitation comes, it comes in high volumes and short durations. The region is drier overall, with moisture coming in intense periods.
- Demand side of water: population growth and tribal water rights claims (many are still unexercised, and tribes typically have senior water rights).
- Solutions to the drought situation: increase water storage, desalinization of ground and surface water (process is so far too expensive for typical city; over time it will get less expensive and less energy intensive); water transfers/marketing and conservation/efficiency. Needs can be met with planning and coordination and we need to act now.

Mr. Wade Crowfoot, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, California Governor's Office, shared:

- California appreciates its involvement in WRP and noted this is another great meeting, and a helpful opportunity to share information about wildfires and drought.
- Wildfire season is raging in the State of California. This year's fires are worse due to the four-year drought resulting in highly combustible forests and grasslands.
- Groundwater levels are dropping across the west. The human and environmental drought impacts are severe (e.g. species loss, community crisis). The State uses its aquifers as "savings banks"; however, the ongoing drought is resulting in depletion of the aquifers and they take a lot of time to recharge.
- As a result of climate change, winter temperatures are warming. Hot and dry winters are exacerbating the drought, especially since a third of water in California comes from snowpack. The State does not have sufficient infrastructure to capture rain that falls in winter, but relies on snowpack melting into reservoirs in spring/summer.
- State actions have intensified in the last several years. Long term water action plan will build resilience. Conservation is the cheapest, best way to reduce vulnerability. It's also important to increase regional self-reliance and to protect ecosystems.
- California is working with installations to understand which have water vulnerabilities and how to mitigate these. The vast majority of military installations have minimal vulnerability to water scarcity in the coming years and decade. A few are relying on groundwater in challenged areas and are participating in the State's Sustainable Groundwater Act.

Mr. Jared Blumenfeld, EPA Region 9 Administrator, noted:

- Thanked Assistant Secretary Schneider, Mr. Conger for organizing a great meeting; appreciated the collaboration between WRP and WGA; thanked the state of Nevada for

hosting the meeting, to Mr. McGinness for his efforts for being such a gracious host and to Ms. Duffy for her work.

- The severe drought within the region and in particular the state of California.
- In California 253 billion gallons of water are leaked from the system each year. It costs over \$150 million to move water (energy costs) that doesn't get used.
- Water audits are very useful.
- Private citizens are taking steps to address water shortages. Examples include individual rainwater capture units and removing lawns in favor of less water-consuming landscaping. Last year, 1.8 million new homes were built in the west; all have water efficient systems that will save about 9 billion gallons per year.
- Naval Base Coronado won Federal Water award (saved over 100 million gallons/year) by new AC venting, replaced urinals and changed landscaping.
- EPA is working with Tribes to address water shortage.
- One million people in California do not have access to safe drinking water that meets federal standards.
- Next steps include looking for innovations and new technology that is water efficient and continue to work together.
- Thanked everyone for their attendance.

Discussion:

- Mr. Conger commented that this was an incredible panel and noted its relevance to DoD. Water is a more complicated resource to manage because it is not immediately economically impactful like energy is. It is important to make the impacts relevant and present. DoD is across the board exceeding water reduction goals, not just in the west. DoD landscaping policy will be revised to reduce water use.
- There was some discussion regarding the cost and energy requirements for moving water and water rights. Water law in the west is extremely complicated, as is water pricing, but efforts continue to address these complicating issues.

XII. Plenary Session #6: Military Readiness

Major Brian Welsh, Regional Airspace Coordinator and ATC Training and Readiness Officer, MCI West, and MRHSDP&A Committee Co-Chair, moderated the panel and highlighted DoD's presence in the region along with several committee actions relating to military readiness:

- The MRHSDP&A committee has strong DoD participation and works to identify issues and help connect people to the right person for a solution/problem.
- WRP developed Military Asset Listing (MAL) summaries to highlight the region's installations and ranges with such information as mission, units involved and other facts. MALs are posted on WRP's website.
- The *2015 WRP State Support for Military Testing and Training* and the *2015 Guide to Working with the U.S. Department of Defense* are other tools for partners.

Mr. Frank DiGiovanni, Director, Force Readiness and Training (FRT), Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness), shared the following:

- Force of the Future is one of Secretary Carter's top priorities and requires new training capabilities and technologies such as increased virtual training. Part of Mr. DiGiovanni's role is to actively improve training programs. One such program allows employers to

train active duty service members up to six months before they leave the military while still receiving their military paycheck.

