



Sixth WRP Principals' Meeting Notes

June 17-18, 2014 • Phoenix, AZ

Table of Contents

Principals' Meeting Agenda	1
Brief Summary of Meeting.....	2
Meeting Notes.....	4
Welcome by Mr. John Conger, OSD, and Ms. Letty Belin, DOI	4
Update by the WRP Steering Committee (SC) by Mr. Tony Parisi	4
Introduction to the Plenary Sessions	5
Plenary Session I: Aviation	5
Arizona Welcome and Remarks.....	7
Invocation by Council Member Paul Russell, Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation	7
Keynote Luncheon Remarks.....	7
Plenary Session II: Energy.....	7
Plenary Session III: Military Readiness.....	10
Recap of Day One	11
Plenary Session IV: Natural Resources	12
Plenary Session V: Homeland Security and Disaster Preparedness	13
Discussion of 2014-2015 Priorities and SC Recommendations	15
Closing Remarks	16
Attendee Listing.....	17



Sixth WRP Principals' Meeting

*"Reliable Outcomes for America's Defense, Energy,
Environment and Infrastructure in the West"*

June 17-18, 2014 • Phoenix, Arizona

June 17, 2014

10:00 – 10:30 am

Welcome and Opening Remarks by WRP Co-Chairs

- Mr. John Conger, Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment; and Letty Belin, Senior Counselor to the Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior (acting WRP DOI Co-Chair)

10:30 – 10:50 am

WRP Overview and WRP SC Recommendations

- Mr. Tony Parisi, WRP Steering Committee Vice Chair

10:50 – 12 noon

Plenary Session #1: Aviation

WRP Principals discussion regarding: Aviation operations, such as increased Unmanned Aviation Operations and *WRP Airspace Sustainability Overview*

12:15 – 1:15 pm

Lunch

- Invocation by Council Member Paul Russell, Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation
- Arizona Welcome by Secretary of State Ken Bennett
- Gregory G. Nadeau, Deputy Administrator, FHWA, will highlight the Administration's recently released transportation plans and his thoughts on how states, Federal agencies and Tribal leaders might work together on transportation projects.

1:30 – 3:15 pm

Plenary Session #2: Energy

Discussion by WRP Principals on how their agencies are addressing energy development without impacting missions; potential new energy development and associated infrastructure.

3:15 – 3:30 pm

Networking Break

3:30 – 4:50 pm

Plenary Session #3: Military Readiness

Panel to highlight DoD activities in the WRP region including changes in mission such as F35, new weapons footprint, and current encroachment issues.

4:50 – 5:00 pm

Recap of Day

5:00 pm

Adjournment of day one

5:10 pm

Principals' Photo

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Evening Reception: Copper Ballroom A (11th floor), The Westin Hotel

June 18, 2014

7:30 – 8:00 am

Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 8:10 am

Opening Comments

8:10 – 9:15 am

Plenary Session #4: Natural Resources

Panel will receive progress update on WRP Natural Resource Committee Projects and discuss ways WRP Partners can work together to best sustain the West's natural resources with focus on the Endangered Species Act.

9:15 – 10:30 am

Plenary Session #5: Homeland Security and Disaster Preparedness

Panel discussion regarding frequency spectrum sharing/reallocation and potential mission impacts; wild land firefighting; cyber security threats; and recommendations for WRP Partners

10:30 – 10:45 am

Networking break

10:45 – 11:45 am

Recap of WRP 2014-2015 Strategic Priorities and Recommendations;

Discussion by WRP Principals

11:45 – 12:00

Wrap up discussion and Adjournment



Western Regional Partnership Sixth Principals' Meeting

Brief Meeting Summary

The Western Regional Partnership held its Sixth Principals' meeting on June 17-18, 2014 in Phoenix, Arizona. 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 states of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah, and to develop solutions that support WRP Partners and protect natural resources while promoting sustainability, homeland security, and military readiness."* The WRP Principals typically meet annually; however, this latest meeting was delayed several months due to sequestration, Federal government shutdown and other limiting factors. The purpose of the Principal's meetings is to review WRP actions and provide policy input for the next year. The Sixth Principals' meeting was attended by 104 people representing Tribal, State and Federal entities. This meeting was Co-Chaired by Mr. John Conger, Acting Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, and Ms. Letty Belin, Senior Counselor to the Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Highlights from the meeting included:

