



# WRP SC Call with Committee Co-Chairs

FEBRUARY 2016



# Today's Agenda

1. Draft 2016 SWOT by WRP Veterans Group
2. Introduction to the WRP DoD MGMT Team by Mr. Steve Arenson
3. Wildland Fire Leadership Council Update
4. Request for Action/input:

- ▶ WRP Support Letter for ALWT's REPI 2016 Submission by Mr. Tom Finnegan
- ▶ WRP Meeting in DC (Targeting: Wed, May 3)
- ▶ Finalize location of WRP SC in-person meeting with Committee Co-Chairs
- ▶ TIGER Discretionary Grant – any interest to identify a few applications that would benefit from WRP technical assistance?

## 5. Information sharing/Updates:

- ▶ WRP Regional Strengths, Areas of Commonality & Emerging Issues Report
- ▶ Feb 3: MRHSDP&A & Natural Resources Committee webinar
- ▶ WGA Update by Jim Ogsbury
- ▶ WRP SC Updates
- ▶ WRP Personal Updates

# WRP Veterans Group

*Members represent ~70 years experience with WRP*



## **Mission:**

- Annual review of WRP SWOT analysis to ensure necessary changes are made to WRP efforts
- Small, nimble group that has tenure and believe in WRP; serves as a resource when “issues” arise
- Ensures WRP remains a robust organization

## **2016 Group Membership:**

- ▶ Pete Bakersky
- ▶ Dwight Deakin
- ▶ Amy Duffy
- ▶ Luana Kiger\*
- ▶ Raul Morales\*
- ▶ Ryan McGinness
- ▶ Mike Mower
- ▶ Kevin Moody
- ▶ Scott Morgan
- ▶ Connie Reitman\*

\* New members as of January 2016

# SWOT (DRAFT 2016 updates in red)

## Helpful in achieving the objective

## Harmful to achieving the objective

Internal Origin  
(attributes of the  
WRP)

### Strengths:

- ✓ Committed core
- ✓ History of results
- ✓ Great message
- ✓ Action focused
- ✓ Have enhanced or maintained military readiness in the West
- ✓ WRP SoAZ/NM Project very successful demonstration project
- ✓ Healthy in face of weaknesses and threats
- ✓ Undertaken ambitious set of goals

### Weakness:

- ✓ Lack of recognition of success
- ✓ Turnover (change in staff, retirement, etc.)
- ✓ Lack of “firm” agreement on specific actions

External origin  
(attributes of the  
environment)

### Opportunities:

- ✓ Highlight our successes
- ✓ Explain consequences
- ✓ Take more action
- ✓ Create funding options (develop contingency plan such as FWHA grants)
- ✓ Meeting of WRP Tri-Chairs
- ✓ **New WRP DoD Co-Chair**
- ✓ **Meetings in DC with HQ on WRP efforts**
- ✓ **Strengthen ties with Colorado**

### Threats:

- ✓ BRAC
- ✓ Funding (maintain staff support)
- ✓ Internal communications
- ✓ Leadership development
- ✓ **Upcoming changes in POTUS administration?? (the unknown)**

# WRP DoD Management Team

- Update by Steve Arenson



- Includes representation from OSD and Military Services
- Chair: Mr. Steve Arenson (also WRP Energy Committee Co-Chair)
- Duties:
  - Holds calls every two months to **coordinates** on issues
  - Meets in DC once a year to **encourage broader engagement between HQ and the western region**
  - **Supports DoD representatives to the WRP Steering Committee**
  - Coordinates with respective Services on issues/concerns to **ensure best consolidated input** to WRP Committees
  - Ensures **DoD issues** are addressed through WRP
  - **Communicates/outreach** to military in the Region

# Wildland Fire Leadership Council Update

- by Kristin Thomasgard-Spence



## Background:

- ▶ Established in April 2002 by the Secretaries of USDA and DOI to provide an intergovernmental committee to support the implementation and coordination of Federal Fire Management Policy
- ▶ MOU was signed in April 2010 by the Secretaries of DOI, USDA and DHS to authorize the continuation of the WFLC
- ▶ The Council meets regularly to provide oversight and coordination of the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and related long-term strategies to address wildfire preparedness and suppression, hazardous fuels reduction, landscape restoration and rehabilitation of the Nation's wildlands, and assistance to communities
- ▶ Mix of Federal, state, tribal, county, and municipal government officials

