

Message from the Director

It has been my privilege to direct the Western Rural Development Center since October 1999. This report reflects the accomplishments of the WRDC in its second year under my direction. As the details show, the WRDC is making the transition from being a start-up (in virtually every sense of the word) to an organization with the ability to deliver timely programs that benefit the region broadly.

Two accomplishments we are particularly proud of are the Managing Wildfire Risk conference, held in Salt Lake City in May 2001, and the publication of *Western by Design*, a comprehensive resource toolkit that will help rural communities conduct meaningful community discussion of growth and change. These two products exemplify what the Western Rural Development Center can accomplish.

The Wildfire conference was developed in response to the growing need for information-sharing among community-based programs in the West that deal with wildfire risk. It was offered as part of the National Fire Plan led by the USDA-Forest Service and the USDI Bureau of Land Management, and was held less than six months after we developed the initial concept. The conference attracted more than 170 community leaders, fire professionals, policy makers, and extension educators.

The *Western by Design* toolkit, on the other hand, is the culmination of several years of effort involving extension faculty and state Rural Development Councils from around the region. Funding for the project came from the WRDC, the Murdock Foundation, and the various universities whose faculties participated. Although it is too early to tell, the Toolkit may have a widespread impact in the West as community leaders use its principles to examine growth, which is surely one of the most politically volatile issues in many locales. In fact, the WRDC has been asked by the Utah League of Cities and Towns to present the Toolkit at their annual conference this year. Conference organizers plan to provide each attendee with a copy of the book contained in the Toolkit and offer the remainder of the kit at reduced cost.

The WRDC, and indeed all of the Regional Rural Development Centers, are benefiting from strong leadership and advocacy within CSREES. Sally Maggard, National Program Leader for Economic and Community Systems, is our liaison and works tirelessly on our behalf. Both she and Dan Kugler, Deputy Administrator for Economic and Community Systems, have attended the last two Center Directors' meetings and are championing the Centers as a mechanism for innovative program delivery within the agency.

Although the Director's name is more closely affiliated with the WRDC than is any other name, the WRDC is a network of people. The accomplishments of the Center go beyond what any one individual could accomplish, and the recognition belongs to our Steering Committee, our faculty partners, and our staff. I thank each and every one of them for their efforts in making the WRDC an effective vehicle for positive change.

Sincerely

Steven E. Daniels
Director



Year End

Summary

2000-01

Western Rural Development Center

Fiscal Year 2001

October 1, 2000 – September 30, 2001

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Introduction

The Steering Committee for the WRDC met on October 26 and 27, 2000, in Park City, Utah. Deliberations of the Steering Committee identified five priority areas upon which the WRDC should focus its current efforts:

1. **Civic Capacity** by enhancing the ability of community leaders in the West to convene community-based discussions that contribute to local vision and self-determination.
2. **Enterprise Development** by enhancing the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of rural communities and people.
3. **Capacity and Engagement of Land Grant Universities** by enhancing the links between regional faculty and rural communities.
4. **Natural Resources/Land Use** by enhancing the quality of natural resource and land use decision-making in the West.
5. **Rural Differentials of Policy Shifts** by conducting policy-relevant research and synthesis activities.

These priority areas were chosen because they 1) continue a track record of productive activity by the WRDC, 2) build on the expertise of regional faculty and WRDC staff, and/or 3) respond to pressing regional issues.

The following report describes activities undertaken by the WRDC to address these priority areas from October 1, 2000 to September 30, 2001. The report outlines workshops and conferences attended and presented, publications produced, and other activities undertaken in support the WRDC's five priority areas. A description of extramural funding secured by the WRDC and a statement of budget are provided, as well as a description of future projects that are in the planning stages.

1

Priority 1: Civic Capacity

TASK: *Enhance the ability of community leaders in the West to convene community-based discussions that can contribute to local vision and self-determination.*

The Situation

During the past two decades, both academics and practitioners in the field of rural development have come to realize that community is much more than “municipality,” and development is much more than creation of infrastructure and businesses. The focus of the field has steadily broadened to include the development of human capital and community capacity as crucial components of community development strategy. Human and organizational resources are as important to the success of community efforts as the more traditional bricks-and-mortar resources.