- Opening remarks from Mr. Conger, OSD and Ms. Belin, DOI
- Welcoming remarks by the Honorable Ken Bennett, Arizona Secretary of State.
- An overview of the WRP and WRP Steering Committee recommendations for WRP Principals' consideration by Mr. Tony Parisi
- Invocation by Council Member Paul Russell, Ft McDowell Yavapai Nation
- Keynote speech by Mr. Gregory G. Nadeau, Deputy Administrator, FHWA, highlighting the Administration's recently released transportation plans and Mr. Nadeau's thoughts on how States, Federal Agencies, and Tribal leaders might work together on transportation projects
- Five Plenary Sessions highlighting WRP 2013-2014 Committee efforts and recommended WRP 2014-2015 Priorities along with agencies' involvement in the following plenary session themes:
 - Aviation: Discussed importance of airspace, aviation operations, elements impacting aviation operations, FAA operations and the *WRP Airspace Sustainability Overview* and accompanying *MET Tower Fact Sheet*.
 - Energy: Discussed WRP Energy Committee efforts including *WRP Energy Guide* and *Renewable Energy Development on Tribal Lands* (developed with TRC Committee); energy activities in the region with particular focus on EPA, DOE, BLM, DoD Siting Clearinghouse, AZ Governor's Office of Energy Policy and California Energy Commission activities; and recommendations of ways to work together in the WRP region on renewable energy and transmission development in a compatible fashion.
 - Military Readiness: Highlighted WRP documents: *WRP State Support for Military Testing and Training* and *Guide to Working with DoD*; and military mission encroachment impacts, significant military testing and training assets in the WRP region and military operations.

- Natural Resources: Provided an overview of WRP Natural Resource Committee projects and discussed ways WRP Partners can work together to best sustain the West's natural resources with focus on the Endangered Species Act.
- Homeland Security and Disaster Preparedness: Discussed related Committee efforts; resilience; agency efforts involved with disaster response and issues impacting missions including wildland firefighting; cyber security threats; drought; and energy security complexities.
- WRP Principals adopted:
 - WRP 2014-2015 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.
 - Revised WRP Vision Statement
 - Updates to WRP Charter
 - Revised WRP Mission/Vision document and
 - WRP Committee restructure.
- WRP Principals confirmed Mr. Tony Parisi and Mr. Michael Mower as the Chair and Vice Chair (respectively) of the WRP Steering Committee
- WRP Principals conferred the Hanson Scott Award (for Outstanding Leadership) to Mr. Ryan McGinness, Mr. Kevin Carter and Mr. Terry Hansen for being instrumental in WRP from the first Principals' meeting.

The next WRP Principals' Meeting is planned for Reno, Nevada in June 2015.



WRP Sixth Principals' Meeting

Meeting Notes

I. Welcome by Mr. John Conger, OSD, and Ms. Letty Belin, DOI

Mr. Conger, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations & Environment, recognized and thanked Arizona for hosting this meeting. He noted his appreciation for the forum WRP provides, and the need for collaboration and information exchange. There continue to be budget challenges to WRP Partners and he noted for DoD that budget challenges are ongoing, with significant cuts anticipated for FY15. Readiness degrades faster than facilities, so the decision has been made to take risk with the infrastructure. This means DoD facilities are falling into disrepair. Based on these budget shortfalls, it is anticipated that DoD is at risk to lose its military dominance in the next 5-10 years. States and Federal agencies will feel the ripple effects of the DoD's shortfalls, making meetings such as this and collaboration among Partners all the more important. BRAC may be necessary to consolidate resources, but it is only one mechanism, not a magic solution to the funding challenge, and other creative solutions will be necessary.

Ms. Belin, Senior Counselor to the Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, noted that Mr. Mike Connor, Deputy Secretary of the Interior, was unable to make this meeting, but she attended on his behalf. DOI Secretary Jewell values this partnership and looks forward to future collaboration especially given that half of DoD-used lands out west is DOI land withdrawn for military use. An initiative of DOI is landscape-level mitigation, which aligns nicely with the WRP mission. A Secretarial Order was adopted in October 2013 ([*Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior*](#)) and in April 2014 DOI released a [*Strategy*](#) to provide clarity and consistency to more effectively avoid, minimize and compensate for impacts on public lands. The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) is a good example of this approach to guide future undertakings. Another DOI initiative is partnering with Tribal members to prioritize energy development that benefits the Tribes (leveraging Federal funding in this initiative). She noted the efforts of Ms. Pilar Thomas, DOE, in this regard.

II. Update by the WRP Steering Committee (SC) by Mr. Tony Parisi

Mr. Tony Parisi, Head, Sustainability Office, NAVAIR Ranges, and WRP SC Vice Chair, 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 2013-2014 priorities and value of WRP. Normally Principals' meetings occur annually, but due to Federal government shutdown, sequestration, contract lapses and other factors the last Principals' meeting took place in September 2012. In light of this, a small team of WRP Veterans got together to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis for WRP. BG Turner noted that all travel is carefully scrutinized, and the fact that over

100 people are attending this meeting shows agencies' commitment to the partnership. Mr Conger noted that this meeting had to be postponed twice, and the effect of sequestration continues.

