

**Western Association of  
Agricultural Experiment Station Directors**

**Western Region Joint Summer Meeting**

**Agendas & Agenda Briefs**



ALASKA • AMERICAN SAMOA • ARIZONA • CALIFORNIA • COLORADO • GUAM  
HAWAII • IDAHO • MICRONESIA • MONTANA • NEVADA • NEW MEXICO  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS • OREGON • UTAH • WASHINGTON • WYOMING

**DoubleTree by Hilton**

**Breckenridge, CO**

**July 6-9, 2015**

**Western Region Joint Summer Meeting  
DoubleTree by Hilton, Breckenridge, CO  
July 6-9, 2015**

**Monday, July 6**

Noon                      *Registration Open – will remain open throughout meeting*

1:00 – 3:00 pm            Dean/Director Orientation/Refresher

3:00 – 5:00 pm            WAAESD Executive Committee Meeting

5:30 – 7:00 pm            Reception

*Dinner on own*

**Tuesday, July 7**

7:00 – 8:00 am            Breakfast

8:00 – 8:30 am            Welcome –Lou Swanson

8:30 – 9:45 am            Plenary Session I

- Dr. Tony Frank (*via video*)
- National Western Stock Show Redevelopment – Jocelyn Hittle
- Value Chain – Greg Graff
- 2015 Ag Innovation Summit – Kathay Rennels

9:45 – 10:15 am          Break

10:15 – 11:30 pm        Plenary Session II

- Academic Program Section – Donna Brown
- NIFA Update – Luis Tupas
- Cornerstone Report – Jim Richardson
- Kglobal Update – Darren Katz

11:30-12:30 pm          Lunch

12:30 – 2:00 pm          Plenary Session III

- Overview of Western Perspective – Bret Hess, Bill Frost
- Western Governors Association – James Ogsbury

2:00 – 2:30 pm            Break

2:30 – 5:00 pm            Communications and Marketing 101 – kglobal

*Dinner on own*

### **Wednesday, July 8**

- 7:00 – 8:00 am Breakfast
- 8:00 – 8:30 am Introduction to the day – Steve McMullin, Lead Facilitator
- 8:30 – 10:00 am Breakout Session #1: Western Perspective Message Development
- 10:00 – 10:20 am Break
- 10:20 – 12:00 pm Report Back and Refine Messages
- 12:00 – 1:30 pm Awards Lunch
- 1:30 – 3:30 pm Breakout Session #2: Filling Gaps
- 3:30 – 3:45 pm Break
- 3:45 – 4:30 pm Report Back and Refine Gap Filling Plans
- 5:00 – 6:30 pm Shuttle bus runs from hotel to Ten Mile Station*
- 5:00 – 6:30 pm Reception
- 6:30 pm Dinner
- 8:00 – 9:30 pm Shuttle bus runs from Ten Mile Station to hotel (last shuttle leaves at 9:30 pm)*

### **Thursday, July 9**

- 7:00 – 8:00 am Breakfast
- 8:00 – 10:00 am Closing Session
- 10:00 – 10:20 am Break
- 10:20 – 12:00 pm Separate Association Meetings
- WAAESD
  - WEDA
  - W-APD
  - W-AHS/CARET
- 12:00 – 1:30 pm Working Lunch
- 1:30 – 3:00 pm Separate Association meetings continued (*if needed*)

**Agenda Item 2.0:** Approval of Agenda and Minutes of 2015 Spring Meeting

**Presenter:** Larry Curtis

**Action Requested:** Approve agenda and minutes of 2015 spring meeting

**Action Taken:**

**Background:**

### 2015 WAAESD Summer Meeting Agenda

Agenda Item	Time	Description	Presenter
1.0	10:20 – 10:30	Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions	Larry Curtis
2.0	10:30 – 10:35	Approval of Agenda and Minutes of 2015 Spring Meeting	Larry Curtis
3.0	10:35 – 10:45	Chair’s Report, Interim Actions, Executive Committee Report	Larry Curtis
4.0	10:45- 11:00	Treasurer’s Report	Charles Boyer
5.0	11:00 – 11:15	ARS Report	John McMurtry
6.0	11:15 – 11:30	NRSP Review Committee Update	Bret Hess
7.0	11:30 – 12:30	NIFA POW (Joint with WEDA)	Steve Loring
	12:30	PICK UP BOX LUNCHES	
8.0	12:45 – 1:00	Nominations <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WAAESD Chair-Elect, possibly At-Large Rep.</li><li>• ESCOP Chair nomination</li></ul>	H. M. Harrington
9.0	1:00 – 1:15	Resolutions	Rachel Leon Guerrero
10.0	1:15	Adjourn	Larry Curtis

#### 11.0 Consent Agenda Items

- 11.1 ESCOP B&L Committee Update (Bret Hess)
- 11.2 ESCOP S&T Committee Update (Larry Curtis and Dave Thompson)
- 11.3 NIMSS Redesign (Sarah Lupis)
- 11.4 ED’s Quarterly Report (H.M. Harrington)
- 11.5 AD’s Quarterly Report (Sarah Lupis)
- 11.6 WDO Budget Update (Sarah Lupis)

**2015 Spring Meeting Minutes:** [http://www.waaesd.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/WAAESDSpringMeeting2015\\_Minutes\\_DRAFT\\_20150518.pdf](http://www.waaesd.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/WAAESDSpringMeeting2015_Minutes_DRAFT_20150518.pdf)

**Agenda Brief 4.0:** Treasurer's Report

**Presenter:** Charles Boyer

**Action Requested:** For information

**Background:**

In June, the WAAESD FY2016 assessments were posted on the Treasurer's website: <http://ag.montana.edu/westerndirectors>

Please remember to retrieve your state's assessment invoices from **both** the Academic Program folder and the AES folder.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jody Barney at MSU:.

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Budget and Fiscal Director  
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**WESTERN DIRECTOR EXPERIMENT STATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FY2015**

24-Jun-15

ASSESSMENTS	FY 15 Assessments	Outstanding Assessments	Payment Received	Refund of Overpayment <sup>1</sup>	Balance Due
Alaska	\$ 11,308.19		\$ 12,134.86	\$ 826.67	\$ -
Am Samoa	\$ 600.00	600.00			\$ 1,200.00
Arizona	\$ 19,716.89				\$ 19,716.89
California	\$ 32,312.94		34,675.14	2,362.20	\$ -
Colorado	\$ 23,583.43		17,507.47	1,724.04	\$ 7,800.00
CSU Rent	\$ (7,800.00)				\$ (7,800.00)
Guam	\$ 11,026.25		11,832.31	806.06	\$ -
Hawaii	\$ 14,605.46		14,605.46		\$ -
Idaho	\$ 17,522.78		18,803.77	1,280.99	\$ -
Micronesia	\$ 600.00		600.00		\$ -
Montana	\$ 18,503.37		18,503.37		\$ -
Nevada	\$ 14,360.33		15,410.13	1,049.80	\$ -
New Mexico	\$ 14,862.87		14,862.87		\$ -
Northern Marianas	\$ 600.00	1,800.00	2,400.00		\$ -
Oregon	\$ 22,315.50		23,946.85	1,631.35	\$ -
Utah	\$ 19,449.03		20,870.83	1,421.80	\$ -
Washington	\$ 25,495.13		27,358.92	1,863.79	\$ -
Wyoming	\$ 16,652.47		16,652.47		\$ -
<b>Assessment Total</b>	<b>\$ 255,714.64</b>	<b>\$ 2,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 250,164.45</b>	<b>\$ 12,966.70</b>	<b>\$ 20,916.89</b>

**INCOME / EXPENSE**

Date	Transaction	Income	Expense	Balance
7/1/14	Balance forward			\$ 137,745.75
	YTD Assessments Received	\$ 237,197.75		374,943.50
	<u>Interest Earned</u>			
	July	18.34		374,961.84
	August	16.13		374,977.97
	September	17.75		374,995.72
	October	11.80		375,007.52
	November	23.49		375,031.01
	December	14.80		375,045.81
	January	22.20		375,068.01
	February	23.52		375,091.53
	March	11.43		375,102.96
	April	15.39		375,118.35
	May	10.64		375,128.99
	June			375,128.99
7/1/14	MT Accounting Fee		\$ 3,500.00	371,628.99
7/30/14	Non-employee travel		\$ 359.34	371,269.65
4/7/15	Christina Hamilton-admin support		\$ 1,000.00	370,269.65
	<u>CSU Payments</u>			
7/31/14	FY14 Fourth Quarter		63,873.10	306,396.55
2/17/15	First Quarter		63,551.22	242,845.33
2/17/15	Second Quarter		66,712.94	176,132.39
4/13/15	Third Quarter		63,671.17	112,461.22
	Fourth Quarter			112,461.22
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 237,383.24</b>	<b>\$ 262,667.77</b>	<b>\$ 112,461.22</b>

1. Initial FY15 assessment invoices were incorrect resulting in overpayments. These excess funds were refunded to each respective school.

**WESTERN DIRECTOR SPECIAL ACCOUNT  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FY2015**

24-Jun-15

<b>ASSESSMENTS</b>	FY 15 Assessments	Outstanding Assessments	Payment Received	Balance Due
Alaska				\$ -
Am Samoa				-
Arizona				-
California				-
Colorado				-
CSU Rent				-
Guam				-
Hawaii				-
Idaho				-
Micronesia				-
Montana				-
Nevada				-
New Mexico				-
Northern Marianas				-
Oregon				-
Utah				-
Washington				-
Wyoming				-
<b>Assessment Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**INCOME / EXPENSE**

Date	Transaction	Income	Expense	Balance
7/1/14	Balance forward			\$ 21,738.06
	YTD Assessments Received			21,738.06
	<u>Interest Earned</u>			
	July	2.06		21,740.12
	August	1.21		21,741.33
	September	1.24		21,742.57
	October	0.79		21,743.36
	November	1.48		21,744.84
	December	0.87		21,745.71
	January	1.30		21,747.01
	February	1.70		21,748.71
	March	1.15		21,749.86
	April	1.95		21,751.81
	May	1.62		21,753.43
	June			21,753.43
				21,753.43
10/23/2014	Jan Leach Travel		1,446.48	20,306.95
11/26/14	Kelley Eversole Travel		1,643.62	18,663.33
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 15.37</b>	<b>\$ 3,090.10</b>	<b>\$ 18,663.33</b>

NOTE: 2008 Grant workshop net from regional workshop plus interest (\$4389.12)

