



# Meeting Summary

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## Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S-TEK)

### Working Group: Webinar #2

June 12, 2014

Webinar recording: <http://enviroissues.adobeconnect.com/p93xmf8otjg/>

## Participants

### Working Group Members:

- Jeanne Chambers, USDA-Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station
- Stan Johnson, National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy
- Rachel Mazur, U.S. Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
- Kyle McFee, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Shivwits Band of Paiutes
- Heather Ray, Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation
- Don Sada, Desert Research Institute
- Theresa Stone, Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley

### GB LCC Staff:

- Todd Hopkins, USFWS, Great Basin LCC Science Coordinator
- Ryan Orth, EnviroIssues, facilitator
- Bridger Wineman, EnviroIssues, facilitation support

## Key Discussion Points

### Welcome and agenda overview

Ryan Orth, EnviroIssues, welcomed attendees and led a roll call. Todd Hopkins, Great Basin LCC, thanked participants for joining the webinar and reviewed the agenda and the S-TEK work plan.

### Source document review

Todd said over 75 documents have been compiled for review to identify the inventory of science and management needs for the Great Basin. Those documents have been organized by type and review will focus on the documents which can be categorized as science syntheses and strategic land.

Todd said the area encompassed by the Great Basin can be further delineated into five ecoregions. Considering ecoregions will help the S-TEK working group in identifying source documents and gaps while characterizing science and management needs. The LCC has begun the process of

identifying the applicable ecoregions for compiled source documents. The full list of documents and applicable ecoregions will be distributed to the S-TEK members. The group will be asked to review and provide any comments.

Jeanne Chambers, U.S. Forest Service, said the approach of using ecoregions to identify gaps makes sense and is consistent with other regional conservation approaches for the Great Basin. She suggested that documents focused on ecoregions which are adjacent to the Great Basin may be useful to include as well.

### **Needs identification example**

Todd said a next step is to identify all of the specific science and management needs from the compiled source documents. He provided an example of how needs are compiled, based on the Joint Fire Science Program's 2012 document, *Climate Change, Forests, Fire, Water, and Fish*. Needs are identified broadly and noted as related to biological communities, habitat types or change agents. Some sub-categorization has also been added to help organize identified needs.

Todd said the needs from source documents will be largely compiled for discussion for the in-person meeting in Reno scheduled for July 15. The inventory of needs will be provided in advance of that meeting. Todd said any help from working group members reviewing source documents or needs is appreciated. The following working group members volunteered to help:

- Jeanne Chambers, U.S. Forest Service (assistance with needs review)
- Don Sada, Desert Research Institute (assistance with needs review)
- Theresa Stone, Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley (assistance with document review)

#### *Additional discussion:*

- Todd said there is a new federal report on climate science and TEK which he will distribute to the working group.
- Jeanne said she is involved in current work which is relevant to the S-TEK prioritization. It includes research recommendations which she will provide to Todd for use by the working group.

### **July 15 meeting**

Todd provided a preview of the July 15 in-person meeting in Reno, NV. As described in the work plan, the following topics will be covered:

- Review and confirm the guiding principles, presented during the first webinar.
- Considerations for addressing TEK through the working group, including:
  - The challenges and opportunities of integrating TEK and science needs in the Great Basin,

- Review examples of projects where TEK is being used in conjunction with western science,
- Identify opportunities to incorporate or reflect TEK priorities in the working group process
- Review the inventory of needs; discussing themes and gaps
- Reflect on inventory of needs to identify decision-relevant factors for future prioritization exercises and criteria.

*Additional discussion:*

- Rachel Mazur, U.S. Forest Service, noted that the California LCC is taking a different approach to inclusion of TEK in LCC priorities. Rachel noted there are new techniques for analyzing isotopes in historic animal pelts which are of interest. She asked what types of projects the Great Basin LCC considers applicable to TEK. Todd said the Great Basin LCC is interested in working with tribes on any aspects of TEK that relate to the LCC's priorities. Various LCCs are approaching integration of TEK differently, depending on their various focuses and needs.
- Kyle McFee, Shivwits Band of Paiutes, said he is working with the Southern Rockies LCC. Todd said he will check with the Southern Rockies LCC to see if they have documents applicable to the Great Basin S-TEK prioritization work. Todd also said the recommended priorities from the S-TEK working group will be sent to the Steering Committee for approval. The Great Basin LCC does not currently have a tribal working group, but it has been discussed recently as a potential need. Several members of the Steering Committee are tribal representatives, including Gaylord Robb, who is from the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah.

## **Review and next steps**

Todd said staff is available for additional discussion with working group members as needed to update, receive feedback and answer questions.

Ryan reviewed the S-TEK working group process for prioritizing science and management needs which was presented at the kick-off webinar. The North Pacific LCC S-TEK prioritization [technical supplement](#) is a useful reference for the Great Basin LCC S-TEK working group.

Todd and Ryan thanked working group members for their participation. The next meeting is the in-person workshop, July 15, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno NV.