Mr. Parisi detailed the SC recommendations for decisions by WRP Principals during this meeting which include: revised WRP Vision Statement and WRP Mission/Vision document; updates to WRP Charter; restructure the WRP Committees to integrate the Tribal Relations Committee within each WRP committee; and adoption of WRP 2014-2015 Priorities. He noted these decisions will be made prior to the conclusion of this meeting. Mr. Parisi stated that Mr. Kevin Carter, WRP SC Chair, was unable to make this meeting, and therefore Principals are asked to consider and approve of 2014-2015 WRP Chair: Tony Parisi & Vice Chair: Mike Mower; this action was considered and affirmed.

Discussion ensued and the following were highlighted:

- WRP addresses military value and assists partners to better understand DoD requirements and potential impacts.
- WRP Tribal engagement is to seek input early on through the committee efforts and WRP coordination. WRP tries to provide overall guidance and strategy. For example, the WRP Energy Committee and WRP Tribal Relations Committee jointly worked on a document that highlighted renewable energy development hurdles on Tribal lands and developed recommendations. There is a need to have Tribal entities, and state and federal agencies together to have conversations on issues such as land use challenges to better understand issues and find synergies. It was observed that Tribes each have different governing bodies with limited resources.
- WRP has a long history of working with Western Governors' Association (WGA) and the new liaison on the WRP SC is the WGA Executive Director. There continue to be opportunities to leverage efforts with WGA.

III. Introduction to the Plenary Sessions

Mr. Parisi stated that the format for this Principals' meeting is different; we strived to make this meeting much more interactive among the WRP Principals. We combined the panels, WRP Committee updates, and Principals' updates into thematic plenary sessions based upon WRP Committee structure.

IV. Plenary Session I: Aviation

Mr. Kim Stevens, Interim President and CEO, National Association of State Aviation Officials and WRP MRHSDP&A Committee Co-Chair moderated the panel discussion and set the stage by highlighting:

- Types of Airspace users, importance of airspace to the region, and that it's a finite resource.
- FAA chose six test UAV sites, one of which was the State of Nevada.
- MRHSDP&A Committee addresses aviation efforts and provided information on the:

- *WRP Airspace Sustainability Overview*: which highlights aviation encroachment/sustainability concerns and provides information on aviation coordination best practices and aviation resources.
- An accompanying *MET Tower Fact Sheet* highlights safety issues and potential solution sets to address them
- MRHSDP&A Committee 2014-2015 priorities related to aviation.

Mr. Jerry Proctor, SES, Deputy to the CG, Intel COE and Fort Huachuca, provided:

- Information regarding Fort Huachuca's size, strategic elements, electronic range activities, mission with a focus on aviation activities. The Fort has the busiest manned and unmanned airspace in the world. They graduate 15,000 plus UAS pilots annually.
- FAA's challenge to address the request for additional UAS operations while at the same time addressing airspace sustainability issues.
- Sky Harbor is a very busy airport; significant aircraft landings and takeoffs annually.

Mr. Gary Cathey, Chief, Division of Aeronautics, California Department of Transportation discussed his top related aviation safety concerns:

- Proximity of power plants and their locations near airports and the impact upon airspace. Glare from some types of solar plants, wind farms and their potential for radar interference (e.g., Travis AFB) and the effects of thermal plumes from cooling towers.
- Other airspace issues: helicopter noise in the LA basin, encroachment from development near and adjacent to airports, airspace redesign and other related issues (e.g., UAS, obstructions, Metroplex areas in CA, etc.).
- Increase in the number of Meteorological Evaluation Towers (METs) that are less than 200 feet (to avoid notification requirements to the FAA) that can literally go up overnight without much notice. Some states have passed legislation to require notification, disclosure and/or marking standards to enhance situational awareness and visibility of these obstructions. This is especially important since there has been aviation fatalities with MET towers in numerous states. California adopted a [MET Tower law](#) that until January 1, 2018, would require marking if the tower is located on or within one mile of agricultural land and erected after January 1, 2013.

Colonel Gamelin, Director of Governmental and External Affairs, Marine Corps Installations West, discussed:

- USMC Southwestern Training range Complex and its significant important to the military mission.
- Special Use Airspace (SUA) projects in the region: 29Palms land/SUA expansion, Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range SUA expansion, and the Mountain Warfare SUA proposal.

Lieutenant Colonel William Engleson, Deputy Ops Group Commander, Luke AFB briefed:

- Luke's successful efforts of working with local officials regarding F-35 operations. Lessons learned from Luke and the F-35 staging are being applied in Utah as well.
- Efforts working with local officials on managed growth around the installation, as the community recognizes the value in the military's presence.