**WESTERN DIRECTOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FY2015**

24-Jun-15

<b>ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>FY 15 Assessments</b>	<b>Outstanding Assessments</b>	<b>Payment Received</b>	<b>Balance Due</b>
Alaska	\$ 1,323.71		\$ 1,323.71	\$ -
Am Samoa	\$ 200.00	200.00		400.00
Arizona	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
California	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Colorado	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Guam	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Hawaii	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Idaho	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Micronesia	\$ 200.00	200.00		400.00
Montana	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Nevada	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
New Mexico	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Northern Marianas	\$ 200.00	1,200.00	1,400.00	-
Oregon	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Utah	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Washington	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Wyoming	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
<b>Assessment Total</b>	<b>\$19,132.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,600.00</b>	<b>\$19,931.94</b>	<b>\$ 800.00</b>

**INCOME / EXPENSE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Transaction</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
7/1/14	Balance forward			\$13,448.29
	YTD Assessments Received	\$19,931.94		33,380.23
	<u>Interest Earned</u>			
	July	1.05		33,381.28
	August	1.33		33,382.61
	September	1.46		33,384.07
	October	1.01		33,385.08
	November	2.10		33,387.18
	December	1.32		33,388.50
	January	1.98		33,390.48
	February	2.39		33,392.87
	March	1.20		33,394.07
	April	1.66		33,395.73
	May	1.24		33,396.97
	June			33,396.97
	<u>CSU Payments</u>			
7/31/14	FY14 Fourth Quarter		4,783.00	28,613.97
2/17/15	First Quarter		4,783.00	23,830.97
2/17/15	Second Quarter		4,783.00	19,047.97
4/13/15	Third Quarter		4,783.00	14,264.97
	Fourth Quarter			14,264.97
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$19,948.68</b>	<b>\$19,132.00</b>	<b>\$14,264.97</b>

**WESTERN DIRECTOR JOINT SUMMER MEETING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FY2015**

24-Jun-15

ASSESSMENTS	FY 15 Assessments	Outstanding Assessments	Payment Received	Balance Due
Alaska	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	\$ -
Am Samoa	\$ 250.00			250.00
Arizona	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
California	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Colorado	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Guam	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Hawaii	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Idaho	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Micronesia	\$ 250.00		250.00	-
Montana	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Nevada	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
New Mexico	\$ 1,400.00		1,400.00	-
Northern Marianas	\$ -			-
Oregon	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Utah	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Washington	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Wyoming	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
<b>Assessment Total</b>	<b>\$20,100.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$19,850.00</b>	<b>\$ 250.00</b>

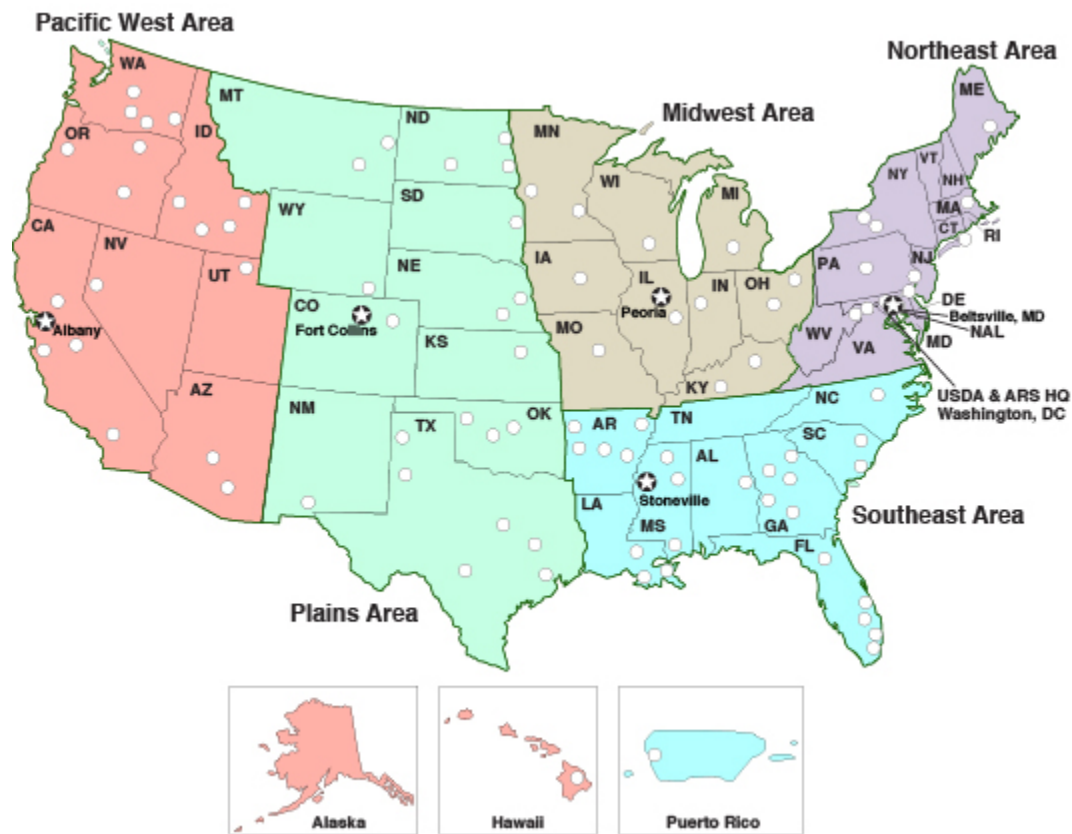
**INCOME / EXPENSE**

Date	Transaction	Income	Expense	Balance
7/1/14	Balance forward			\$ -
	YTD Assessments Received	\$19,850.00		19,850.00
	<u>Interest Earned</u>			
	July			19,850.00
	August	0.57		19,850.57
	September	0.14		19,850.71
	October	0.02		19,850.73
	November	0.25		19,850.98
	December	0.17		19,851.15
	January	0.26		19,851.41
	February	0.33		19,851.74
	March	0.23		19,851.97
	April	0.38		19,852.35
	May	0.32		19,852.67
	June			19,852.67
9/16/14	Univ of Nevada pmt		19,072.59	780.08
11/5/14	Refund Univ of NV overpmt		(2,913.69)	3,693.77
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$19,852.67</b>	<b>\$16,158.90</b>	<b>\$ 3,693.77</b>

**Agenda Item 5.0: ARS Report**  
**Presenter: John McMurtry**  
**Action Requested: For information**  
**Background:**

## ARS REPORT (Western) July 2015

### ARS AREA ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



### AREA LEADERSHIP

#### Pacific West Area

- Area Director: Andrew Hammond
- Associate Area Director: Maureen Whalen
- Associate Area Director: Tom Shanower
- **Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington**

#### Plains Area

- Area Director: Larry Chandler
- Acting Associate Area Director: Bryan Kaphammer
- Associate Area Director: John McMurtry

- **Colorado**, Kansas, **Montana**, Nebraska, **New Mexico**, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, **Wyoming**

## BUDGET

### FY 2015 Omnibus Appropriation

- ARS Salaries and Expenses:
  - \$1,132,625,000
  - Represents an increase of \$105 million over the FY 2014 spending level
- ARS Buildings and Facilities:
  - \$45 million
  - Rescinds \$1.5 million of existing unobligated balances

### FY 2016 President's Budget

<b>Salaries and Expenses:</b>	<b>(\$000s)</b>
<b><u>Increases:</u></b>	
FY 2016 Pay Cost	9,025
Climate Change	11,000
Transformational Genetics	11,100
Apprentice Farmer Program	150
Antimicrobial Resistance	7,000
Agricultural Sustainability	8,000
Reduce Vulnerability to Climate Change	8,000
Big Data, Earth Sciences, and Earth Observation	2,523
Combating Antimicrobial Resistant Bacteria	10,000
Pollinators	7,000
Vertical Farming	5,000
Sustainable Small Farms	7,500
Repair and Maintenance	20,000
Subtotal Increases	97,273
<b><u>Decreases:</u></b>	
Proposed Redirections	(25,986)
Proposed Terminations	(21,397)
Subtotal Decreases	(47,383)
<b>Total Salaries and Expenses</b>	<b>1,191,540</b>
<b>Buildings and Facilities:</b>	
Athens, GA: Poultry Research Facility	113,701
Beltsville, MD: Building #307	37,100
Ames, IA: National Laboratory for the Environment	13,500
Tucson, AZ: Southwest Watershed Research Laboratory	12,400
Houston, TX: Children's Nutrition Research Center	29,200
<b>Total Buildings and Facilities</b>	<b>205,901</b>
<b>ARS Total</b>	<b>1,397,441</b>

Note: The FY 2016 President's Budget also includes the proposed consolidation of the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho, with ARS laboratories in Aberdeen, Boise, and Kimberly, Idaho.

## **FY 2016 House Appropriations Committee Mark** (draft bill released by subcommittee 6/17/15)

- ARS Salaries and Expenses: \$1,122,454,000
  - Compared to FY 2015 appropriation \$-10,171,000
  - Compared to FY 2016 President's Budget \$-69,086,000
- ARS Buildings and Facilities: \$45,000,000

## **FY 2016 Senate Appropriations Committee Mark**

- ARS Salaries and Expenses: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Compared to FY 2015 appropriation \_\_\_\_\_
  - Compared to FY 2016 President's Budget \_\_\_\_\_
- ARS Buildings and Facilities: \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

## **NEW LEADERSHIP AND VACANCIES**

### California

- Western Regional Research Center, Albany
  - Produce Safety & Microbiology Unit, VACANT (Acting Research Leader, Robert Hnasko)
  - Foodborne Toxin Detection and Prevention Research Unit, VACANT (Acting Research Leader, Larry Stanker)
  - Exotic and Invasive Weeds Research Unit, Paul Pratt
- Western Human Nutrition Research Center, Davis
  - Obesity and Metabolism Research Unit, VACANT (Acting Research Leader, John Newman)

### Colorado

- Soil Plant and Nutrient Research Unit, Ft. Collins, VACANT (Jorge Delgado, Acting Research Leader)
- Plant and Animal Genetic Resources Preservation, Ft. Collins, VACANT (Harvey Blackburn, Acting Research Leader)
- Water Management Research Unit, Ft. Collins, VACANT (Lee Panella, Acting Research Leader)

### Idaho

- U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, VACANT (Acting Research Leader, Bret Taylor)

### Kansas

- Center for Grain and Animal Health Research, Manhattan, VACANT (Tom Herald, Acting Center Director)
- Stored Product Insect and Engineering Research Unit, Manhattan, James Campbell, Research Leader

### Montana

- Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory, Agricultural Systems Research Unit, Sidney, VACANT (John Gaskin, Acting Research Leader)

### Oklahoma

- Forage and Livestock Production Research Unit, El Reno, (Prasanna Gowda, Research Leader as of July 12, 2015)
- Hydraulic Engineering Research Unit, Stillwater, Sherry Hunt, Research Leader

Oregon

- Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit, Corvallis, VACANT (Acting Research Leader, Steve Alderman)

Utah

- Pollinating Insect-Biology, Management, Systematics Research Unit, Logan, VACANT (Jamie Strange), Acting Research Leader)

NRSP Review Committee Agenda Brief (Summer Meetings)

Presenters: Bret Hess and Mike Harrington

For information only

**NRSP Review Committee Members**

<p>Bret Hess, Chair (WAAESD)</p> <p>Delegates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fred Servello (NERA)</li><li>• Shirley Hymon-Parker (ARD)</li><li>• Doug Buhler (NCRA)</li><li>• Tom Bewick (NIFA)</li><li>• Clarence Watson (SAAESD)</li><li>• L. Washington Lyons (Cooperative Extension)</li></ul>	<p>Executive Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eric Young (SAAESD)</li><li>• Mike Harrington, Executive Vice-Chair (WAAESD)</li></ul> <p>Interim Delegate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tim Phipps (NERA)</li></ul> <p>Stakeholder Representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Don Latham (CARET)</li></ul>
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**Background:**

The NRSP Review Committee (NRSP-RC) met in Denver, CO on May 28, 2015 for its annual meeting to review proposals, budgets, and guidelines and make recommendations for funding. Recommendations will be presented at the Fall ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and are included in the NRSP portfolio table, below.

