

Integrating Social Science into NSF Observatories

Workshop Agenda

January 24-26, 2007

The Holiday Inn Arlington at Ballston
4610 N. Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203

In 2001, the National Research Council (NRC) identified eight “grand challenges” in environmental science research. These challenges define key research questions which require significant and sustained multidisciplinary collaboration. Effectively responding to these challenges further requires both new social science research and its full integration into ongoing environmental science and engineering research and practice. For a variety of reasons, this multidisciplinary integration process, as it is occurring in NSF Observatories (specifically CLEANER and CUAHSI (merged into WATERS), and NEON) and in the Long Term Ecological Research Network (LTER), needs improvement and encouragement. The objectives of the workshop are to identify the fundamental organizational, informational, infrastructural, and financial structures required to effectively support integrated social and natural science evaluations of coupled human-natural systems. Additionally, this workshop focuses on clarifying the analytical research questions and identifying the substantive linkages between these two sets of disciplines in the Observatory context. It is also hoped that this workshop will help to build consensus among social and natural scientists and the relevant NSF directorates on a broad research and implementation agenda for advancing the role of social science research at the observatories.

Day I – State of Play: Social Science at NSF Observatories

- 8:00-8:30 **Registration** (*coffee and pastries provided*)
- 8:30-8:45 **Welcome and Introduction** – *Goals of the Workshop*
Alan Krupnick, RFF
Patrick Brezonik, NSF
- 8:45-9:00 **SBE Welcome**
Edward Hackett, NSF
- 9:00-9:30 **Introduction**
David Lightfoot, NSF

The Case for Integration

Rita Colwell, University of Maryland

9:30-10:45 **Elements of Integration** (*overview of the four key white paper topics: planning/organization, funding/support, infrastructure/facilities, data/information*)

Alan Krupnick, RFF
Shalini Vajjhala, RFF

10:45-11:00 *Break*

11:00-12:30 **Experiences with Integration**

CLEANER/WATERS: Barbara Minsker, University of Illinois
CLEANER/WATERS: Mitchell Small, Carnegie Mellon University
CUAHSI/WATERS: Richard Hooper, CUAHSI
LTER: Dan Childers, Florida International University
NEON: Bruce Hayden, University of Virginia
NEON: Morgan Grove, USDA Forest Service

12:30-1:30 *Lunch (provided)*

Ingredients of Multidisciplinary Success

Granger Morgan, Carnegie Mellon University

1:30-2:00 **Key Topic 1: Planning/Organization**

Alan Krupnick, RFF

2:00-2:30 **Key Topic 2: Information/Core Data**

Shalini Vajjhala, RFF

2:30-4:00 **Breakout sessions** (*two groups on each topic*)

Steering Committee Member Moderators:
Morgan Grove, USDA Forest Service
Patricia McDowell, University of Oregon
Leonard Shabman, RFF
Mitchell Small, Carnegie Mellon University

4:00-4:15 *Break (light refreshments provided)*

4:15-5:15 **Breakout session reports to plenary and discussion**

5:15-5:30 **Wrap-up**
Alan Krupnick, RFF
Mitchell Small, Carnegie Mellon University
Patrick Brezonik, NSF

5:30- **Reception** (*light refreshments provided, cash bar, dinner on your own*)

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Day II – Plan for Implementation: Integrating Social Science into Observatories

8:15-8:30 *Coffee and Pastries Provided*

8:30-9:15 **Recap, thoughts for the White Paper, and spillover**
Steering Committee

9:15-10:15 **Key Topic 3: Social Science Infrastructure Needs**
Introduction and Overview
Patricia McDowell, University of Oregon

Human Sensing
Joseph Paradiso, MIT

Decision Theatres
Rick Shangraw, Arizona State University

10:15-10:30 *Break*

10:30-11:15 **Key Topic 4: Government Initiatives and Social Science Support**
Introduction
Alan Krupnick, RFF

Overview of MREFC Process
Jean McGovern, NSF

11:15-12:00 **Environmental Social Science and “Greening” the NSF**

Robert O’Connor, NSF
Thomas Baerwald, NSF

12:00-1:30 **Lunch** (*provided*)

“The intersection of natural resources and social science: one agency's perspective”
Ann Bartuska, USDA Forest Service

1:30-3:00 **Breakout Sessions** (*two groups on each topic*)

Steering Committee Member Moderators:
Morgan Grove, USDA Forest Service
Patricia McDowell, University of Oregon
Leonard Shabman, RFF
Mitchell Small, Carnegie Mellon University

3:00-3:15 *Break (light refreshments provided)*

3:15-4:30 **Report back from breakout session to plenary, discussion**

4:30-5:30 **Thoughts for the White Paper**
Steering Committee

Feedback to/from participants

Summary and next steps

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Day III – To be held at RFF, 1616 P Street, NW, Washington, DC

9:00-12:00 **Steering Committee works on revising and finalizing
White Paper**