Mr. Brett Stewart, Support Manager for Airspace and Procedures, Albuquerque ARTCC, FAA, presented information relating to the Albuquerque Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) including:

- Airspace operations including size, scope, arrivals, departures, overflights, activity in a single day and approach controls and Radar Approach Control within region.
- Types of special operations and military airspace. Fifty-one percent of the airspace is designated as military airspace.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of the airspace and the land below it, and how important cross-Service and Federal and State coordination is to manage the finite airspace resources.

V. Arizona Welcome and Remarks

The Honorable Ken Bennett, Arizona Secretary of State, provided welcome remarks on behalf of the State of Arizona. He highlighted the financial climate within the state of Arizona over the last seven years and how they are working to balance the budget with revenue decline.

VI. Invocation by Council Member Paul Russell, Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation

VII. Keynote Luncheon Remarks

Keynote speech by Mr. Gregory G. Nadeau, Deputy Administrator, FHWA, noted:

- WRP is a unique collaboration; brings together a diverse group of senior level policy-makers across agencies around such a broad range of issues. He was grateful to receive an invitation to present to WRP.
- Transportation is a common thread that runs throughout all of our professional and personal lives.
- Importance of the nation's transportation system and the contribution by the Native American Tribes and military in this area.
- Need for infrastructure investment and how the Administration's recently released transportation plan addresses that along with innovation.
- DOT and FHWA efforts on maximizing strategic investments in the system in spite of limited resources. Part of FHWA's efforts include planning for and recovering from natural disasters and their impacts to infrastructure.
- The need for States, Federal Agencies, and Tribal leaders to work together on transportation projects.

Mr. Mower questioned since the last time the gasoline tax was increased was in 1993 and gas tax is declining (cars are more efficient) and asked if this was a sustainable approach to long-term funding for transportation. Mr. Nadeau noted a need to reinvent transportation funding and highlighted efforts by a few states to bridge the transportation funding gap.

VIII. Plenary Session II: Energy

Mr. Ryan McGinness, DC Director, Governor Brian Sandoval and WRP Energy Committee Co-Chair and SC Member moderated the Energy panel discussion and highlighted:

- Committee Co-Chairs and 2013-2014 Committee results including:

- *WRP Energy Guide*, which highlights State and Federal agency energy-related efforts within the WRP region.
- Cross-committee efforts with WRP Tribal Relations Committee on the *WRP Renewable Energy Development on Tribal Lands* report, which highlights opportunities and challenges and offers recommendations regarding the development of renewable energy on Tribal lands.
- 2014-2015 recommended Committee priorities and set the stage for the session.

Mr. Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 9 outlined the following:

- EPA recently released the [Clean Power Plan](#) proposal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the United States and EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 120 days after publication in the [Federal Register](#).
- EPA's focus on achieving renewable energy goals including development on already disturbed lands, Federal agency procurement of PV and working to expedite the permitting process for brownfields. There are 100 renewable energy projects in queue right now. EPA is working with Tribal Nations in siting of renewable energy; there is much more work to do in this area.

Mr. Brad Crowell, Assistant Secretary, Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Energy, noted DOE focuses on all forms of energy and works on a wide spectrum of issues and including:

- Improving communications with other Federal and Tribal and State partners.
- Developing a [Quadrennial Energy Review](#)
- \$30 billion in loan guarantees available for innovative renewable energy and energy efficiency projects through [Loan Programs Office](#)

Mr. Ray Suazo, AZ BLM Director, shared his perspective:

- BLM has a balancing act of siting renewable energy development yet preserving natural resources.
- Noted some of the energy projects BLM is working on in the WRP Region, including DRECP and how this effort is a good model for overlapping of missions.
- BLM Arizona administers 12.2 million surface acres of public lands, and another 17.5 million subsurface acres within the state. Arizona BLM will be conducting a Regional Mitigation Strategy to follow up from the national direction on mitigation. There are a lot of opportunities to work together in the State.
- Importance of addressing military land withdrawals in a timely manner; has found some commanders are not aware of withdrawals.
- Arizona Commanders Summit (ACS) is a very valuable forum.
- Transmission projects are complicated; need to work together early.
- Questioned what the regional strategy is for energy production. There are a lot of lessons learned, and a need to identify mission alignment (DOI, BLM, WRP, DoD, etc.), risks and benefits.

Ms. Pilar Thomas, Deputy Director, Office of Indian Energy, U.S. DOE, works closely with the Tribes in the region on energy development and observed:

- There is a huge opportunity to partner with Tribes, especially given the renewable energy resources in Arizona, California, Nevada and New Mexico.