**NRSP 2015-2016**  
**Requests for Off-the-Top Funding**

Project	Request FY2013	Authorized FY2013	Request FY2014	Authorized FY2014	Request FY2015	Approved FY2015	†Request FY2016	NRSP Review Committee Recommendation
NRSP1 <sup>1</sup>	50,000	50,000	75,000	75,000	300,000	300,000	183,500	
NRSP3	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
NRSP4	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP6	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP7	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP8	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	
NRSP9	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	
NRSP10 <sup>2</sup>					398,631	398,631	370,165	
NRSP_TEMP004 (NRSP4)							481,182	<i>Approve proposal/budget; request further explanation for maintenance funding level requested.</i>
NRSP_TEMP006 (NRSP6)							150,000	<i>Approve proposal/budget; require committee to investigate alternative funding models and report back to NRSP-RC at mid-term review. See attached.</i>
NRSP_TEMP7 (NRSP7)							325,000	<i>Reject proposal/budget. See attached.</i>
NRSP_TEMP9 (NRSP9_							225,000	<i>Approve proposal/budget.</i>

†As of 2012, all NRSP budgets are approved for the duration of their current 5-year cycle, assuming an acceptable midterm review.

<sup>2</sup>Unlike other NRSPs, the NRSP10 MRF budget varies. The 5-year budget is as follows (please reference NIMSS for complete budget details):

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY202019
<b>MRF Funding</b>	398,631	370,165	381,834	433,969	406,591

### Summary of NRSPs

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Period</b>	<b>Midterm Review Year</b>
<b>NRSP-1</b>	National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)	2014-2017	2016
<b>NRSP-3</b>	The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	2014-2019	2017
<b>NRSP-4 (NRSP_TEMP4)</b>	Enabling Pesticide Registrations for Specialty Crops and Minor Uses	2015-2020	2018
<b>NRSP-6 (NRSP_TEMP6)</b>	The U.S. Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato ( <i>Solanum</i> ) Germplasm	2015-2020	2018
<b>NRSP-7 (NRSP_TEMP7)</b>	A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs	2015-2020	2018
<b>NRSP-8</b>	National Animal Genome Research Program	2013-2018	2016
<b>NRSP-9 (NRSP_TEMP9)</b>	National Animal Nutrition Program	2015-2020	2018
<b>NRSP10</b>	Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research	2014-2019	2017

# **A Synopsis of the U.S. Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (*Solanum*) Germplasm (NRSP6)**

## **Background**

The official National Plant Germplasm System project for the US potato genebank is in the National Research Support System designated as NRSP6. The NRSP system is a key facet of the State Agricultural Experiment Station (SAES) System. NRSP6 provides germplasm stocks, germplasm data, R&D techniques and tools and custom materials for germplasm evaluation to the stakeholders such as public and private plant breeders, potato researchers, food suppliers and processors both domestically and internationally. NRSP6 has been a viable national project (since the 1950s) with current top 10 state (unit) users from CA, IA, ID, MD, MI, MN, NY, OR, WA and WI and, in reality, nearly 50 states using the Genebank over short timeframes. The Genebank has over 5,000 items of germplasm for the world's most important non-cereal crop with 45% of these being unique. While the demand for Genebank services is increasing, the overall financial health is declining; thereby creating uncertainties that project evaluators recommend broader discussions to identify options for a more sustainable future. Very preliminary conversations have occurred with the National Potato Council leadership and staff, a NRSP review team member, a state breeder, state potato commission and a regional agricultural research association. Other key leaders, users and stakeholders must be consulted and fully engaged in order to design alternative funding models.

## **Challenges**

- Potato is a prohibited import crop, so current genetic resources in the US genebank are the only ones readily available to users. Continued restrictions on international germplasm collection and distribution limit new discoveries, thereby increasing the importance and use of the current stocks.
- Historical purchasing power erosion and direct cuts in program support across all of the primary funding sources (USDA Ag Research Service, State Ag Experiment Stations, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Industry, grants) and numerous in-kind contributions negatively impact the overall operation of NRSP6. Budget pressures have negatively impacted: personnel, operations, maintenance, facility and equipment. The end result is a tenuous future.
- A key essence of the NRSP system is to leverage expertise and resources across priority projects such that the SAES System and other users (as appropriate) benefit and share the costs. This is a strength as well as a weakness.

## **Next Steps**

- Fortuitously, several key meetings are occurring which will allow for a more inclusive discussion and evaluation of future prospects for action (National Potato Council board and managers summer meeting, NRSP6 and regional ag research association(s)).
- Assuming that these discussions are favorable, key individuals should be identified to serve on a committee to delve deeper into the challenge and identify potential solutions that will lead to a consistent and sustainable funding model that will ensure a quality, financially stable and comprehensive US Potato Genebank well into the future.

## **A Synopsis of the National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs. (NRSP-7)**

### **Background**

The minor use animal drug program has been in existence since 1983 with the following mission/objectives:

1. *Identify* animal drug needs, including naturally occurring biotherapeutics and feed additives, for minor species and minor uses in major species,
2. *Generate* and *disseminate* data for safe and effective therapeutic and biotherapeutic applications, and
3. *Facilitate* FDA/CVM approvals for drugs and biotherapeutics identified as a priority for a minor species or minor use.

NRSP-7 functions to coordinate efforts among animal producers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, FDA/CVM, USDA/ Research, Education, and Extension, universities, State Agricultural Experiment Stations and veterinary medical colleges throughout the country.

The project has received off the top funding since USDA NIFA funds have not been available for the past 6 years. After efforts to join forces with NRSP4 failed in 2014, the NRSP Review Committee (RC) provided a one year approval with a requirement of leveraging off the top funding and also emphasized the importance of engaging stakeholders in support of the project.

A majority of NRSP-RC members felt that the committee did not demonstrate “new” leveraged funds, as required, and, rather, only did a better job of reporting funds that already existed (based on explanations provided in the proposal). In addition, the RC expressed concern that, even with NRSP funding, there would not be sufficient funds to make the program effective or impactful. Finally, there was concern about a lack of stakeholder involvement.

Thus, by a **7-1 vote, the committee approved a recommendation to reject the proposal and budget.** Assuming the recommendation is upheld at the Experiment Station Section Meeting in September, NRSP7 will receive 1-year of funding at the current level to phase out activities.

### **Challenges**

- New Minor Use Animal Drugs have been approved at a rate of 1.6/yr. during the 32 years of the program and 52 applications have been made.
- The cost of the program to provide information to support a single label claim has risen to approximately \$3.1 million. At the current funding level approval of a single drug would require 4-5 years.
- There are currently six active projects.
- There is little or no *organized* stakeholder involvement (i.e., an advisory committee) in identifying priorities.
- The program has struggled to remain in existence.
- The program has been unable to garner broad stakeholder support.

### **Additional Comments:**

The NRSP-RC feels that this is an important effort but it needs to have more structure and guidance. This would commence with a retreat of the administrative advisors and other principals at a central location. This meeting would address organizational shortcomings and develop further approaches to codify the program.

A second meeting would bring together stakeholders including the drug industry, producers, USDA, with the aim of directly identifying problems, address funding needs and creating an Advisory Committee.

Several NRSP-RC members are interested in working with the committee to build support for the program to a level that would truly make it effective and impactful.

**Agenda Item 7.0: NIFA POW**

**Presenter:** Steve Loring

**Action Requested:** Discussion and submission of additional recommendations

**Background:**

**Plan of Work Panel of Experts**  
*Recommendations to NIFA*

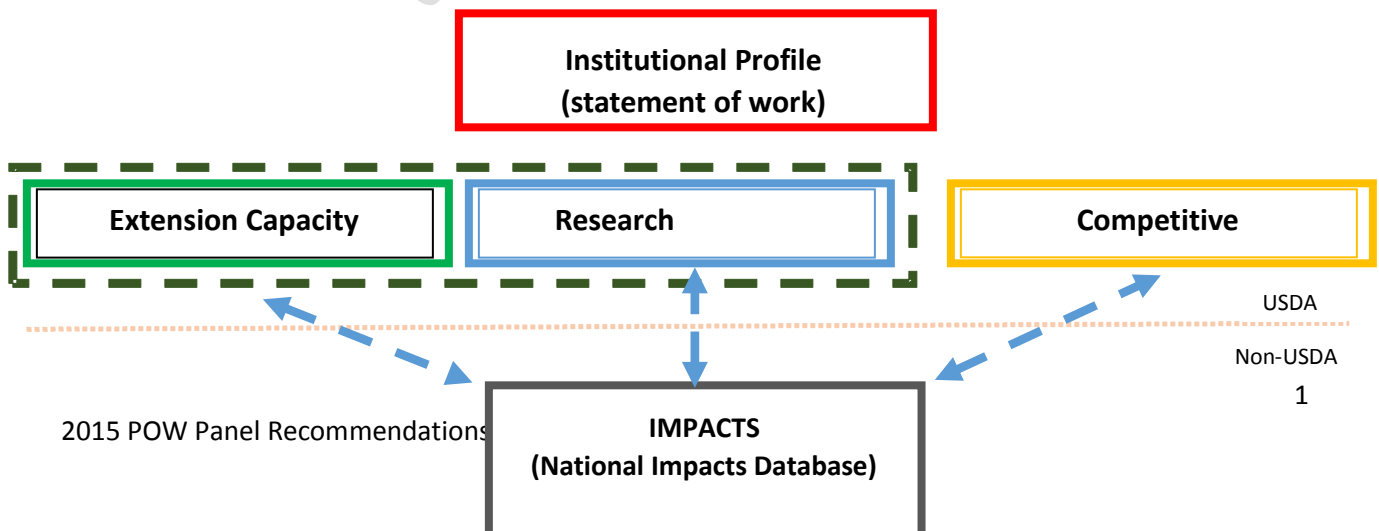
A Panel of Experts on the AREERA Plan of Work reporting process convened on June 16-18 to discuss improvements to the current reporting process. The Panel consisted of 14 members representing Research, Extension and NIFA. The Panel, with input from their respective regions and from NIFA program leaders, agreed that the current process is duplicative and burdensome. The Panel makes the following recommendations to NIFA so that the process may be streamlined in a way that reduces the reporting burden on the Land Grant Institutions as well as the review burden on NIFA National Program Leaders. The Panel also believes that this streamlining will improve data quality and result in a data collection that meets legislative requirements while also providing NIFA what it needs to continue to promote the effectiveness of the AREERA capacity funds.