Small communities in much of the country are led by people who lack formal training in public administration, or are volunteer leaders. Few rural towns in the region can attract highly experienced civil servants to serve as managers or planners. The typical aspiration for one’s career is to move to bigger communities with larger staffs, higher salaries, and more prestige. In addition, many of the elected officials have other full-time occupations; the mayor may be a pharmacist, and the head of the planning commission may be a dairy farmer. These local community leaders, despite their best efforts, hard work, and common sense, face an increasingly complicated task in fulfilling their duties.

Rural communities in much of the West face an additional complexity; the ongoing dispute over the future of public lands has significantly raised the level of acrimony in many locations. The 1990s were characterized by a recurring pattern of heated controversy over species protection, forest health, road access, harvesting old growth trees, and various other policy issues. The net effect of these conflicts has been to create a political body in the West that is quite divided and fractious. Communities and regions experience ideological infighting that reduces their ability to craft policies that are adequate for dealing with the complex issues at hand.

Program Activities

- **Strategic Planning Tools**

The WRDC has a long track record of producing and distributing various strategic planning tools to Extension faculty and community leaders throughout the region. The Center will continue to distribute the existing inventory of publications (revising them as necessary), work with Extension agents to identify additional needs for strategic planning tools, and organize resources in order to pursue those priority needs.

- **Community-Based Collaborative Efforts**

Community-Based Collaboratives (CBCs) are one of the significant innovations in local-level decision-making in the West in recent years. They have emerged as the result of

broadly shared dissatisfaction with the quality and efficacy of various kinds of agency-driven decisions. A large number of CBCs have sprung up in the West in recent years, covering the entire geography of the region, from the Malpai borderlands in Arizona to the Kenai Watershed Council in Alaska to the Willapa Bay Alliance in coastal Washington. The WRDC is actively recruiting research and Extension partners to help initiate a multi-pronged effort to assist and research these community-based collaboratives, and is preparing an NRI proposal on these projects.

- **Collaborative Learning Book Published**

Working through Environmental Conflict: The Collaborative Learning Approach, co-authored by Steve Daniels and Gregg Walker (Oregon State University) was published in May by Praeger Publishers. The Collaborative Learning approach has been referred to by a foreign author as one of the four major innovations in public involvement of the last decade. The first press run of the book sold out in ten weeks. An introductory seminar on this approach was provided to Extension personnel at Washington State University as part of their annual conference. Additional sessions were offered at the University of Washington, Colorado State University, the annual meeting of the International Association for Public Participation, the joint meeting of the Community Development Society and National Rural Development Partnership, and for the USDA-Forest Service.

2

Priority 2: Enterprise Development

TASK: *Enhance the economic, environmental, and social wellbeing of rural communities and people.*

The Situation

There are persistent pockets of poverty in the western United States. New Mexico, for example, has the highest percentage of per capita income under the federal poverty level in the country. Rural areas of the West have historically faced slower economic growth and employment prospects than have urban areas in the region. In addition, advances in technology suggest that the more technologically-sophisticated and knowledge-intensive employment opportunities are found in urban areas, while the rural areas retain the lower paying, more routine manufacturing, service, and tourism sector employment.

Many employment opportunities in rural areas are related to extraction of natural resources, and these industries have been shown to be highly cyclical. Some sociologists have gone so far as to refer to the relationship between rural communities and extractive industries as “addictive” because an over-emphasis on any one industry leads to relatively low levels of economic diversification, and the potential for long-term under-investment in human capital.

In addition, a significant pocket of persistent poverty associated with the Native American Reservations exists in the West. Those localities have experienced long-term poverty, structural unemployment, and economic distress that greatly exceeds what is found in comparable Anglo communities in the region.