- Electromagnetic spectrum encroachment and use by military and the private sector is an ongoing issue for the Department. FRT is leading a consortium of military and telecommunications providers to look at how spectrum can be used compatibly.
- DoD is increasingly concerned about the prevalence of private UAS and the potential risks they pose to military and civilian aircraft.
- Foreign investment near military activities can pose an issue if certain organizations are purchasing/leasing land to observe DoD activities. There is currently no requirement for federal land managers to address this issue. The more that can be done to protect ranges from exploitation the better; WRP partners may be an important piece to the solution.

Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, Adjutant General, Utah National Guard, discussed strategic planning in a budget constrained environment:

- There is a need for innovation, quickening the pace of technology and better anticipating future needs.
- The aging guard infrastructure is not energy/water efficient. One solution might be to emulate recent action taken near Hill AFB, where an enhanced use lease agreement next to Hill AFB allowed civilians to construct a building which could be used by Guard. This is an example of harnessing capital from civilian sector in order to recapitalize buildings and infrastructure.
- There is a need for synchronization and expansion of the stakeholder base and public-public/public-private (P4) partnerships may be key to this. State investment is critical for infrastructure and DoD needs to leverage state leadership. States may have the opportunity to lead in a constrained budget environment, and DoD needs to communicate importance of ranges/installations.

Col. Robert Stonemark, Chief of Staff, 12th Air Force, shared:

- He is representing his boss, the 12th Air Force Commander, who is a strategic thinker. Noted the book, "Team of Teams" by General Stanley McChrystal as an important book regarding shared common goals/building teams.
- An extensive review of the 12th Air Force's footprint in the region. Hill AFB is the first operational F-35 base in the AF. Creech AFB/Nellis AFB include significant RPA operations and efforts are underway to think creatively on how to relieve the stretched operations. Holloman AFB includes F-16 training and is experiencing an increase in RPA training units.
- Building networks is important and the 12th Air Force is creatively thinking and partnering to manage its training requirements under shrinking budget conditions.

Discussion:

- Mr. Conger noted that the complexity of the DoD mission and that this session afforded attendees the opportunity to hear more about the mission. Encroachment continues to be a multi-faceted issue, especially in the west, but it will only become more important as systems become more advanced and powerful. DoD needs more land, airspace, and frequency spectrum to test new systems and train warfighters. DoD will need to operate outside its boundaries to complete mission requirements. Clearly there are partnership

opportunities and a need to work together. REPI is an example of finding the win-win, where interests are completely different but align in a common purpose. DoD needs to understand states' and other federal agencies' interests and missions and also needs to help partners understand what DoD does and what it needs to continue to be able to accomplish the DoD mission.

- The comment was made that it is eye opening to hear different components and interconnected requirements of services, and why it is so important to protect public grazing lands, for example, for Army and Air Force.
- Brig Gen Coffin, U.S. Army, Commanding General, White Sands Missile Range, highlighted the importance of the DoD ranges for current and future DoD mission requirements. A recent video overviewing the Major Range and Test Facility Base (MRTFB) for DoD was then viewed:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSvDEbqjmCA&feature=youtube_gdata

XIII. Business Session

Mr. Parisi provided a recap of the WRP SC recommendations to the WRP Principals. The WRP Principals approved:

- The addition of Colorado to WRP and the associated necessary changes in the WRP Mission statement and WRP Vision/Mission document and a few minor administrative changes in the WRP Charter.
- The proposed WRP 2015-2016 Priorities.
- The confirmation of Mr. Mike Mower as Steering Committee Chair and Mr. Ryan McGinness as Co-Chair.
- Concurred that no other changes were needed to the WRP structure, vision or goals this year.

The Hanson Scott Award for Outstanding Leadership was conferred on Tom Finnegan, Lee Allison, and Tony Parisi. Additional accolades and presentations were given to Tony Parisi in honor of his retirement.

XIV. Wrap-up Discussion and Adjournment

Mr. Mower emphasized that Utah is looking forward to hosting next year's WRP Principals' meeting which is tentatively scheduled the third week of August. He thanked everyone for their involvement and the importance of WRP's efforts.

Ms. Schneider thanked all participants for their participation, noting that much was shared and learned at this meeting and put us all in position to continue to do good work together through this partnership. She thanked Ms. Duffy for her efforts, congratulated all the winners of the Hanson Scott for Outstanding Leadership and acknowledged Mr. Parisi's retirement.

Mr. Conger concluded that this was another successful WRP meeting. WRP's value is all about partnership, as no one lives or works in vacuum, and meetings like this will help to facilitate beneficial progress. He added his thanks to the partners for the significant turnout and participation in the meeting, and in particular Mr. Parisi for his leadership in WRP.

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