The following recommendations are in draft form and will be vetted with the Panel members' regional leaders and constituencies before being presented to NIFA as final. All proposed changes will be made by the Regions to their respective representatives on the Panel. The final recommendations will be contained in a larger report that details the issues and logic that formed these recommendations. Report will be developed by the Panel over the next 60 days.

The following recommendations are classified under two categories: system-specific and general.

SYSTEM-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. There should be one reporting system with a stable platform that has the elements depicted in the graphic below. The existing Plan of Work and Annual Report of Accomplishments reporting system should be eliminated concurrent with the introduction of the new system.



- a) In support of this recommendation, NIFA should invest in human capital and hardware/software to improve the current and future reporting system (or its replacement for the single system/database approach) and make plans to discontinue support of the older and less flexible POW platform. The “single system” approach should be developed in a way that allows for aggregation of all numerical data wherever possible; it should also be able to prepopulate qualitative/descriptive data wherever possible.
  - b) Concurrent with the recommendation above, technical issues currently present in REEport, including but not limited to the excessive time needed to upload and download documents, formatting issues, and the tendency for the system to crash should be addressed, especially if the REEport platform will be leveraged for the single system approach recommended here; the system needs to be a robust and high-performance platform.
2. The Institutional Profile module in the new system should contain those elements mandated by AREERA and other data elements deemed essential by NIFA, including:
  - a) a Short Programmatic Overview of the submitting institution(s);
  - b) a Short Annual Programmatic Summary covering Research, Extension, and Integrated program and project accomplishments (the summary should highlight those programs and projects that have realized significant accomplishments and impacts in the previous year);
  - c) description of Merit and Scientific Review processes;
  - d) description of Stakeholder Input and utilization processes;
  - e) Multistate Extension and Integrated Research and Extension components as required by AREERA;
  - f) a list of “planned programs” (or whatever they will be called in the new system).
3. The Institutional Profile module should be structured so that it may remain relatively unchanged from year to year and will repopulate annually for the institution; this results in a 5-year dynamic, rolling “plan” for all 1862 and 1890 Institutions (both Research and Extension).
  - a) If an institution wishes to make changes to their profile annually, they should be able to do so (both add and subtract program elements), and a mechanism to highlight such changes for the NIFA reviewer should exist.

4. The listing of “planned programs” that is entered into the “Institutional Profile” should allow tagging to NIFA’s topic areas; this will allow entered data to be rolled up for NIFA’s use.
5. The Research Capacity and Competitive reporting modules should function in a manner similar to how they are currently accounted for. The Extension Capacity reporting module should be developed to include planning and reporting related metrics needed by NIFA to assess progress and to promote the accomplishments of capacity-funded programs.
6. The Extension and Research Capacity and Competitive reporting modules should be linked to the National Impacts Database (NID) so that users of the system are not required to enter impact statements that are already documented in the NID.
7. Participation in the National Impacts Database should be optional, not mandatory. The NID will be informed by the Extension and Research Capacity and Competitive reporting modules of the single system. Language in the NID should be updated to link to NIFA’s topic areas so that NIFA may properly associate impacts to agency’s areas of focus.
8. Knowledge areas (KAs) and Subjects of Investigation (SOIs) should be expanded and/or modified to meet both Research and Extension’s needs.
9. NIFA should restore the flexibility of a state to report by institution (1862, 1890), organization (Research, Extension), or jointly.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

10. The following sub-groups should be created in order to ensure all recommendations of the Panel of Experts are carried out accurately and efficiently (note that a Panel Expert may serve on one or more sub-groups):
  - a) a sub-group to define the Extension Capacity program reporting module; the group will clearly define data fields/elements that need to be included in the new module;
  - b) a sub-group to operationalize the data elements and functionality of the “Institutional Profile;
  - c) a sub-group to identify new Knowledge Areas (KAs) and Subjects of Investigation (SOIs) for addition to NIFA’s Manual of Classification so that both Research and Extension can classify projects and programs accurately;
  - d) other sub-groups as needed; for example, fiscal monitoring/tracking (the Panel of Experts will serve as a committee for determining when a new sub-group is required.

11. Reporting Deadlines: NIFA should keep all capacity reporting deadlines with the due dates that currently exist but should re-visit this issue once the new “single system concept” has been implemented (currently Feb 1 for Research REEport Financial Report; Mar 1 for Research Progress and Final Report; April 1 for all other capacity reporting).
12. A permanent accountability and reporting track (akin to the fiscal track) for the National Extension and Research Administrative Officers' Conference (NERAOC) should be implemented. NIFA should send Representatives from the Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff (PARS) to the meeting annually so that feedback can be gained and improvements made to the database, by both sides, without waiting for the Panel of Experts to convene every five years.
13. A commitment should be made by NIFA to work with Land Grant partners to ensure that the resultant system is fully searchable by (but not limited to) author, keyword, topic, programmatic classification, and location of work, and that the information within the modules will be effectively linked within the larger system.
14. NIFA should strengthen the State Liaison Program to more effectively build and maintain relationships between program leaders and state institutions.
  - a) NIFA should clarify, standardize, and communicate the review criteria NPLs use to review programs/projects.
  - b) NIFA should clarify and communicate/educate its LGU partners how data are used to report out to various audiences and stakeholders.
15. Non-AREERA programs, such as McIntire-Stennis, should not be included in the new reporting model proposed in these recommendations at this time, but the Panel acknowledges that the new “single system” approach, combined with NIFA’s grants modernization initiative, could eventually result in a framework that may be applied to all NIFA funding programs.

**To provide feedback to these recommendations, please contact your regional representative who is compiling all suggested changes to these recommendations and will be discussing with the Panel of Experts during July and August virtual meetings.**

**Agenda Item 8.0:** Nominations

**Presenter:** H. M. Harrington

**Action Requested:** Select WAAESD Chair-Elect and other positions as necessary; formally nominate ESCOP Chair

**Background:**

**Current 2015-2016 WAAESD Executive Committee Roster:**

**Past-Chair:** Larry Curtis (OR)

**Chair:** Jeff Steiner (CO)

**Chair-Elect:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:** Rachel Leon Guerrero (GU)

**Treasurer:** Charles Boyer (MT)

**At-Large Member:** Steve Loring (NM)

**At-Large Member:** Don Snyder (UT)

Bret Hess (WY) has volunteered to serve as the ESCOP Chair from the Western Region. He is considered qualified having served as both the chair of the regional association (WAAESD) and chaired an ESCOP committee (NRSP-Review Committee).

**Agenda Item 9.0: Resolutions**

**Presenter:** Rachael Leon Guerrero

**Action Requested:** Adopt resolution

**Action Taken:**

**Background:**

**WHEREAS** Dr. Craig Beyrouy, past-Dean of Colorado State University, College of Agriculture Sciences; Megan Griffith, Assistant to the Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences; Lou Swanson, Vice President for Engagement and Director of Extension; Lori Bates, Executive Assistant to the VP for Engagement and Director of Extension; Dr. Michael Harrington, WAAESD Executive Director; and Sarah Lupis, WAAESD Assistant Director and all their colleagues were organizers and hosts for the 2015 Western Region Joint Summer Meeting at the DoubleTree by Hilton, in Breckenridge, CO from July 6 to July 9 2015; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Beyrouy, Dr. Swanson and their colleagues were outstanding hosts, providing hospitable and beautiful lake and mountainous surroundings in which to meet; and

**WHEREAS** the DoubleTree by Hilton's Breckenridge, CO provided excellent service, accommodations, delicious and abundant meals and break services; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Beyrouy, Dr. Swanson and their colleagues arranged an excellent program that allowed discussion of crucial issues pertinent to the Western Region in a cooperative, collegial atmosphere; and

**WHEREAS** invited facilitators Steve McMullin, Ben West, Michael Fraidenburg, Michele Beucler and Darrin Katz, Ashley Hawn, and Colin Lever from kglobal led us through the process of assembling complex and important issues in the West; be it

**RESOLVED** that the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at its meeting in Breckenridge, from June 6-9, 2015, expresses its sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Beyrouy, Dr. Swanson and their colleagues for their significant contributions to a successful meeting; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Beyrouy and Dr. Swanson and that a copy be filed as part of the official minutes of this meeting.

**Item**

**ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Agenda Brief**

**Presenters: Gary Thompson and Mike Harrington**

**For information only**

The committee holds regular conference calls on the last Tuesday of each month. These calls have generally been well attended. The current B&L Committee membership is shown below.

<p><b>Chair:</b> Gary Thompson (NERA)</p> <p><b>Delegates:</b> Barry Bequette (ARD) Carolyn Brooks (ED-ARD) Karen Plaut (NCRA) Ernie Minton NCRA Tim Phipps (NERA) John Wraith (NERA) Bill Brown (SAAESD) Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD) Jim Moyer (WAAESD) Jeff Steiner (WAAESD)</p> <p><b>Executive Vice-Chair</b> Mike Harrington (WAAESD)</p>	<p><b>Liaisons</b></p> <p>Rick Klemme (ECOP Liaison) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Emir Albores (NIFA) Vacant (ARS) Glen Hoffsis (APLU Vet Med) Eddie Gouge (APLU) Ian Maw (APLU) Connie Pelton Kays (CARET) Cheryl Achterberg (APLU - BoHS)</p> <p>Jim Richards (Cornerstone) Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone) Vernie Hubert (Cornerstone)</p> <p>*Chair elect</p>
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Following the March 3 meeting in Washington DC, a subcommittee led by Saied Mostaghimi was charged with creating, for consideration, a Strategic Marketing Campaign document that would be used to guide future initiative such as the Water Security initiative. The group held several calls, one including Darren Katz from kglobal. Draft documents were exchanged via email arriving at a final version that was presented the full B&L Committee for approval. This draft has also been shared with the ECOP B&L Committee.