Program Activities

- **E-commerce**

The WRDC is continuing its financial and logistical support of the Western e-commerce team, and in turn, national efforts in this area. The team is currently working on a project to create a video that will familiarize individuals with e-commerce and e-government issues. In addition, this video will highlight cutting-edge technology from around the West. The team has drawn on the leadership of Bob Coppedge (New Mexico) and Bruce DeYoung (Oregon). Dr. Coppedge has played a critical role in Sen. Bingaman's (NM) efforts in drafting rural e-commerce legislation.

- **Other Activities**

1. Publicize, distribute, and support training related to business retention publications already published by the WRDC;
2. Cooperate with organizers of the WELD program to provide information on Enterprise Development to that program's participants;
3. Explore the possibility of translating the Home-Based and Micro-Business curricula into Spanish; and
4. Look for opportunities to support the efforts of faculty in Nevada and Montana to develop a "targeted industry" approach.

3

Priority 3: Capacity and Engagement of Land Grant Universities

TASK: *Enhance the links between regional faculty and rural communities.*

The Situation

Western land grant universities have a long and rich tradition of responsiveness to the needs of rural stakeholders. There are, however, a number of challenges to their ability to address rural development needs in the region. Perhaps most importantly, land grant universities each have only minimal staffing in the general topic area of rural development. Several of the western states have only one community resource development specialist in their land grant Extension faculty. Other states have virtually no capacity in community resource development because of staffing changes resulting from events such as retirement and resignation. There is clearly a role for the WRDC to play in augmenting the capacity of land grant universities to address rural development issues.

Program Activities

- **Faculty Development Workshops**

In July 2000, the WRDC conducted a faculty development workshop aimed at researchers and campus-based Extension specialists. As a result of the success of this workshop, the Western Extension Directors have directed the WRDC to cooperate with regional faculty in the design of a community development training targeting the needs of early-to mid-career field Extension faculty.

The WRDC is developing plans for two faculty workshops in public issues education. One workshop is being developed for the states of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. This effort is being led by Pat Corcoran (Oregon) and Kay Haaland (Washington). The second workshop is being developed for Nevada and Arizona, with the Center's key contact being Marlene Rebori (Nevada).

- **Rural Development Consortium of Land Grant Faculty in the West**

The WRDC has established an evolving online roster of Extension and research faculty who conduct work (either directly or indirectly) in the field of rural development. There are currently 175 people listed on the roster, which lists areas of expertise and contact information (including direct links).

This professional networking system enhances communication and coordination of effort in the region, and provides a clearinghouse as new opportunities emerge. The existence of an organized consortium of land grant faculty enhances ability to react prudently to funding possibilities that require a rapid, yet coordinated, response.

- **Westland Workshop**

The WRDC is cosponsoring a Westland training workshop, organized by Sheila Knop and others at Colorado State University. Originally scheduled for early October, the workshop has been rescheduled for April 24-25, 2002. Westland is a variant of the Agland simulation developed at University of Minnesota. WRDC's role in this project is to provide travel support and recruit participants from other states.

- **Needs Assessment Regarding Outreach to Spanish-Speaking Populations**

The WRDC is entering into a small contract (\$3,000) with a bilingual consultant to survey Extension programs in the West in terms of 1) translation of Extension publications, 2) development of programming targeted directly at Spanish-speaking rural residents, and 3) youth programs targeted at Spanish-speaking populations. This effort will provide useful information in the Center's evaluation of possible projects in this topical area.

- **Great Plains Population Symposium**

Senator Dorgan (ND) provided funding for Dickinson State University to host a major regional conference on the implication of depopulation on the Great Plains. The conference, held in October in Bismarck, ND, attracted plenary speakers from across the country. Dr. Daniels was part of the organizing efforts for this workshop. Working in partnership with Gregg Walker (Oregon), he designed seven hours of small group activities designed to produce policy recommendations, trained 20 facilitators in the approach (and supervised their efforts), and provided summary comments to conference participants.

