



MEETING MINUTES, 13 June 2007, 2:30 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
RESOURCE IMPACTS TASK GROUP
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISASTER REDUCTION

Attendees

Susan Conard (Chair) (USDA)
Bob Adamcik (FWS)
Greer Anderson (FWS)
Ann Russell (NSF)
Carl Shapiro (T) (DOI/USGS)
Allison Kilcourse, Secretariat

I. Call to Order

II. Summary of Discussion

A. Discuss Resource Impacts Components and Gaps in Annotated Grand Challenge 4-pagers

The group began by reviewing the resource components and gaps in the 4-pagers annotated by Susan Conard (USDA). This led to a discussion of what exactly the white paper should focus on: resources as disaster mitigation *or* the impact of disasters on resources. Carl Shapiro (DOI/USGS) suggested that it was the group's role to address both topics. Dr. Conard agreed and stated that the group needed to assess resources in three different ways:

- Ability of resources to mitigate disaster prior to a hazard;
- The actual impact of hazards on resources; and
- Resource restoration after a hazard has occurred.

Next, there was a discussion about whether equal coverage should be given to all three topics. Bob Adamcik (FWS) stated that the return on investment must be examined when studying resource impact because there are certain situations where resources simply cannot be protected in the event of a hazard (e.g., resources cannot be protected from volcanic ash).

Greer Anderson (FWS) suggested that instead of focusing on actual resources, the group could focus on ecosystem functions. Dr. Conard reminded the group that some hazards are beneficial to certain resources (e.g. floods are a necessary part of floodplains) and it was important to include both the negative and positive impacts in the report.

There was also a brief discussion on the role of technological versus human solutions to resource impact problems. Ann Russell (NSF) felt that SDR focused heavily on technological and science solutions and that it was the groups' responsibility to offer human behavior suggestions. She suggested reading the Millennium Report for further information. Mr. Adamcik stated that human actions can be the first line of defense against disasters (e.g., putting up boundaries) and can also contribute to the cost incurred.

Next, Mr. Adamcik suggested a matrix to help organize the groups' data and thoughts for the final paper. The matrix would depict different natural hazards and how they related to resources. An example provided by Mr. Adamcik is shown below.

| Hazard | Natural Resource that Could Buffer a Disaster | What Conditions Surrounding these Resources Prevents their Buffering Ability | Possible Solutions and Mitigation Measures | Science and Technology Related Measures | Human Behavior Related Measures |
|--------|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Flood | aquifers, proper drainage systems | drained wetlands, development on floodplains, agriculture | wetland restoration, zoning | | zoning education |

Note: The matrix was not complete at the time of this meeting.

Dr. Conard suggested that there should be a column to address the impact of natural disasters on resources. Ms. Russell suggested that it might be easier if the matrix followed the Grand Challenge model. The group then discussed the possibility of creating more than one matrix; Mr. Adamcik suggested creating six different matrices: one for each Grand Challenge. He then offered to create a draft matrix to be distributed before the group's next meeting.

B. Discuss an Model and Timeline for the White Paper

There was discussion among the group as to the best way to organize the white paper: hazard by hazard or Grand Challenge format. Ms. Russell and Dr. Conard suggested that it might resonate better with SDR if the group followed the Grand Challenge model.

Dr. Conard commented that the matrix was similar to the Grand Challenge appendix except that it went hazard by hazard; she suggested the group follow the Grand Challenge model and add an appendix for the individual hazards. An analysis of the hazards would allow the group to create a synthetic introduction, while the body of the paper could follow the Grand Challenge model to keep it readable and absorbable. Specific examples could then be pulled out of the appendix for use in the introduction and body. The white paper should be 5 to 10 pages total, plus an appendix. She also reminded everyone to address the sub-challenges presented in the Grand Challenge Report.

Tentative outline of the white paper:

- I. Introduction
- II. Body (follows Grand Challenge Report Model)
- III. Synthesis Table
- IV. Appendix (discuss each hazard relative to resources)

The group went through the hazard 4-pagers and filtered out those which they felt did not have a strong relation to resources. The chart below depicts each hazard to be included in the white paper and the group member assigned to summarizing the necessary information.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Coastal Inundation | Greer Anderson |
| Flood | Greer Anderson |
| Landslide and Debris | Carl Shapiro |
| Earthquake | Carl Shapiro |
| Hurricane | Susan Conard |
| Wildland Fires | Susan Conard |
| Drought | Bob Adamcik |
| Human and Ecosystem Health | Ann Russell |

Each member will be responsible for summarizing the resource impact information for his or her hazard(s) and preparing the information for discussion during a full day meeting (and a possible 1-2 day retreat) in September.

Mr. Shapiro suggested adding an explanative paragraph on each hazard that was not chosen for explicit inclusion in the white paper.

II. Future Meetings

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 10th at 2:30 p.m., pending availability of group members. Please RSVP to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com and cc akilcourse@grs-solutions.com) by Friday, June 22 if you can attend the July 10th meeting.

IV. Agenda Items and Other Communications with the Subcommittee

Please send proposed agenda items and any other items intended for distribution to the full Resource Impacts Task Group to the Secretariat, or to the RITG Chair.

V. Contact Information RITG Leadership

Susan Conard, Chair, 202-205-1561, sconard@fs.fed.us

VI. Summary of Actions

| Action | Lead | By When |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| RSVP with your availability for the July 10 th meeting | Members | June 22 |
| Create a rough draft of the hazard-resource matrix for group reference | Bob Adamcik | July 8 |
| Summarize the resource impact information for each of the hazards to be included in the white paper | Members | September 2007 |