A document outlining the development and approval of initiatives that are outside of the seven priority lines was requested by the BAA Budget and Advocacy Committee. A draft document has been shared with both Budget and Legislative committees. We are waiting on a response from ECOP. This and the above mentioned document will be melded together.

Joint discussions with the ECOP B&L Committee have focused on joint efforts provide integrated approaches and leadership for future budget efforts such as the Water Security Initiative. The ESCOP Committee has requested all AES Directors submit water research impacts using the to the National Impact Database with an RSVP of July 10 (see below)

All documents related the federal budget and the Farm Bill are located at the [land-grant.org](http://land-grant.org) website.

Directors:

As you know the ESCOP, ECOP, the BAA, and the Policy Board of Directors all have endorsed the National Initiative on the Improvement of U.S. Water Security. As part of moving forward with advocacy for this Initiative ESCOP and ECOP are collecting important impact stories that address the five Keystones of National Significance and brief listing of example subtopics below:

- Food and Agricultural Production
  - Crop and Animal Production
  - Conservation
  - Groundwater
  - Irrigation
  - Reuse
- Environment and Ecosystems Services
  - Endangered species
  - Groundwater recharge
  - In stream flows
  - Nutrients
  - Pesticides
- Energy Production
  - Biofuel production
  - Fracking
  - Dams and hydropower
- Human Health and Safety
  - Bacteria
  - Drinking water
  - Food Safety
  - Personal Care
  - Pharmaceuticals
- Community Vitality
  - Community planning
  - Economic/business planning
  - Land use changes
  - Extreme events

Our Extension colleagues and ACE writers are mining the National Impact Database for water impact stories. Unfortunately, there are few impacts on water research currently in the database. Accordingly we ask your kind assistance in providing no more than one impact story for each of the Keystone areas or any/all subtopics. Please work with your communications staff and others as needed to identify appropriate research impacts. Stories can be submitted to the [National Impact Database](#), by providing a link or emailing the story to [Michael.Harrington@colostate.edu](mailto:Michael.Harrington@colostate.edu).

The B&L Committee will work with communications experts to select responses and assimilate combined impact stories. Your responses would appreciated by July 10.

## Item 7.0: Science and Technology Committee Agenda Brief

Presenter: John Russin/Jeff Jacobsen

Action requested: None, for information only.

### 1. NAS AFRI Review

The ESCOP Science and Technology Committee reviewed the NRC Report on *Spurring Innovation in Food and Agriculture: A Review of the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)*. In addition, the AFRI webinar slides and the NIFA response to the NRC Report served as additional sources of perspectives and information. In general, S&T supports the recommendations and offers additional emphasis in several key areas as a mechanism to further enhance and improve the impact of mission-oriented agricultural and natural resources research. Additional details of our deliberations can be found at: <http://escop.ncsu.edu/ViewCommittees.cfm?comid=5>

The overview of key elements from the S&T discussions are:

- The NRC Review provided NIFA and the system with an initial opportunity to review, adjust and monitor AFRI programs across the initial years following its formation and implementation. We support the review process and encourage on-going engagement with NIFA to improve its programs through program and process changes. S&T encourages continued monitoring of NIFA implementation strategies and future reviews as the performance period of many initiatives is fully reached.  
**SUMMARY:** S&T will monitor advancements over time. The ESCOP Chair and the research EDs could routinely discuss with NIFA leadership.
- All support a unified voice to increase the amount of total funding for AFRI. Many of the recommendations and the legislative intent of programs would then have the opportunity to reach their full potential in enhancing research, Extension and academic programs in agriculture and natural resources.  
**SUMMARY:** We encourage the continued efforts to communicate and align the various COPS initiatives through their respective B&L committees, BAC and PBD. These are in conjunction with the Communication and Marketing as well as advocacy efforts through Cornerstone Government Affairs.
- We support the recommendations regarding simplification of the AFRI structure through prioritization of inquiry-driven and mission-driven approaches across priority areas, reducing or eliminating the Challenge Area approaches, careful and comprehensive review of CAP grants following their completion, support the reduction in CAP grant awards, improved consistency in program priorities across time and careful evaluation of grant application metrics.  
**SUMMARY:** NIFA should be continually encouraged to review and implement the ESS Science Roadmap in their program priorities within and across federal agencies.
- S&T strongly encourages NIFA to provide leadership with programs that leverage initiatives and funding across federal agencies relevant to AFRI. On-going discussion with ESS, NIFA leadership and NPLs should occur on a routine basis. We also strongly support the creation of an AFRI Scientific Advisory Board or other appropriate mechanism to secure additional input to design relevant and high impact AFRI programs.

**ACTION:** ESS (and the other sections) should create a mechanism to integrate multiple agency initiatives. Alternatively, this could be added as a charge to the two B&L committees? S&T strongly supports the creation of a scientific advisory group with key faculty leaders. Note: Federal rules may prohibit this explicitly as an advisory group as it is not authorized, yet other mechanisms could be used. ESS leadership should have on-going discussion on this opportunity.

## 2. 2015 National Multistate Research Award

The Science and Technology committee received four nominations for the National Multistate Research Award this year:

- NC140: Improving Economic and Environmental Sustainability in Tree-Fruit Production Through Changes in Rootstock Use
- NE1201: Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals
- S1049: Integrated Management of Pecan Arthropod Pests in the Southern U.S.
- W3122: Beneficial and Adverse Effects of Natural, Bioactive Dietary Chemicals on Human Health and Food Safety

The Science and Technology Committee selected **NC140** as this year's winner and this recommendation was approved by majority vote of the ESCOP Executive Committee. We received back 8 out of 10 possible votes; 7 were for approval, 1 for disapproval.

The 2016 National Multistate Research Award call for nominations document (below) was updated to reflect current practices and will be distributed nationally this fall, following the 2015 ESS/AES/ARD meeting and Workshop.

## 3. National Multistate Research Award – 2016 Call for Nominations

### **2016 Experiment Station Section Award for Excellence in Multistate Research** (updated June 2015)

#### **Purpose**

The fundamental mandate of the Multistate Research authority allows State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES) to *interdependently* collaborate in projects that two or more states share as a priority, but for which no one state could address singularly. This is a very high standard for any research project, and has become a hallmark of the Multistate Research Program's management objectives.

The Multistate Research authority allows other non-SAES partners to join in these project-based collaborations. Thus, many multistate projects include extension specialists as members as well as Agricultural Research Service or Forest Service research scientists. In addition, many projects have

private sector participants. Moreover, the majority of multistate projects have participants from more than a single region, with many having representation from all regions such that they are national in scope.

To many, the Multistate Research Program is one of the "best kept secrets" of the Land-grant University System.

The purpose of this Experiment Station Section Excellence in Multistate Research Award program is to annually recognize those scientists who are conducting exemplary multistate activities and enhance the visibility of the multistate program. A recipient Multistate Project will be selected from the pool of nominees submitted by the five regional research associations (NCRA, NERA, SAAESD, WAAESD, and ARD), and deemed by the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee to exhibit sustained, meritorious and exceptional multistate activities. The ESCOP Executive Committee will provide final approval.

### **Award and Presentation**

The national winning project will be recognized by the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) Chair and USDA/NIFA Administrator during the Awards Program held at the APLU Annual Meeting. Each of the regional award winning projects will also be included in the awards brochure by project number and title, technical committee chair, administrative advisor and participating institutions. This will be created by the Impact Writer and submitted to APLU. The title of the national winning project will be added to a plaque located at the USDA Waterfront Centre.

For the past several years, the Experiment Station Directors have approved a monetary recognition of \$15,000 of Hatch Multistate Research Fund (MRF) for the Excellence in Multistate Research Award winner. Up to \$5,000 has been available to cover travel for two members of the recipient project (the Administrative Advisor and Chair or their designees), to attend the awards ceremony at the APLU annual conference. The remaining \$10,000, and any unused travel funds, have been available to support activities which enhance and contribute to the research and/or outreach objectives of that multistate project, consistent with the appropriate use of Hatch MRF. Use of these funds is a project committee decision made in conjunction with its Administrative Advisor.

### **Eligibility**

Any current Multistate Project listed in the NIMSS ([insert new NIMSS URL](#)) is eligible for consideration for an Excellence in Multistate Research Award.

### **Basis for Nomination**

Each of the five regional research associations may nominate one Multistate Project chosen from the entire national portfolio of active projects. Nominations shall be made to the Chair of the respective regional Multistate Review Committee (MRC) via the regional Executive Director's office. The documentation for this type of nomination should be sufficient to allow the review committee members to evaluate the Project according to the criteria listed below.

## **Criteria and Evaluation**

Regional selection of multistate teams for an Award for Excellence will be based on panel evaluations of nominations that demonstrate: high standards of scientific quality; research relevance to a regional priority; multistate collaboration on the problem's solution; and professional leadership in the conduct of the project. All nominated projects shall be evaluated using the same criteria including, in descending order of importance, the Project's: accomplishments indicated by outputs, outcomes and impacts; added-value and synergistic advantages from the Project's interdependency; degree of institutional participation (SAES and others); extent of multi-disciplinary activity; amount of integrated activities (multi-functional); and evidence of additional leveraged funding to further the Project goals.

## **Selection Process**

The ESCOP Science and Technology Committee will serve as the review panel and will select from among the regional nominees a national winner in time for public announcement and award presentation at the APLU Annual Meeting each year. All nominated projects shall be evaluated using the same criteria, as listed above.

## **Timeline**

- October – Announcement sent to Directors, Administrative Advisors and NIMSS participants by ESCOP Chair
- February 28 – Nominations due at Offices of the Executive Directors
- March – Nominations reviewed by regional multistate research review or multistate research collaboration committees and recommendations submitted to regional associations
- March/April – Regional associations approve regional nominations at Spring meetings
- May - Regional associations review, edit and finalize their nomination prior to the final submission
- May 30 – Associations submit final regional nominations to ESCOP Science and Technology Committee
- June – ESCOP Science and Technology Committee reviews regional nominations and submits recommendation for national winner to ESCOP Executive Committee
- June/July – ESCOP Executive Committee selects national winner
- July – National winner submitted to APLU
- September – National winner announced at ESS meeting
- November – Award made at APLU meeting

### Nomination Format

A nomination should be a very concise statement. It should include:

**Nominating Region:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project or Committee Number and Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Technical Committee Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Administrative Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Summary of Significant Accomplishment(s)** (noting the following):

- The issue, problem or situation addressed by the project or committee;
- The project or committee's objectives;
- The outcome(s) of the research;
- The impacts of the project or activity (actual or anticipated);
- The extent of links to extension that have been formed; and
- Any additional and relevant partnerships, associations or collaborations that deserve mention.