- **Increasing Diversity at Professional Meetings**

The Center is often solicited to provide financial support for professional meetings of various types. Normally the Center declines those invitations, but does accept when there is an opportunity to increase the diversity of attendance through targeted funding. The WRDC provided \$500 to the 8th Annual International Symposium on Society and Natural Resources in Bellingham, WA, to fund student travel scholarships. In addition, the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society in Albuquerque, NM, was provided with \$1,000 to fund Tribal representatives who participated in a panel on Tribal/1994 college needs.

- **Web-Based Communication Tools**

The WRDC Web site, located at <http://extension.usu.edu/wrdc>, is continually updated as new information and opportunities emerge. Three new online forms (Annotated Link Suggestion, Submit a Calendar Event, and Experts Roster Member Profile) have been posted. These online forms have been useful in gathering input from constituents and connecting people with similar interests and concerns.

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Priority 4: Natural Resources/Land Use

TASK: *Enhance the quality of natural resource and land use decisions in the West.*

The Situation

There is arguably no other region in the country where culture and economic activity are so prominently linked to natural resource endowments as the western United States. Issues of land ownership, resource availability, public lands policy, and water availability have affected patterns of land use, economic development and community well-being since the early 19th century. These debates over the future of western land and natural resources are as contentious as any public policy debates in the nation. The acrimonious and divisive nature of these debates has significantly affected the welfare of rural and urban peoples in the West.

Out of the huge set of potential natural resource issues that face the West, the WRDC Steering Committee has encouraged the Center staff to place a particular emphasis on wildfire. Wildfire is certainly not a new issue in the rural West. Many of the region's forests evolved in response to recurring wildfire, and the USDA-Forest Service was formed at least in part in response to the severe fires of 1910. But a number of factors have converged to make fire a particularly timely issue. First, forest scientists increasingly recognize that fire suppression activities over the past century may have created unnaturally high fuel loads in the forests throughout the region. Second, patterns of residential development have put more homes and lives at risk because people have chosen to build in high-risk locations. Third, the recent reduction in harvesting of federal lands implies that fire may be the major mechanism that reduces vegetative accumulation on federal forest lands.

The widespread and destructive wildfires of the summer of 2000 have raised the prominence of wildfire as a policy issue. Congress now has one of the largest emergency appropriations to deal with wildfire in the nation's history. The challenge for the WRDC is to determine how it can help link the region's land grant universities to the agencies and communities that are attempting to address wildfire risk.

Program Activities

- **Property Rights Primer**

The Center collaborated with Dr. Neil Meyer (Idaho), the Western Agriculture Economic Association, and the Farm Foundation on the publication of *Property Rights: A Primer*. This publication discusses important property rights concepts in popular language. There may be no more provocative an issue in the West than property rights, and to the extent that this publication can be part of a regional dialogue on them, it will make a significant contribution. The Center provided funds, editorial assistance, Web hosting, and document distribution.

- **Western by Design: Tools for Discussing Local Growth**

The WRDC provided leadership and significant financial support for development of a comprehensive resource toolkit on community change. *Western by Design: Tools for Discussing Local Growth* is a resource for community leaders, planners, and educators. The self-contained toolkit can be used by rural communities as they discuss growth and change, help communities identify the values that residents wish to retain as the community changes, and provide planning tools that address those goals. The toolkit includes a 120-page overview document, a wall chart that can be used as a visual aid at meetings, 37 resources (including two videos), 27 Web addresses of other programs or resources, evaluations of 39 land-use techniques, and a plastic storage box for ease of care and transport. Regional faculty involved in this project include Dave Rogers and David Bell (Utah), Dave Sharpe (Montana), and Neil Meyer (Idaho).

- **Support for Farmland Preservation/Urban Sprawl Workshop**

The WRDC worked jointly with the Northeastern Center for Rural Development to sponsor a national workshop on "Protecting Farmland at the Fringe: Do Regulations Work?" in Baltimore on September 5-7, 2001. The workshop brought together academics

and regulators from across the nation to examine latest trends in farmland conversion, and the effectiveness of techniques to slow the rate of conversion. The WRDC provided financial support for conference organizing, and provided travel assistance for David Bell (Utah) to attend.