- She is working with Tribes to develop energy for their own use and to assist them to mitigate issues such as drought, heat.
- Most of the focus is on community scale energy projects. The market changes; wind tax credit is gone and solar expires in 2016. Additionally, within the WRP region, there are already plans in place to meet state RPS requirements.
- WRP continues to be an opportunity to partner with tribes, state and local government planning processes: DRECP and WRP offer a model of regional cooperation around energy reassurance.

Mr. Bill VanHouten, Deputy Director, DoD Siting Clearinghouse presented:

- Information regarding current high voltage transmission projects in the Western Region. Three DoD areas impacted by these projects are surveillance, testing, and training. Testing is the hardest for DoD to overcome due to the nature of the mission.
- A final rule was published in December 2013 regarding how to work wind and transmission line projects. His concern is that conflicts will likely increase as the cumulative number and size of renewable energy projects grows.
- DoD would like to build upon lessons learned in projects to date and get out in front via early discussions and involvement in the process. The current FAA notification process (for projects with a height of 200 feet or higher) is too late. He noted North Carolina legislation that informs DoD early in the process of energy development, which has been helpful.

Ms. Leisa Brug, Director of the Governor's Office of Energy Policy and Energy Policy Advisor to Governor Brewer, gave an overview of:

- Arizona Master Energy Plan Task Force and their efforts to help develop Arizona's energy policy ([EmPowerAZ](#)), the first of its kind in 23 years. The comprehensive plan includes five executive summary goals, and is intended to be updated on a recurring basis going forward.
- Arizona is a leader in solar energy development.
- There are many state offices working on energy strategy for the State of Arizona; an unprecedented level of effort.

Mr. Jim Bartridge, Advisor for Commissioner Janea Scott and WRP Energy Committee Co-Chair, discussed:

- Energy challenges the State of California is facing. The state spends approximately \$320 million a day on energy (a combination of electricity, natural gas, and petroleum, based on 2010 data).
- California Energy Commission (CEC), which is the state's primary energy policy and planning agency, and some of its efforts. For example, because the transportation sector is responsible for over 40% of greenhouse gas emissions in the state, the Commission's Alternative and Renewable Fuels and Vehicle Technology Program has invested almost \$500M to date on advanced technologies.
- California is in a state of emergency due to a drought, causing the governor to request a 20% reduction in water usage by citizens. Eleven of the worst 20 wildfires have been in just the past few years, and California is expecting another warmer and drier summer. Other issues include summer reliability.

- Provided an overview of the DRECP to address areas at a landscape level to develop renewable energy and to preserve natural resources. He offered special thanks to Mr. Tony Parisi and Mr. Steve Chung for their involvement.

Discussion was held regarding:

- Importance of working with Tribal entities regarding energy development and the various offices (DOI, BLM, etc).
- Need for additional DoD communication up and down the chain of command within DoD related to energy projects and the need to be proactively engaged. Noted the WRP Energy Guide, ACS, and current DoD Siting Clearinghouse coordination efforts.
- Need to look at energy development and impacts to DoD mission and mitigating the risks.

Mr. Conger noted that WRP is a facilitator, a forum, that helps us do our jobs better. It brings everyone together to collaborate and operate in order to accomplish the mission.

IX. Plenary Session III: Military Readiness

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Callahan, ATC TYCOM, MCIWEST and WRP MRHSDP&A Committee Co-Chair moderated the Military Readiness plenary session and provided information on:

- MRHSDP&A Committee Co-Chair information and Committee deliverables including:
 - *WRP State Support for Military Testing and Training: Overview of State Laws and Executive-Level Administrative Support*
 - *Guide to Working with DoD* provides an overview of the DoD mission with particular emphasis on the western region; encroachment issues for DoD; and helpful resources when working with the military.
- Military mission viability, encroachment impacts, significant military testing and training assets in the WRP region and MRHSDP&A 2014-2015 Committee recommended priorities as they relate to military readiness.

Mr. Conger noted:

- The importance of DoD being proactively engaged in energy development especially since there are 19 high voltage transmission lines in the western states.
- A need to work through potential land use conflicts with the military mission; share information early; sift through conflicts and coordinate.
- Importance of addressing natural resources; west is a unique place.

Mr. Frank DiGiovanni, Director, Force Readiness & Training, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness, provided:

- Looking at threats to readiness on the combat force.
- His focus is on military training and ensuring the proper transition to full spectrum of operations, considering what the next conflict will look like.
- The largest training ranges DoD has are within the WRP region. The western region is the only place in the U.S. with enough real estate to train as we fight.
- Encouraged DoD and Non-DoD members to meet and discuss issues.
- The WRP State Support for Military Testing and Training is a good document with helpful information.

Rear Admiral Patrick Lorge, Navy Region Southwest, remarked:

- Rebalance of the force in the Pacific.