DoD has agreed to become a signatory on the MOU. They will be working with USDA and other agency partners to provide input on the MOU and will then staff it within DoD

# WRP Support Letter for ALWT's REPI 2016 Submission

- by Mr. Tom Finnegan



- ▶ Request for approval of attached WRP letter of support for AWLT's submission for REPI 2016
  - ▶ The only REPI Challenge submission within the WRP area
  - ▶ **Consistent with past WRP actions** since it supports implementation of the **WRP SoAZ/NM project recommendations**
- ▶ The primary focus of this REPI proposal is to protect the missions of **Fort Huachuca** by combating encroachment, while conserving historical working ranches and providing credits for the Fort through restoration projects
- ▶ Since Fort Huachuca has been designated a **Sentinel Landscape**, additional REPI funds, in addition to the other funding sought, will **further advance implementation** of various **conservation** efforts in a **collaborative** fashion in this important region

# Request for input: WRP Meeting in DC

Targeting: Wednesday, May 3

- ▶ Concept: Hold meeting in DC with multiple agencies to further WRP efforts. In the past, individual small meetings, or meetings within an agency, have been held
- ▶ Goals:
  1. Increase communication from HQ to the west (lots of stuff happens in DC that may or may not be known to those in the west)
  2. Provide information on WRP and seek input on how to best harness a six-state partnership to support efforts in the west
  3. Provide details on the WRP Principals' meeting and seek attendance/presenters/input on action items, etc.

Please provide your input on if you think this is a worthwhile time investment. And if so, please provide to Amy your recommendations of people to invite and any other WRP meet and greet meetings to be held while in DC



# WRP SC in-person Meeting with Committee Co-Chairs Update



- ▶ New date: Friday, July 22, 2016
- ▶ Location:
  - ▶ Options: Phoenix (hosted by AZ BLM) or Denver (hosted by WGA)
  - ▶ Currently Denver is “winning” by one



Request: final input during today's call so that the meeting location (Phoenix or Denver) is confirmed)

# TIGER Discretionary Grant



- ▶ The 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Act signed by the POTUS in Dec appropriates \$500 million for an 8th round of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program
- ▶ Similar to past rounds, DOT is authorized to award up to \$500 million to road, rail, transit and port projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. Further information on the eighth round will be made available within the coming months
- ▶ Since 2009, TIGER has provided nearly \$4.6 billion to 381 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, including 134 projects to support rural and tribal communities. DOT received more than 6,700 applications requesting more than \$134 billion through the program's 7 rounds

Information is FYI; and to find out if members might want to work with their respective stakeholders to identify a few applications that would benefit from WRP technical assistance (FHWA SC member: Kevin Moody); one concept is to establish the National Airborne Drone Testing and Trade Center Spectrum Preserve around Fort Huachuca

# WRP Regional Strengths, Areas of Commonality & Emerging Issues Report

DRAFT Schedule

- ▶ Now – March 1: Individual calls with WRP SC members to learn more of agency's 2015/2016 efforts with a keen focus on: planning efforts, success stories, mission impact and emerging issues
- ▶ March – April 1: Coordinating calls with WRP Committee Co-Chairs to finalize Committee's involvement in report; including webinars/working meetings in WRP region helpful to success of efforts
- ▶ April – June 1: Hold webinars/meetings to complete report
- ▶ June – July 15: Dedicated to finalizing draft report
- ▶ July 15: Draft report sent to WRP SC for review
- ▶ July 21: Draft report presented to WRP SC & Committee Co-Chairs at in person meeting to ensure best report is presented to the WRP Principals
- ▶ August 2015: Present Report to WRP Principals