**List of Participating Institutions: Add as an appendix**

Nominations will be **no more than 3 single spaced pages** (Times Roman 12 point and one inch margins) plus a 1 page Appendix listing Participating Institutions and units for a total of 4 pages. Regions may utilize other information in selecting their nominee. The final regional nomination should be submitted by email to the Office of the regional Executive Director, by **c.o.b. February 28, 2016**:

Chris Hamilton, North Central <christina.hamilton@wisc.edu>

Rubie Mize, Northeast <rgmize@aesop.rutgers.edu>

Donna Pearce, South <donna\_pearce@ncsu.edu>

Sarah Lupis, West <sarah.lupis@colostate.edu>

Dr. Carolyn Brooks, ARD-1890's <cbbrooks@umes.edu>

**CONSENT Agenda Item 11.4 : NIMSS Redesign Update (as of June 16, 2015)**

**Presenters:** Sarah Lupis

**Action Requested:** For information

**Background:**

**Overview of the New NIMSS:** The new NIMSS system is project based, rather than task based, as the old system is. Depending upon their level of permission (such as regional admin, Station Director, AA, basic user), users will log in and immediately see updates and reminders for projects with which they are associated. From there, users can easily search for a project and access all related functions, such as editing participants, uploading reports and reviews. All text input boxes/editors now allow authors to format their content in a similar way to Microsoft Word. Auto-generated emails will be updated with appropriate links and helpful instructions, if needed. Database security will be greatly improved and our current contract with the Clemson University's Information Technology Team (ITT) will ensure ongoing maintenance and upgrades, at least for the next two years of our contract. Overall, the new system has a modern look and feel, with improved functionality that should make tasks easier and faster for all users. *Attached Branding and Architecture pages below this update illustrate what the new system looks like and how it functions.*

**Main NIMSS Functions:** Function and styling for Projects, Participants, Reports/Meetings, Impact Statement, and Reviews options are complete. The Directory is the only remaining function that still needs development. The User Interface Team is now going back through and styling intermediate screens, such as the login landing page and others. A few of the review forms may be updated at some point, as request by (we are waiting on updated forms, but believe that the forms can be updated in the system later, as needed). Jeff Jacobsen, Sarah Lupis, and Chris Hamilton are also working on streamlining and re-wording the NIMSS email auto-notifications.

**Existing NIMSS Data Migration:** Data migration from the old to the new system is underway. Clemson ITT has created a data map and they are working to make sense of the old system and existing data. This will take some time, but Jason Eichelberger is working on creating software to re-run and remodel the data to current, modern standards, which will improve future structure and efficiency. Data will also be indexed to enable and enhance search functions.

**BETA Testing:** Once styling and data remodeling is complete, Clemson ITT will have a functional system for beta testing. Chris Hamilton and Sarah Lupis will share this testing link with the NIMSS Redesign Team over the summer to make sure things work properly and identify any gaps. Currently, we can look at the testing system and follow the completed menu structure, but without data, it's not possible to explore functions properly. More information on how the ESCOP NIMSS redesign team and Clemson ITT will interface will come in the future. Chris Hamilton/Sarah Lupis will be in touch with the NIMSS Redesign Team as soon as testing can begin, either by email or phone, depending upon scheduling.

**Migrating Data to NIFA:** Chris Hamilton and Jason Eichelberger had a call with NIFA on 6/9 to introduce Jason to the NIFA REEport IT team. Jason is now in contact and working closely with NIFA to learn what

they need from the new system. He's gone through the old system and located the existing interchange file protocol for NIFA and indicates that it will be fairly straightforward to give them the data they need.

**Updated Password Protection:** The new NIMSS will have updated 256 bit encryptions of passwords, so all users will be prompted to change their existing passwords immediately upon accessing the new system. This will result in a much more secure system.

**System Launch:** We tentatively expect to shut down the current system in late August to allow all remaining data to be migrated to the new NIMSS system. This could take up to two weeks, but we expect less. After the data is migrated, the new NIMSS will launch and be ready for immediate use. Estimated launch is August/early September. After launch of the new system, the old NIMSS will not be accessible for use.

**Contract:** The contract with Clemson University's Information Technology Team) was executed April 2015 for the three year period as articulated in NRSP1. APLU (Peter McPherson, President) on behalf of the ESS, and Clemson University (George Askew, Vice President Public Service Agency) were the signatories.

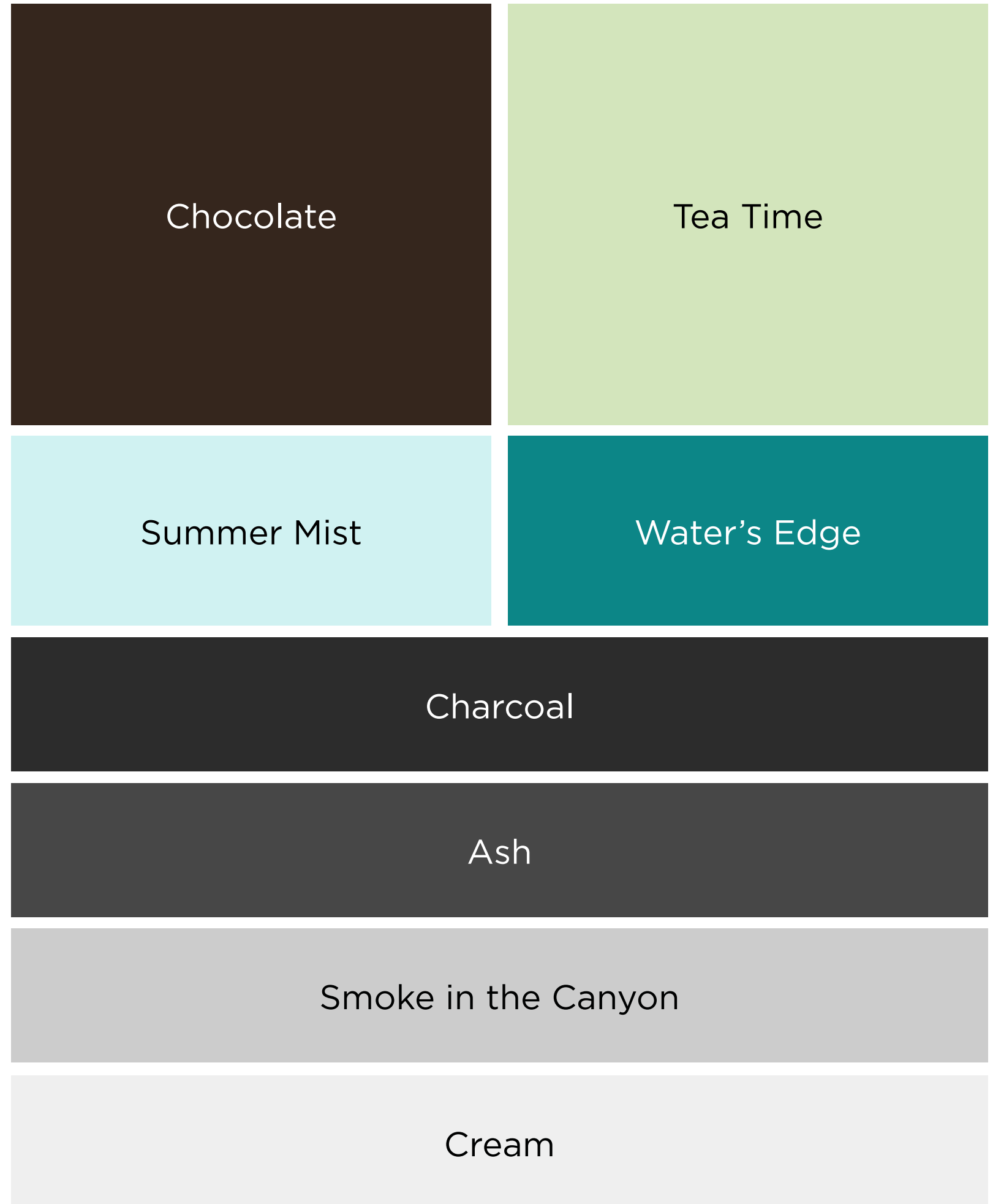
# **NIMSS**

Brand Concept

# Colors

During our introductory call, we heard you ask for colors inspired by earth tones. Since the work connects back to nature, we used a warm palette of brown, green and blue.

The application will use color conservatively to maintain a professional appearance.



# The Logo

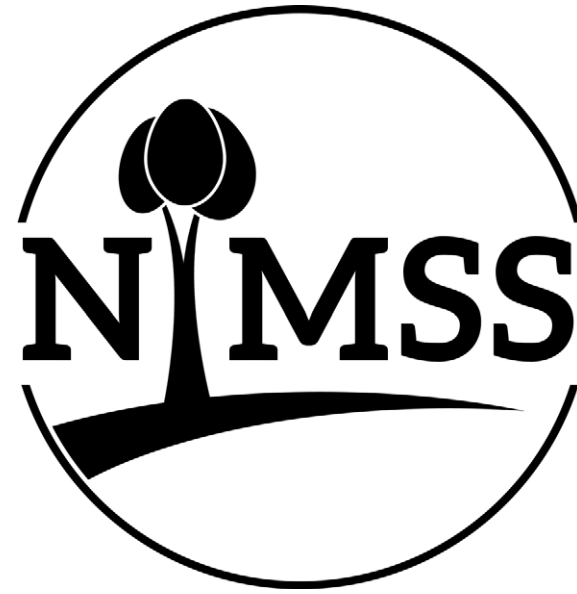
NIMSS is deeply connected to nature and agriculture. We like the way the circle and color brown connects to the idea of the earth.

The tree is intended to remind existing users that they are still on NIMSS, but with an upgraded system.



# Other Treatments

Most of the time, the logo won't be presented in the full-color stamp version. We've created these alternatives to show different ways the logo can adapt to changing environments.



**Black**

Here, the tree and hill remains, while the sky has been removed to ensure clarity.



**Slim**

Useful for situations in which vertical space is at a premium. Particularly on the web.



**White**

Similar to the slim, just reversed for contrast on colored backgrounds.

# Iconography

For the new NIMSS, we are introducing a system of icons to visually represent different concepts on the site.

These icons will help differentiate tasks and provide visual cues for navigation.



Project



Participants



Dashboard



Reports



Impact Statement



Reviews



Directory



Proposal  
(under consideration)

# Typeface

We are designing the new NIMSS in Helvetica Neue. The typeface is the updated cousin of the famous Helvetica.

It is recognized for its flexibility and straightforwardness and used by Apple for the iPhone, as well as many modern apps.

To the right is a type demonstration of the font.

Helvetica Neue

*A font of such practicality*

## **The Swiss and Their Fonts**

What is it about the Swiss? Or, to be precise: what is it about the Swiss and their sans serif typefaces? Helvetica and Univers both emerged from Switzerland in the same year—1957—and went out to shape the modern world. They would sort out not just transport systems but whole cities, and no typefaces ever looked more sure of themselves or their purpose.