- Importance of the WRP region for military testing and training.
- Navy is focused on extensively reviewing their mission and inventory and working proactively to capture current and future operational needs as they relate to encroachment (e.g. energy security, frequency spectrum and incompatible development).

Major General Michael McGuire, The Adjutant General, Arizona ANG, noted:

- Appreciated the opportunity to be at the meeting, especially with the state, federal and Tribal participation.
- Worried that members will become apathetic and assume the military mission will always be there.
- Mission requirements are changing.

Mr. Paul Mann, SES, Executive Director, White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), commented:

- WSMR is able to accomplish the mission, but a challenge is to test and evaluate modern weapons systems without sufficient airspace, spectrum, etc.
- Importance of the NM Military Commanders forum, persistent outreach and the JLUS for [Southern New Mexico and El Paso, Texas](#) area.
- WSMR recognizes the importance of the WRP and opportunities to capitalize on synergies and is committed to continued engagement.

Colonel Robert Gates, Deputy Commander, MCIWEST and WRP SC member, noted the importance of the WRP region to the Marine Corps including:

- Importance of military installations and ranges within WRP as it directly relates to Military Readiness. 67% of the USMC Live Fire Ranges are located within the area covered by WRP.
- USMC Exercises and Operations including: Expeditionary Maneuver from the Sea; Desert Scimitar 2014 and responding to crisis in South Sudan 2013.
- Through working with State and Federal partners, the USMC has been able to ensure the ability to train in realistic conditions in preparation for Global Operational Deployments.

Mr. Jim Holland, Deputy for Installation Policy, SAF/IEI and WRP SC member, provided:

- HQ AF perspective on the challenges the Air Force is facing in light of budget limitations and encroachment pressures.
- Importance of AF installations, airspace and ranges in the WRP area and to address military mission encroachment (including Frequency spectrum).
- Collaboration with WRP Partners is necessary.

Group discussion included more on the topic of spectrum and how important it is to military readiness and the implications of greater spectrum limitations. Some states/cities are looking into spectrum sharing versus reserving specific portions for entities.

X. Recap of Day One

Mr. Parisi, on behalf of WRP, conferred the Hanson Scott Award for Outstanding Leadership to Mr. Kevin Carter, Mr. Terry Hansen and Mr. Ryan McGinness for being instrumental in WRP from the first Principals' meeting.

Mr. Conger in his closing remarks noted that this was a productive day with great panels. The WRP footprint is a significant area for military testing and training and there remains a need for interagency collaboration on a multitude of issues. Budgets are constrained and WRP provides a good forum to be proactive and collaborate on issues.

XI. Plenary Session IV: Natural Resources

Mr. Tony Parisi opened day two and served as moderator to the Natural Resources plenary discussion and provided:

- An overview of the focus, size, importance, findings and extensive outreach of the WRP Natural Resources Committee's landscape level projects are the Southeastern Arizona/New Mexico and the Mojave; along with next steps. Much success has occurred with these projects including: SoAZ/NM project has had 908 easements acquired in focus area one; and the Mojave project aligns with DRECP analysis.
- Paunsaugunt Mule Deer Crossing Update.
- Overview of the WRP Federal Agency Guide.
- Committee Co-Chairs and recommended Committee 2014-2015 priorities.

Mr. Astor Boozer, Regional Conservationist, West, NRCS discussed:

- Budgetary issues his organization is facing which means there are even more reasons to work together in order to accomplish the mission.
- An example of such partnering is the work among DoD, DOI and NRCS to develop Sentinel Landscapes; a current project is underway with Joint Base Lewis McChord and the results are mutually beneficial to both farmers and DoD. Looking at a similar concept around the Fort Huachuca area.
- Farm bill, Regional Conservation Partnership Program; addressing working lands endangered species issues through partnering.
- Importance of collaboration with Tribal entities.
- Need to better understand each other's agency mission so we can more fully partner.

Mr. Bill Walker, Regional Director, Southwest Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs and WRP SC member, stated:

- His appreciation for attending this meeting.
- There are four BIA Regional Offices in the WRP Region: Central, Navajo, Pacific, Southwest, and Western, all of which have the ability to assist with Tribal relations coordination, including providing points of contacts.
- Tribes are sovereign nations and have appointed and elected officials.
- Discussed the importance of working with Tribes on culturally sensitive areas as well as sensitive habitat areas.

Dr. Joy Nicholopoulos, Deputy Regional Director, FWS and WRP SC member, spoke to the Principals about:

- Background on endangered species laws and process by which a candidate is listed.
- FWS efforts and timelines to respond to the multi-district litigation settlement that requires them to make listing decisions for 251 candidate species.
- Provided a handout on these species within the WRP region states and encouraged everyone to know these lists and coordinate with the FWS.