# WRP Regional Strengths, Areas of Commonality & Emerging Issues Report

Examples of Initial Input Received

- ▶ **State/Regional Planning Efforts**
  - ▶ New energy generation and transmission planning efforts and projects in WRP region
  - ▶ FAA Metroplex
  - ▶ Opportunity to highlight successful compensatory mitigation tools
  - ▶ Development on federal lands
  - ▶ DOI's Integrated Rangeland Fire Strategy
  - ▶ DoD land withdrawals/JLUS/INRMP, etc.
- ▶ **Emerging Issues**
  - ▶ New Technology (such as Airborne Wind Turbines; weather type balloons)
  - ▶ Policy Changes (e.g. Streamlining the Federal Permitting Process for Major Energy & Infrastructure Projects - Public Law 114-94)
  - ▶ UAVs/RPAs
  - ▶ DoD mission changes/new technology
- ▶ **Mission Impacts**
  - ▶ Potential impacts of new energy development on WRP Partners' missions (and various energy-nexus with water, aviation (e.g. METs), etc.)
  - ▶ MET Towers (impacts on low-level flights; impact on the NAS)
  - ▶ Wind Turbines impact on DoD radar, etc.
  - ▶ Wildland fires
  - ▶ Cybersecurity impacts (risk & opportunities)
  - ▶ Additional ESA listings
  - ▶ Drought, tree mortalities



# Feb 3: MRHSDP&A & Natural Resources Committee webinar

- ▶ U.S. Border Patrol mission in the WRP Region with a focus on:
  - ▶ Public Lands Liaison Agent (PLLA) Program
  - ▶ Ajo U.S. Border Patrol Station
  - ▶ Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument successto “Secure the U.S. Border and Protect Environmental and Cultural Resources for Future Generations”
- ▶ This webinar will run from 4 to 5 pm eastern/ 2 to 3 pm Mountain/ 1 pm to 2 Pacific
- ▶ This joint presentation will be conducted by:
  - ▶ Assistant Chief Rafael Cano, the National Public Lands Liaison Agent Program Manager at U.S. Border Patrol Headquarters (and WRP SC member)
  - ▶ Superintendent Brent Range of the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and
  - ▶ Patrol Agent in Charge Anthony Good of the Ajo U.S. Border Patrol Station

# Western Governors' Association Update by Jim Ogsbury

*WGA serves Governors of 19 states and 3 U.S-Flag Pacific Islands*



- ▶ Held very successful winter meeting (December in NV)
- ▶ 2016 Chairman's Initiative (WY Gov Mead): Species Conservation & ESA Initiative
  - ▶ January: Workshop in Idaho & Voluntary Species Conservation Incentives and Collaboration webinar
  - ▶ Feb. 4 webinar: 10:30 a.m.–noon MST
    - ▶ Examine how critical habitat designations are influenced by invasive species
    - ▶ Moderator: Chuck Bonham, *Director, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife*
    - ▶ Panelists: Dr. David Sweet, *Yellowstone Lake Special Project Manager, WY Trout Unlimited*; Matt Morrison, *CEO, Pacific Northwest Economic Region*; Chris Crookshanks, *Native Aquatics Staff Specialist, NV Dept. of Wildlife*
- ▶ 2016 Annual Meeting: Jackson Hole, WY: June 12-14



# WRP SC Updates

- ▶ State of Colorado Update by Simon Tafoya, Senior Director for Policy, Office of Governor John Hickenlooper
  - ▶ Gov. John Hickenlooper marries Robin Pringle
- ▶ State of New Mexico Update by Eric Kivi
- ▶ NRCS Update by Luana Kiger
  - ▶ Status of drought driven tree mortality and partnership efforts



# WRP Personal Updates



- ▶ WRP Co-Chair Update
  - ▶ Mr. John Conger confirmed to Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), DoD
  - ▶ President withdrew nomination of Vice Admiral Philip Cullom, for Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment, DoD
- ▶ WRP SC Update:
  - ▶ David Ure, Director, Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, replaces Kevin Carter on WRP SC
  - ▶ Assistant Chief Rafael Cano, National Public Lands Liaison, U.S. Border Patrol – HQ & WRP SC member is going on detail and is transitioning his duties to SBPA Bryon Strom
  - ▶ Jacqueline Buchanan, Deputy Regional Forester, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office will be serving as co-lead with Nan Christianson, Deputy Regional Forester, Intermountain Region, USDA Forest Service
- ▶ BLM Update:
  - ▶ Josh Hanson transitioning to a position at the Department of the Interior Solicitor's Office, Division of Land and Water Resources





## WRP SC with Committee Co-Chair Upcoming Events

- ▶ Wednesday, April 6: 1-2 Pacific
- ▶ Friday, June 17: 1-2 Pacific
- ▶ Friday, July 22: in person meeting

In your emails, you should have the updated WRP Welcome packet. Please send any suggestions to Amy for the next update. Thank you!