

Southwestern Crown Collaborative
Executive Committee
Meeting Notes
April 12, 2011

Present: Amber Kamps*, Scott Brennan*, Debbie Austin*, Mo Bookwalter*, Gary Burnett*, Megan Birzell, Jon Haufler
(*Indicates voting member.)

- I. Updates/New Information/Issues
 - a. There is \$25 million in the just released FY 2011 budget for the CFLR Program. While this is very good news for the program, we must remember that the Forest Service as a whole saw significant funding cuts that will impact our ability to generate match and to provide funding for the necessary planning of CFLR projects.
 - b. TWS recently found out about a funding opportunity from the Doris Duke Foundation through the Bozeman-based Wildlife Conservation Society. The RFP was released a week or so ago, and an initial letter of inquiry is due by the end of April. The grant program is focused on implementing applied, on-the-ground conservation projects for priority wildlife species across the country. Projects will need to address climate change adaptation for priority species at a landscape scale. Funding is available only for 501(c)(3) organizations, and they will award between \$50,000 and \$250,000.
 - i. People familiar with this funding source have recommended combining proposals in the Crown of the Continent in order to increase the likelihood of success.
 - ii. Anne Carlson will send a note to the voting membership about this grant opportunity and ask people to self-identify interest in participating in a collaborative proposal.
 - iii. There was agreement that we should develop a pro-active process for fundraising going forward.
 - c. Anne Carlson has been invited to speak at the Heart of the Rockies Initiative's (www.heart-of-rockies.org) annual meeting on April 27th and wants to let the SWCC know and answer any questions related to this. She will be discussing climate change adaptation decisions in land management and has been asked to use the SW Crown as an example of climate change adaptation work on the ground.
 - i. The Executive Committee is supportive of Anne using the SW Crown in this presentation and expressed interest in having Anne provide the same presentation to the SWCC at a future meeting.
- II. Review Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Monitoring

- i. There needs to be better communication between the SWCC and the Monitoring Committee as well as clarification of the role the Monitoring Committee will or won't play in the development of project-specific monitoring plans for FS projects.
 - ii. The SWCC would like a clearer picture of the Monitoring Committee's short term plans for this field season as well as a better understanding of where the Monitoring Committee sits in the process of building a longer-term monitoring program.
 - b. Prioritization
 - i. Final arrangements are being made for the baseline analysis. Some changes have been made with respect to how the contract will proceed, but we expect work to be completed by the end of the summer.
 - c. Communications
 - i. There may be a disconnect for the public between trail work and restoration. This is something we should anticipate and work to address by explaining how trail work fits into a larger restoration framework.
 - ii. The Committee needs project summaries from the District Rangers for FY 2010 and 2011 projects to put on the website.
 - iii. More clarification is needed regarding press around the Contractors' Workshop next week.
- III. Recap of the contracts and agreements discussion
 - a. The conversation went well but was rushed.
 - b. Once we get funding, it was suggested that the FS come forward with the projects they plan to implement and have a discussion with the SWCC about the suggested mechanism for implementation. This could happen in the context of a special meeting if necessary.