- Recommended partnering with FWS early so that working solutions can be developed. In particular, FWS would like to coordinate with DoD early in the process to avoid surprises.

Mr. Mike Mower, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Utah Governor Gary Herbert and WRP SC member, outlined:

- Governor Herbert's four cornerstones (education, energy, jobs and self-determination)
- Importance of the military mission; highlighting the four installations within Utah and efforts to preserve areas around Hill AFB.
- Challenges the State government faces such as: inconsistent federal regulations or processes; constrained resources; blessing and challenges of having so much federal land ownership; Sage Grouse; energy development; encroachment and water
- Water is the only limiting factor to growth. The challenge is how to find creative and innovative ways to address water.
- Solutions are relationships and cooperation.
- His appreciation with DOI (noted Utah BLM and Secretary Jewell for their efforts to keep the national parks open during government shut down).
- WRP has been very good at sharing information. Thanked the opportunity to be part of WRP and offered the state's value of this partnership.

Discussion ensued:

- Mr. Conger instructed services to incorporate the candidate species list into DoD planning efforts such as INRMPS. Dr. Nicholopoulos noted that some of the most successful ESA recoveries are due to DoD conservation efforts.
- Mr. Suazo relayed that the AZ BLM is doing a lot to engage up front with NRCS, State Lands, water, recreation and other issues and observed such proactive engagement helps to focus on risk and opportunities.
- Water and potential WRP involvement. DoD is now assessing water status at installations to better know potential risks. Ms. Belin noted that BuRec would be supportive of working with WRP, and importance of aligning GIS analysis/data layers. Western States Water Council (WSWC) works closely with the Western Governors' Association and would like to partner with WRP as well. WestFAST includes twelve federal agencies (including DoD) working together on water issues in conjunction with WSWC; another potential partner to WRP.
- Cost of mitigations.
- Sentinel Landscape efforts have involved DoD, DOI and DOI; an opportunity to work together at various levels (project, landscape efforts, etc.) and aggregate funding in order to accomplish mutual missions more cost effectively.

XII. Plenary Session V: Homeland Security and Disaster Preparedness

Mr. Kevin Moody, Liaison, Federal Highway Administration and WRP SC member and WRP MRHSDP&A Committee Co-Chair, session moderator noted:

- Much has happened in Homeland Security and Disaster Preparedness related issues since the last Principals' meeting.
- MRHSDP&A Committee past related efforts and how they helped support WRP Partners and related Committee recommendations for 2014-2015.

- Defined “resilience” and National Academies’ findings that resilience requires multi-sector collaboration, and management of complex regional ecosystems for Triple Bottom-line outcomes, cited federal agency efforts over the past twenty years and best practices.

BG David Turner, Commander, South Pacific Division, USACE, presented:

- USACE’s response authorities, National Response Framework and his agency’s involvement in emergency preparedness.
- Need to get out in front of issues.
- Thanked everyone for being part of this meeting. Noted the regional challenges and how working together is a necessity. He will be transferring soon to become Commander of the South Atlanta Division and will bring some of the lessons learned from this forum.

Mr. David Billingsley, Acting Regional Director for NOAA’s National Weather Service, Western Region, presented on NOAA:

- National Western Service Western Region Offices.
- Provides environmental intelligence and information for decision making such as forecast information relating to aviation, marine, fire weather, climate and water, ecological weather forecasts.
- Concerns include drought, water, fire season and having best science to make decisions.
- Is under big budget reorganization.
- Has a [MOU](#) with WGA to deliver drought, extreme weather data to states.
- Noted that NOAA collaborates across the west and has forecast offices, please contact the forecast offices for information.

Mr. Pete Bakersky, Acting Division Director, DHS/FEMA RVIII NPD and WRP SC member and WRP MRHSDP&A Committee Co-chair, highlighted FEMA’s disaster preparedness efforts such as:

- Resiliency and response including fire threat hazard mitigation.
- Working with Tribal, Federal state, and local communities. Identifying capabilities, gaps in hazard response plans and how to address.
- Role of Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO) in Disaster Operations.

Ms. Tina Curry, Deputy Director, Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CA), discussed:

- Provided an overview of her offices’ functions.
- Importance of interrelationships between the various state offices in emergency preparedness.
- Works with entities (including MOUs with private entities) to leverage capabilities.
- Water shortages in the state are a current high profile issue being worked at all levels, and noted her agency’s [involvement](#).
- CAL OES Cybersecurity Task Force efforts to secure state infrastructure.
- The State of CA works closely with DoD on emergency planning (e.g., wildfire response).

Mr. Scott Hunt, State Forester, AZ Forestry Division, presented on:

- Role of state foresters.

