**Vegetation Panel Meeting Day two**

**Attendance:** Chelsea Fowler, Jill Parsons, Alan Weakley, Alexa McKerrow, Chris Lea, David Tart, Don Faber-Langendoen, Esteban Muldavin, Julie Evens, Rachelle Boul, Robert Peet, Carol Spurrier, Jack Triepke, Todd Keeler-Wolf, Patrick Comer

Notes: **Future Discussion Topic; Action Item; Potential Future Activity; Goals; Communications Plan**

**Session one: FGDC Veg Subcommittee update; Budgeting future; outreach to upper management (communications plan); State reps (session lead: Este)**

**FGDC:**

* Charter is being resubmitted.
* Revisiting the agreement between NatureServe, ESA and the Forest Service: we need more clarification on what the role of the lead agency is.
* No state members on the Sub-Committee yet.

**Carol’s Budget Update: US Forest Service**

* $40,000 for support of NVC. Planned to send to NatureServe.
* Typically $75,000 is received from R&D but it hasn’t been received by the Forest Service yet. It’s unclear if this funding will clear.

**ESA/NS budget update (Jill and Don)**

* ESA is on Year 2 of current agreement with USGS.
  + Year 2 goes through June 30th.
* The agreement with USGS goes through July 2021.
* Another $75,000 coming to Veg Panel through USGS (not certain, but likely).
  + Highlighting the benefits of face-to-face regional meetings to would help encourage continued support.
* We do have funds in a USGS Purchase order ‘rainy day fund’.

**ACTION ITEM: Jill and Don** will check in with the Washington and Appalachian REs on honoraria requests.

**Near-term Goals and Associated Expenses:**

* Communications Plan: Are there costs associated with this?
  + Most likely salary expenses
* Data Management: What costs are associated with this?
  + USF has supported VegBank at NatureServe in the past (out of the 40K)

**ACTION ITEM: Jill and Chelsea** will establish an average cost of RE meetings

**ACTION ITEM: All** ESA Support- let Jill and Chelsea know how they can support your work.

**ESA Annual Meeting**

* Inspire Session Plant Science Decadal Vision (Tom Wentworth) Proposal Accepted
  + August 6th, 1-3:30pm
  + There are 9 speakers who submitted abstracts for the session
  + They are currently in the presentation development phase. The talks are on a variety of topics wit the general goal being to bring the decadal vision and discussion to ESA membership

**ACTION ITEM:** **Chelsea** add PSRN session to the AM post on website

**Veg Panel and ESA Vegetation Section Joint mixer and session**

* August 5th
* Reach out to section lead and ask about contributions for food and drink from the Panel

**Organized Oral Session: Documenting and Tracking Vegetation in the 21st Century (Scott Franklin)**

* Proposal submitted and approved. Abstracts submitted
* International Co-Authors are interested in attending the meeting
  + Australian co-author will not be coming to ESA AM (going to IVS)
  + South African co-author interested in attending
  + **ACTION ITEM: Jack** will follow up with his co-author on if they planning to attend
  + **ACTION ITEM: Este** will ask Scott if anyone else is looking for funding to support their co-author attending the meeting
* Can we use honoraria for these folks?
  + We don’t have a lot of $$, is this something we want to prioritize?

**Field Trip: The Wasatch Back: Plant Community Ecology, Classification, and Mapping (Dave Tart)**

* August 2nd
* ESA is handling lunch
* During the field trip the group will do vegetation plots at all of the sites. The group will see mountain sagebrush; aspen; conifer forests; snow basin ski area; basin big sagebrush; cottonwood riparian forest. Mostly high elevation.

**Session two: Breakout session (see additional documents)**

* Communications Plan Breakout
* Data Management Breakout

**Session 3: Final Wrap up, NVC related pubs,**

**NVC related publications (Este)**

* If these related publications are open source, we could add a page to the Veg Panel site and post papers as we find them. **Potential Future Activity**: Doing a literature review
* **ACTION ITEM: Website group** make sure the websites link to one another
* **Potential Future Activity**: workflow idea - Pictures on Instagram link to>veg panel site with a short article on the publication link to>publication on USNVC.org
* **ACTION ITEM: Chelsea** add a Publications sub-tab to the Resources tab
* International Vegetation Classification (IVC) was featured in the Encyclopedia of World Biomes (attached to notes email)
* Conservation Ranking: NatureServe focused on ecological systems. (Conservation letters Article)
* Link to NatureServe conservation statuses, a synthesis on parks services applications to the NVC (Karl)

**Archiving (Bob)**

* Will discuss the potential for archiving at IAVS
* Bob is archiving all of the old Veg Panel information with the ESA historical committee
* People to tap for archive additions: Michael Jennings, Michael Barber, Denny Jenson
  + **ACTION ITEM: Bob** will reach out to the people above for their archives
* These archives can be instructive for other countries that want to create their own national vegetation classification

**Report on Nomenclature Committee**

* There’s an ad-hoc group with the goal of standardizing terminology for naming classes (mid and lower levels, lower levels mostly)
  + Goal of the group: (from nom guide) (deferring colloquial names)
  + Product: revised nomenclature guide
* Addressing inconsistencies in nomenclature
  + More consistency – easier use among practitioners. Consistency in terminology is important in the user committee.
* Implementation of the guide would be on Don
* **ACTION ITEM: All** let Jack know if you want to be involved in the group
* **Q:** What impact does this have on the proceedings and the review process? When should we have it done?
  + Somewhere in this process the revised nomenclature guide would go to the panel for review.
  + Regional Editors should be pulled in towards the end to make sure that the revisions that impact their region made sense.

**Discussion about Keys**

* After the Nomenclature Guide is finished does this set us up to talk about keys as a part of the classification down to macrogroups (since they’re relatively stable) for the practitioner community?
  + Dave has a key down to formation level.
  + We should focus on keys after regional reviews that solidify alliances and groups.
  + Keys are useful when crosswalking between USFS types and NVC types.
    - A key portrays the distinctions between the concepts.
    - A key sets up for mapping and building map units and map design.
    - Narrows the geography. Helps people get to the type more reliably.
    - Interior west ecoregions phone key.
      * Future post on veg panel site about the key?

**Final Session: Wrap-up and Long Term Goals**

**Attendance:** Chelsea Fowler, Jill Parsons, Alexa McKerrow, Don Faber-Langendoen, Esteban Muldavin, Julie Evens, Robert Peet, Carol Spurrier, Jack Triepke, Dave Tart, Patrick Comer, Tom Wentworth

**Breakout Sessions: Notes attached to email**

* Communications Plan group will have a call in about a month
* Data Management will have a call in April

**Big Goals:**

* Keep moving forward on making the NVC more user friendly.
* Keys so people can understand the classification system.
* Outreach
  + Promotional Materials: StoryMaps, Fact Sheets, One Pagers, BLM Guide
  + A pitch on what the NVC is and how it works what’s inside.
    - StoryMaps
  + Award for Classification Work (students and professionals), Agency level awards
    - Talk to Veg Section
  + Autokeys available to use for new plot data
    - We never get the data back that runs through the autokeys, could be helpful if it was more available (LANDFIRE)
    - Persons responsible: Pat and Jim Smith (TNC) Henry Bastian (DOI)
    - **ACTION ITEM: Pat** will follow up with LANDFIRE

**Next Steps:**

* Moving forward with Nomenclature, Data Management, and Communications Plan
  + Nomenclature Guide target completion date: sometime this year
  + Exec: Think about what we should invest time and money in per group. Provide next step guidance for groups.
  + Entire Panel: 6 week follow up