

Federal Working Group Call May 29, 2014

Attendees:

Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program

Hal Needham

Gulf of Mexico Alliance

Laura Bowie

FWS

Drew Laughland

Chris Pease

Linh Phu

Joe Milmoie

EPA

John Bowie

NASA

Ted Mason

ACOE

David Bauman

USGS

Scott Wilson

Kate Spear

USDA

Delmer Stamps

Murray

NOAA

Heidi Stiller

Heather Young

Kim Albins

Julien Lartigue

David Brown

Matt Chasse

Amy Clark

Todd Davison

Ann Weaver

Todd Davison Welcomes Group

GOMA Updates from Laura Bowie

GOMA meeting in Mobile last week had great participation for all the PIT meetings, all six teams met for 2 days looking at priorities for the next 5 years. Teams will focus on that for next several meetings.

Yesterday Hal Needham gave the Surge presentation to the Business advisory council. The council had lots of questions and wanted to follow up with Hal. They were very interested in the information and engaged in the call. If you have presentations you would like to make to the council, let Laura know.

The first presentation is from Linh Phu or the Fish and Wildlife Program

Restoration Returns: The Contributions of Partners for Fish and Wildlife & Coastal Program Restoration Projects to Local U.S. Economies

This study was done with two programs in FWS, the Coastal Program and Partners for Fish and Wildlife. These programs play a key role in Conservation Delivery within the Strategic Habitat Conservation model.

We often talk about conservation in terms of acres and miles, this project tried to put a value on the program beyond that, and consider the human elements.

Worked with Drew to quantify the economic impacts of the restoration projects and determine how spending on restoration impacts the local economy. We had a very narrow focus, projects done in FY11. Looked at restoration money spent, both direct and indirect and the multiplier effect. We were able to generate robust data sets provide accurate results. The report has two parts, by state and national, and then teased out info for 15 specific projects. We cross walked information we had with what we needed, and treatment categories. (The presentation gives details).

There were 3 main industries affected by our projects, construction, services and agriculture. The presentation highlights one project in Florida, Bird Island, 2 acres restored native mangrove habitat.

National results: Restoration projecting in FY11 generated \$328M in economic stimulus

Created just under 4000 jobs

For every \$1.00 dollar invested, \$8.65 was leveraged from partners which created \$15.70 in economic returns.

Question: How are you doing outreach for this report?

Joe: We first developed a targeted strategic communication report for appropriators on the hill, but the audience has been a moving target. Conservation partners are sharing the report, we took it to FWS leadership, we are using electronic releases and Restore America's Estuaries helped to develop info graphic. We are using twitter and facebook, and there will be a congressional information session in late June which will be a one hour information meeting on hill.

Linh: We have worked with partners like RAE, NWS refuge system, conducted a coordinated social media push and have developed specific regional fact sheets for the refuges to use with their news outlets.

Question: May we get copies of the fact sheets for regions and do a presentation for the states?

Linh: We can make it happen

Question: Did you include monitoring?

Linh: No, our focus is restoration

Hal - Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program

Program does coastal research in MS, LA, TX

Storm surge is catastrophic on gulf coast

- There were no storm surge data bases
- Many government agencies collect data, and have information, but it's not all in one place
- Mined data from newspaper history and agencies

Developed Surge DAT

- 8100 high water marks since 1880
- Katrina highest surge in western hemisphere
- Areas of Florida don't have many surge events
- Water levels for each storm shows extent of inundation
- Tool based on history (not models, actual data points) tells you what you can expect for a storm
- Galveston, highest 20 feet, 1900
- Did not incorporate Sea Level Rise
- Surge.srcc.lsu.edu

Q: Have you looked at trends through time to tease out changes through time to see the effect of climate changes?

A: Yes, broke down the data across last 100 years. Most recent 50 years versus 50-100 years ago. No trends discernable.