- Current issues impacting the mission, with focus on the criticality of wildfires in the western region, historical overview of large wildland fires in Arizona and current fire around Fort Huachuca area.
- Importance of working together to mitigate damaging wildfires and develop fire adapted communities.
- Overview of the National Cohesive Wildland Management Strategy Goals and implementation engagement opportunities. For more information please see the [report](#).

Mr. Anthony Lucas, Energy Response Director, Infrastructure Security & Energy Response (DOE), highlighted:

- Need for contingency plan if there is a power outage.
- Energy sector complexities and challenges to address in order to have resilient and reliable energy delivery.
- The Energy Regulatory Office is an all-hazard response organization that may stand up to respond to: natural disasters, cyber-attacks, etc.
- Importance of critical infrastructure and impacts that could occur during energy delivery failures.
- Public/private partnerships DOE is pursuing energy relationships. DOE utilizes local and state Energy Assurance Plans, funded by DOE, to explain critical areas and plans related to energy.

Ms. Connie Reitman, Executive Director, Inter-Tribal Council of CA, Inc. and WRP SC member and WRP Committee Co-Chair, relayed:

- Her agency's successful efforts to work closely with FEMA and the Tribes. They have trained many Tribal members to better prepare and respond to emergencies and disasters on Tribal lands. ITCC, has received FEMA funding (via CAL-EMA) and has been delegated as the 59th operational area.
- Noted how WRP has enabled Tribes to be more aware of resources and relationship building. WRP has provided crucial information sharing including development of a map of California with ingress and egress routes noted for Tribal lands near federal lands (this assists in evacuation plans).
- Acknowledged Mr. David Munro in his new position with DHS.
- Encouraged members to contact inter-tribal council offices to assist with Tribal-related issues.

Group discussion followed on a variety of issues including California drought efforts and recommendation to include U.S. Border Patrol on this panel at the next Principals' meeting (noted their wildland firefighting efforts along the border, and public lands liaison.)

XIII. Discussion of 2014-2015 Priorities and SC Recommendations

Mr. Parisi presented the 2014-2015 SC and Committee Priorities as well as the SC recommendations related to WRP Vision Statement, WRP Charter, WRP Mission/Vision document and WRP Committee restructure. After careful deliberation the WRP Principals approved:

- As presented, revised WRP Vision Statement and updates to WRP Charter
- As presented, revised WRP Mission/Vision document

- As presented, WRP Committee restructure (integrating of Tribal Relations Committee; WRP to have three committees (instead of four))
- WRP 2014-2015 Priorities, with the following addition under the Natural Resources Committee, *"Partner with WGA, WSWC and other WRP Partners to provide input on water sustainability as part of an ongoing Western dialogue"*

Mr. Parisi asked everyone to please stay connected; sign up for a WRP account for updates and information at www.wrpinfo.org. WRP attire is available through Lands' End Business Outfitters via www.ces.landsend.com/WRP.

Mr. Suazo asked about wildland fires and it was noted that the MRHSDP&A Committee already has a priority on *"Building resilience to assist with disaster response."*

Additionally, Principals recommended that the Seventh WRP Principals' meeting occur in conjunction with WGA's annual meeting (June 24 -26, 2015 in Lake Tahoe, Nevada). Mr. Conger stated that he has been to many WRP meetings and he likes this format better (combining of panels, WRP Committee updates, and Principals' updates into thematic plenary sessions based upon WRP Committee structure) and is happy with the meeting.

XIV. Closing Remarks

Mr. Parisi thanked:

- Everyone for attending and for sharing their insight
- Ms. Deb Smith Ormsbee, Dept. of Navy, Ms. Amy Caramanica, BAH, Ms. Angi Bohlmann, Duffy Consulting, Ms. Caitlin Willoughby, BAH, and Mr. Gabe Lovasz for meeting support.
- Ms. Amy Duffy for her support of WRP over the years and called her the "heart of WRP."

Mr. Mower, on behalf of Governor Herbert, thanked everyone for attending and noted the value of WRP.

Ms. Belin's observed she liked the meeting format; good process and substance. She learned much about WRP including how important the WRP region is to the military. DOI is interested in partnering to realize synergies between the goals of WRP and her organization. One significant priority of Secretary Jewell is a landscape approach to managing resources, and there are many common goals/overlays with WRP; the synergy is huge. She thanked everyone for their efforts and the opportunity to attend the meeting.

Mr. Conger noted he is pleased and gratified how WRP has matured. He complemented the level and value of the presentations. The engagement is very valuable, and he is happy to be at this meeting. The WRP is a valuable partnership and provides many synergies; DoD recognizes the importance of the collaboration to accomplish their mission.

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