- **“Best-in-the-West” Conferences**

The WRDC Steering Committee recognized that many issues cut across the rural areas of the West. Even though the region is divided into roughly a dozen states, and even though the landforms and climate have tremendous variability, there are nevertheless trends, problems, and opportunities that arise in much the same manner throughout the region. Despite the crosscutting nature of these issues, many of our efforts to respond to them occur at the state level. While states are perhaps the fundamental political unit in our federalist system of government, a substantial prospect for inefficiency arises when several states simultaneously face the same issue, yet attempt to respond to it individually. The list of rural issues that are regional in character is potentially huge. Health care, schools, substance abuse, telecommunication, water, endangered species, economic growth, invasive species; the list seems to grow each year. How can we respond to issues that are larger than any state, yet still respond in a manner that is consistent with the unique character of the West?

In response to the need identified by the Steering Committee, the WRDC has initiated a series of regional “Best in the West” conferences. Each conference will be organized around a particular theme or issue area, and the goal is to showcase the most innovative work being done in the region to address the issue. Some innovations will come from agencies, some may come from universities, and still others may come from the private sector, from individuals, and from NGOs.

“Best in the West” conferences provide opportunities for the entire region to learn about state-of-the-art practices and techniques. Many cutting-edge people never have the time to disseminate information about their efforts—they are too busy innovating to spend much time writing or speaking about their work. These conferences are intended to bring the best minds in the region together for an “idea fair” where they can learn from each other about the range of activities occurring in the region.

The WRDC is conferring with CSREES staff and regional faculty about holding a “Best in the West” conference on family finance issues, in coordination with the new Extension initiative on financial security in later life.

- **Wildfire Conference**

The first annual “Best in the West” conference, Managing Wildfire Risk at the Residential Interface, was held 15-16 May 2001 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Focusing on wildfire risk in residential areas, this conference brought together 170 community leaders, fire professionals, policy makers, and Extension educators to learn about fire management and education programs throughout the region. Participant feedback was very positive,

and the conference appears to have enhanced the information exchange between organizations and western states. Major funding for the program was from the USDA-Forest Service and USDI-Bureau of Land Management.

- **Innovation Grant**

The WRDC received a \$22,500 innovation grant from CSREES for the May Wildfire conference. The grant allowed the WRDC to bring more diverse presenters to the conference and assist Extension educators with travel expenses.

- **National Fire Plan Partnership Team**

As a spin-off from the Wildfire conference, the WRDC received additional funding from CSREES and worked with Larry Biles to convene a group of Extension personnel from across the nation. The purpose of the meeting was to prepare a partnership plan for more meaningful involvement of the land grant system in the National Fire Plan, a 10-year effort by the USDA-Forest Service and the USDI-Bureau of Land Management. This multimillion-dollar plan, if implemented, would significantly enhance the ability of the Extension program to provide wildfire education programs on a scale commensurate with the emerging national crisis regarding wildfire risks to life and property.

5

Priority 5: Rural Differentials of Policy Shifts

TASK: *Conduct policy-relevant research and synthesis activities.*

The Situation

Federal policies are crafted to meet a broad national need. Welfare reform, telecommunication deregulation, electricity deregulation, NAFTA, and endangered species protection all have a valid rationale from a national perspective. But because the rural West differs from national norms in important ways, it is entirely likely that policies will have impacts on the rural West that differ from broad policy impacts. (Alan Simpson has described his former job as Senator from Wyoming as “throwing the policy quilt over the state.” His notion was that national policies were like a quilt thrown over a bed, and that Wyoming was like the toes left out in the cold because the policy did not cover them well.)

The WRDC can play an important regional role in bringing land grant resources to bear on the analysis of differential policy impacts. Few land grant universities in the region maintain the data and analytical capacity to examine issues across all of the western states. A regional analysis may well require a regional team drawn from a number of universities.