Email Address

Password

Log In

[Forgot Password?](#)

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# **NIMSS**

Site Architecture

# Revising the Structure

The present structure of NIMSS is difficult for a novice user to understand and use.

Our starting point for this redesign was to ask the question: “what are real people here to do.” We haven’t fully answered that question, this is just a taste of our direction.

To us, the central piece of content on the site is the project. Everything flows from there. You can review a project, write an impact statement, schedule a meeting, or assign an advisor. Most users care about

a single project. A few key administrators watch over group of the projects for which they are responsible. As a result, we want to flip the way we think about NIMSS.

The old system asked two questions: 1. What task do you want to complete?  
2. Which project are you working on?  
We think people will find it easier to understand by choosing a project first, and then completing their task for that project.

\* The designs included in this document are meant to be mockups, not locked-in final versions. We expect them to evolve over time as we begin building the system.

# All Projects

The list of Projects will be a key focus for usability. We want users to be able to find their project via:

1. Search
2. Station
3. Status (active, proposed)

From there, clicking on one of the projects will show the screen on the following page.

Additionally, we've added pagination and sorting to keep the list from getting out of hand.

Home > Projects

## Projects

All | Active | Proposed | Terminated | Expired

Station  Type  Filter  [Search Projects](#)

Number	Title	Advisor	State	Mid-Term Review	Expiration Date
<a href="#">NC205</a> <a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">View Public</a>	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
<a href="#">NC1023</a>	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
<a href="#">NC1100</a> - Expired	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
<a href="#">NC1183</a>	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
<a href="#">NC1184</a>	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
<a href="#">NC1186</a> - Proposed	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
<a href="#">NC1187</a>	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
<a href="#">NC1029</a>	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
<a href="#">NC1030</a>	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
<a href="#">NC1034</a>	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016

Page 1 of 12

# Project Landing Page

The screenshot shows the NIMSS Project Landing Page for project NC205. The page features a dark sidebar on the left with navigation options: Dashboard, Projects (selected), All Projects, New Proposal, Participants, Reports, Impact Statement, Reviews, and Directory. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail 'Home > Projects' and the project title 'NC205' with the subtitle 'Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Lepidopteran Pests of Corn'. A green notification bar at the top states 'New Participant: John Smith is awaiting approval.' Below this is a row of six icons representing different project components: Outline, Participants, Meetings, Reports, Impact Statement, and Reviews. On the right side, there is a summary box showing the project status as 'Approved, Active' from '10/2010 - 9/2015', with advisors 'Steven Pueppke', 'John Smith', and 'Henry Cloud', and a NIFA representative 'Robert Nowierski'. At the bottom, there is a table of notes with an 'Add Note' button.

Note	Date
<b>John Smith</b> approved as an administrative advisor	1/6/2014
Midterm review is due in 6 months.	12/31/2014
Annual Meeting authorized by <b>Christina Hamilton</b> .	11/5/2014
Project created.	9/1/2014

# Project Landing Page

The project landing page is the “homepage” for each project. From there, you can access all the major tasks as well as get an overall status. We believe that this adjustment will vastly simplify NIMSS.

## Navigation

Based on the status of the project, different navigation on this page will be clickable. For example, it’s not possible to schedule a meeting for a project still in “Proposal” stage.

This navigation forms the structural backbone of the application. Users will choose based on their particular task.

## Alerts

We’ve added project-specific alerts – shown here as a green bar. For example, when a project’s annual meeting needs to be scheduled, users will see a notification reminding them to schedule that meeting. These are dismissable, and include links to complete the task, where possible.

## History

This is the large box at the bottom of the page. This area is for administrators to keep track of what has happened on a project. They will be able to automatically see people joining, meetings scheduled and more. Plus, an administrator can add custom status notes to keep track of what’s happening.

## Right side status bar

At a glance, see the most important information about a project. This will also include a “View Public” link.

## One Place to Bookmark

An occasional user can bookmark this page within NIMSS and come back to it only when necessary. This removes their need to even see the dozens of other projects.

# Edit Project Outline

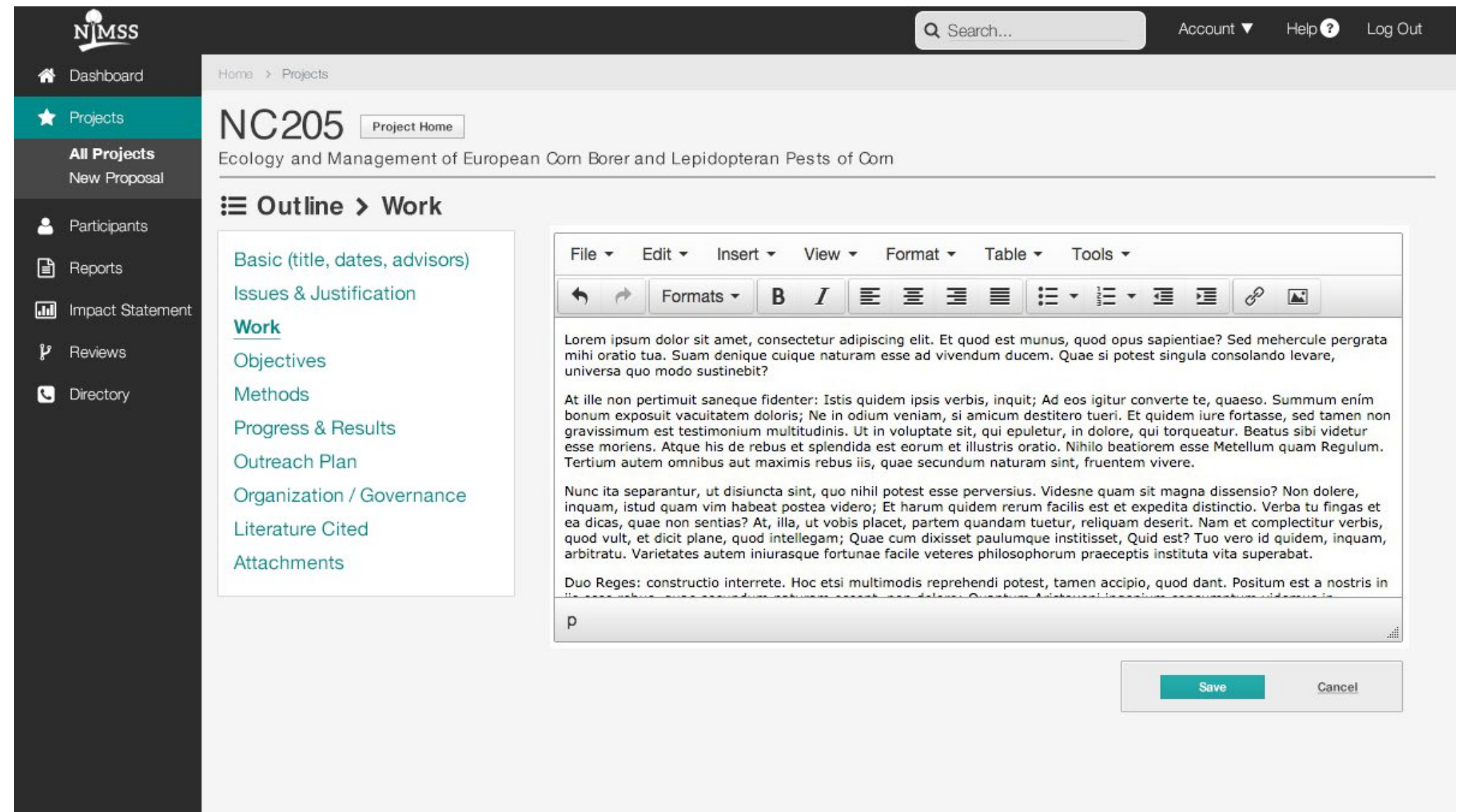
One of the most important functions of NIMSS is to coherently allow people to enter large amounts of data into the outline.

## Text Editor

We will be featuring a much-improved text editor to allow authors to format their content in a similar way to Microsoft Word. This will make adding and editing long documents much faster and easier than previous generations of the software.

## Optimised Forms

Previously, some forms used small sections to write long amounts of text. The new system will have forms that work for entering large amounts of text.



# Structure Part 1

These pages are arranged in a new way from the previous NIMSS system. Page 1.1, for example, is the landing page for each project. Clicking “Outline” would take you to a screen to edit that project.

This structure makes sense to us to allow an average user, who only cares about one or two projects, to stay focused on those without being distracted by the large number of tasks available in the system. They have one place to go, and their tasks are laid out with clarity. For example, pulling up an impact statement will be as simple as searching for a project, clicking “Impact Statement” and there it is.

On the following page, we outline the administrator-level need to edit multiple projects at the same time. These sections will handle all participants together, and allow the admins to make adjustments more quickly.

By combining these two approaches, you get a more robust system – the software can show you the report for NC205 and all reports from the last six months.

## 1.0 Projects ([shown](#))

### 1.1 Project ([shown](#))

#### 1.1.1 Outline

- 1.1.1.1 Basic (title, dates, advisors)
- 1.1.1.2 Issues & Justification
- 1.1.1.3 Work ([shown](#))
- 1.1.1.4 Objectives
- 1.1.1.5 Methods
- 1.1.1.6 Progress & Results
- 1.1.1.7 Outreach Plan
- 1.1.1.8 Organization / Governance
- 1.1.1.9 Literature Cited
- 1.1.1.10 Attachments

#### 1.1.2 Participants

- 1.1.2.1 Invite Participants
- 1.1.2.2 New Participant (Appendix E)
- 1.1.2.3 View Committee

#### 1.1.3 Meetings

- 1.1.3.1 New Meeting
- 1.1.3.2 Meeting Detail

#### 1.1.4 Reports

- 1.1.4.1 New Report (SAES-422)
- 1.1.4.2 Report Detail

#### 1.1.5 Impact Statement

- 1.1.5.1 New Impact Statement
- 1.1.5.2 Impact Statement Detail

#### 1.1.6 Reviews

- 1.1.6.1 New Review

### 1.2 New Project

# Proposed Structure Part 2

## 2.0 Participants

- 2.1 New Participant
- 2.2 View Committees

## 3.0 Meetings

- 3.1 New Meeting

## 4.0 Reports

- 4.1 New Report

## 5.0 Impact Statements

- 5.1 New Impact Statement

## 6.0 Reviews

- 6.1 New Review
- 6.2 Forms
  - 6.2.1-6.2.10 various forms

## 7.0 Account

- 7.1 My Profile
- 7.2 Station Profile
- 7.3 Regional MRC Profile
- 7.4 NRSP Profile

## 8.0 Help

- 8.1 Glossary
- 8.1 Forms
- 8.3 FAQ

## 9.0 Search

## 10.0 Administration

- 10.1 Users
  - 10.1.1 New User
  - 10.1.2 Edit User
- 10.2 Groups
  - 10.2.1 New Group
  - 10.2.2 Edit Group
- 10.3 Permissions

**CONSENT Agenda Item 11.4:** Executive Director Report: April - June, 2015

**Presenter:** H. Michael Harrington

**Action Requested:** For information

**I. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**WAAESD**

**Executive Committee:** Participate in monthly conference calls to address immediate business of the association.

**Western Governors Association:** Worked with various WGA staff members to provide information on drought, invasive species and the multistate program. Attended WGA summer meeting, made numerous new contacts. Discussed the need for and logistics of a Fire, Forests and Invasive Species map with Zach Boghane. Met with James Ogsbury regarding our summer meeting.

**Meeting Support and Logistics**

- **Joint WAAESD- WEDA Meeting:** Worked with Larry Curtis and Executive Committee to finalize agenda. Worked with Larry Curtis, Bret Hess, Bill Frost, Sarah Lupis and Lyla Houglum to develop agenda for combined session.
- **Joint Summer Meeting:** Worked with Chair and Executive Committee to finalize WAAESD agenda. With Sarah, kglobal on communications and marketing sessions for the Western Agenda discussions. Worked with Lou Swanson, Craig Beyrouthy and their assistants, to address logistics including facilitators and overall agenda. With Sarah, kglobal on communications and marketing sessions for the Western Agenda discussions. Secured WGA Executive Director, James Ogsbury's participation at the Joint Summer Meeting. Provided background materials for him. Worked with
- Donna Brown (Associate Dean U-WY) on her presentation.

**Committee Activities**

- **Western SARE Administrative Council:** I serve as the Western Directors' representative and chair committee. Provided reviews for 17 graduate student proposals and 15 R&E preproposals.
- **Western Rural Development Center Board:** I represent the Western Directors' representative on this activity. Serve as the recruiting chairman responsible to identifying new board members.  
**Attended meeting annual Board meeting in Richland WA**
- **Western IPM Center:** I serve as the Western Directors' representative on this committee.

**Multistate Program**

- **Excellence in Multistate Research Awards Program:** Our office facilitated collection and review of nominations and forwarded Western Region winner to the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee. **One of my committees (W-3122) was selected as the Western winner**
- **NIMSS:** Continue to work with Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton and Sarah Lupis to address problems in the NIMSS as the application is redesigned.
- **Southern Rockies LCC:** Serve on the Science Committee and participated in several calls to rank priorities. Distribute relevant information on RFAs, etc. to Directors.

**State Visits**

- **June 26 U Nevada Reno** Met with Chris Pritsos to discuss workings of the WAAESD and his new responsibilities

## II. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### ESCOP

#### **Assistance to Bob Shulstad ESCOP Chair:**

- Work with Bob and Gary Thompson (B&L Chair) to facilitate discussions of joint budget initiatives with Extension.

#### **Committee Activities**

- **ESS Annual Meeting Planning Committee** Working with ED colleagues and committee chairs to finalize agenda. Organized a workshop session Water Science research needs.
- **Chair's Advisory Committee:** Participate in monthly conference calls
- **ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee:** Support Chairman Gary Thompson (Penn State) as the Executive vice Chair on this important committee. Organize monthly conference calls.
  - Continue to lead development of the Big Audacious Ask concept
  - Continue to track 2015, 16 budgets
  - Developed and surveyed Directors for impacts on Water Research
  - Work with Gary Thompson, Rick Klemme and Robin Shepard on joint budget initiatives with Extension.
  - Participate in ECOP B&L Calls
- **BAA-Budget and Advocacy Committee:** Participate in monthly conference calls
  - BAC Chair Jay Akridge requested that ESCOP and ECOP develop a concept paper that codified how initiatives outside to the current 7 priority line should be developed and advanced. I developed the concept paper that has been approved by the ESCOP B&L Committee. We are awaiting a response from ECOP.
  - Participated on a B&L Subcommittee that developed a framework for strategic advocacy for new initiatives. This document will be combined with the above.
  - Developed memorandum to for Jay and Barbara Allen Diaz in responding the NIFA's response to the Water Security Initiative.
  - Working with Cornerstone to seek legislative solution for IPM budgets 2016.
- **BAA-BAC Water Quality Working Group**
  - Reviewed NIFA response to the Water Security Initiative
  - Worked with Robin Shepard to develop A response memorandum to for Jay Akridge and Barbara Allen Diaz to be sent to NIFA.
- **Communications and Marketing Committee:** I serve as back up to Dan Rossi and also participate on the Joint Committee with Extension
- **NRSP Review Committee:** Our office has assumed leadership for this committee with Bret Hess serving as Chair. We coordinated a face to face meeting in Denver on May 28. Developed future funding scenarios and guidance for NRSP-5, 7

### **III. SUMMARY OF TRAVEL**

- April 27-May 1: WAASED-WEDA Spring Meeting Portland, OR
- May 5-7: National Multistate Coordinating Committee (NMCC) and Executive Director's Meeting, Washington D.C.
- May 3-7 National Extension Research and Administrative Officers Conference (NERAOC), San Diego, CA
- May 28: NRSP Review Committee meeting Denver, CO
- June 24-26: Western Governors' Association Meeting, Lake Tahoe, NV

**CONSENT Agenda Item 11.5:** Assistant Director's Q2 Report, April-June, 2015

**Presenter:** Sarah Lupis

**Action Requested:** For information

**Background:**

**1. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**WAAESD**

- Served as the Recording Secretary of the WAAESD; produced minutes of meetings and conference calls.
- Maintained the WAAESD web site
- Maintain electronic mail lists for various groups
- Develop, maintain, and reconcile WAAESD budget and expenditures
- Created and processed financial and travel documents in support WAAESD transactions and activities
- Maintain WAAESD Twitter account, posting relevant stories about AES research, news, etc. and leveraging stories to national attention. Twitter account has 169 followers (up from 156 in Q4 2014), including several association colleges and universities, national organizations, government partners, and others. Recent notable followers include @USDAClimateHubs, @kglobal, @agwaterconservation, @ncipmc, and @scrowell (editor at farm and dairy).
- Helped organize the 2015 Western Region Joint Summer Meeting: recruited facilitation team, met multiple times to coordinate with CSU event planning staff, helped to develop joint session agenda, helped to develop facilitated process for some sessions, and helped to coordinate the development and design of the WEDA Award Program booklet. Also met with western region communications professionals at the ACE meeting to get them prepared for this meeting.
- Coordinated with MSU regarding the 2016 WRJSM (dates, save the date design, venue).

**Western Region Multistate Research Portfolio**

**Regular Support:** Regularly provide support to Administrative Advisors and SAES staff on navigating the NIMSS (still broken) and interpretation of national and regional multistate guidelines. In this quarter, I have fielded questions and provided information regarding the transfer of NIMSS to a new server and the resulting breaks in functionality, and when updates to the system will take place.

**2014/2015 Renewing Projects:** Continued to facilitate the renewal of 6 projects expiring in 2015.

**ESS Award:** Coordinated nominations for the Excellence in Multistate Research award. The Western Region selected W3122, "Beneficial and Adverse Effects of Natural, Bioactive Dietary Chemicals on Human Health and Food Safety," as the regional winner, but it was not selected as the national winner.

**Western Region Administrative Officers**

Via the listserv, kept Western Region Admin Officers abreast of important developments and news related to AES operations.

In response to concerns from Western Region Administrative Officer's Meeting participants, drafted guidelines (with Tim Nesbit, NMSU) for the planning and execution of this annual event. Solicited feedback on guidelines from regional administrative officers via listserv. A final version is expected to be released next quarter.

## **NATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**NRSP001:** Serve on the national Management Committee that oversees NIMSS implementation. Participated in multiple conference calls this quarter to decide on issues related to the fixing and updating of the NIMSS. Provided feedback on brand concept and functionality of new NIMSS.

**National Impact Reporting Project:** Have been responsible for implementing the National Impact Reporting Strategy, including developing, maintaining, and reconciling the NRSP-1 Impact Communication effort budget and expenditures and supervising the Impact Communication Specialist (Sara Delheimer). In this quarter, I helped to set priorities, coordinate reporting, and assisted with the development of training programs.

Worked with Sara Delheimer and kglobal's Ashley Hawn to promote MRF projects, especially:

- W3002 Nutrient Bioavailability (kglobal promoted this project using a Q&A with researchers)
- NCERA003 Press release (for international year of soils)
- The USU Community-based conservation program (not a multistate program, but the regional WEDA project award of excellence winner).

**NRSP-RC:** Coordinated NRSP Review Committee activities. In this quarter, made arrangements for and participated in the NRSP-Review Committee annual meeting, communicated results of meeting to project teams, and distributed updated briefing materials to other regions. Currently exploring possibility of electronic voting at the ESS meeting to save time and ensure accuracy.

## **NERAOC**

Serve as the ESCOP representative to the National Conference Planning Committee. Also served on UC ANR Host Committee. Participated in conference calls and provided input on various logistics decisions via email. Served as a liaison with presenters for three sessions given at NERAOC 2015 in San Diego. Responsible for all NERAOC social media strategy and posts. Co-presented (with Chris Hamilton, NCRA) on NIMSS at the annual meeting in San Diego, CA.

In response to persistent concerns from LGU members of the NERAOC Planning Committee, drafted guidelines with Tim Nesbit for conduct and planning of NEROAC meeting. Held one conference call to address concerns and questions about the document with the National Planning Committee (now to be called the Coordinating Committee). Coordinated with the EDs on approving authority for this document.

## **ESCOPE**

**Budget and Legislative Affairs Committee:** Serve as the recording secretary.

**AES/CES Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC):** Member of this committee. Recording secretary duties were transferred to Rubie Mize, reflecting the NERA leadership on this committee.

**Water Working Group:** Designed a 2-page briefing document based on the WWG White Paper Executive Summary.

**Impact Database Steering Committee:** Member of this committee. Participated in conference calls to continue to improve the national impact reporting database. Met with communications professionals and participated in a workshop about the national impact database at the 2015 ACE conference.

## **2. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Selected to participate in CSU's campus and college-wide Inclusive Excellence training initiative. Participated in workshops with other CAS staff. Program goal is to reshape the culture of the college and the university to an inclusive community that embeds diversity throughout the institution, across multiple areas.

## **3. TRAVEL SUMMARY**

- April 27-May 1: WAAESD/WEDA/WRPLC Joint Spring Meeting, Portland, OR
- May 3-7: National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference (NERAOC), San Diego, CA
- May 28: National Research Support Program (NRSP) Review Committee Meeting, Denver, CO
- June 8-19: Association for Communication Excellence (ACE) Meeting, Charleston, SC