Program Activities

- **Support for Impacts of Electric Deregulation Workshop**

The WRDC has provided support to Becky Richards (Montana) to study and research the impact of electric deregulation in rural areas. The Center's support consisted of funding and organization of a small regional workshop to be held in Missoula to determine whether a regional project would be a logical follow-up to Dr. Richards' initial efforts.

The initial workshop was scheduled for the second week of September, 2001, but has been rescheduled for January, 2002.

- **Wallace Center Projects**

The WRDC was a partner on two major proposals in the last year, both of which were spearheaded by the Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture. The first proposal, entitled "Expanding Markets to Southwest Small-Scale, Alternative and Minority Producers," was submitted to IFAFS for \$990,779. The second proposal, "Making Connections: Linking Local Agricultural Networks with their Communities," was submitted to FRA for \$599,461. Neither proposal was funded, but additional funding sources are being sought. Revision/resubmission to these programs is expected. The Kellogg Foundation has expressed interest in funding a version of the IFAFS project.

- **Changing Face of the Rural West**

The WRDC is developing a series of information briefs regarding the 2000 Census results. The first of the series, which focuses on the expanding Hispanic population in the region, is being written by Eddy Berry (Utah) and Annabelle Kirschner (Washington).

- **Other Activities**

1. Explore opportunities to work on targeted industries with Tom Harris (Nevada) and Dave Sharpe (Montana);
2. Examine the feasibility of expanding Gary Smith's (WSU) Web-based local economic indicators database to cover more western states; and
3. Support research on the Western Producers' Preferences for Federal Agricultural Policy. Participants include Andy Seidl, (CSU), Russ Tronstad, (Arizona), Neil Meyer, (Idaho), Larry Lev and Bill Jaeger, (OSU). The objectives are to create a summary analysis and document that will
 - compare and contrast responses of western producers to responses of producers nationwide in the recently completed National Survey of Producers' Preferences for Federal Farm Policy,
 - compare and contrast responses among participating western states to the same survey; and

- be useful to western producers, policy makers and agricultural leaders in characterizing the preferences of western producers for federal agricultural policy.

Institutions Served

In carrying out the activities described in this report, the WRDC provided direct support and services to a variety of organizations, including

- 8th Annual International Symposium on Society and Natural Resources
- Community Development Society
- Farmland Foundation
- International Association of Public Participation
- National Rural Development Partnership
- Northeast Center for Rural Development
- Rural Sociological Society
- The Great Plains Population Symposium Project
- Tribal entities
- USDA-Forest Service
- USDI-Bureau of Land Management
- Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture
- Western Agriculture Economic Association

In addition, the WRDC provided training opportunities, publications, Web resources, technical assistance, and other support to Extension personnel in each of the following Western states:

Alaska

Arizona

California

Colorado

Hawaii

Idaho

Nevada

New Mexico

Montana

Oregon

Utah

Washington

Wyoming

American Samoa

Northern Mariana Islands

Micronesia

Guam

WRDC Staffing Successes

The WRDC Steering Committee devoted considerable effort during the Fall 2000 meeting to discussing staffing for the Center. There was broad recognition that staffing at that time was insufficient to meet programmatic needs. Much of the discussion centered on the choice between initially hiring a program manager/assistant director or a writer/editor. Both the Center staff and our advisors were conflicted by this choice because additional capacity was needed in both programmatic and communication areas. Fortunately the Center has been able to move forward in hiring for both positions.

- **Program Administrator Hired**

The WRDC has hired Dr. Theresa Selfa as a 0.5 FTE program manager (the official Utah State University term is “Program Administrator”). The position is cost-shared with the USU Provost as part of a dual-career hiring package. Theresa has a Ph.D. in Development Sociology (Cornell), a master’s degree in City and Regional Planning (UC-Berkeley), and a bachelor’s degree in English (Whitman College). Her responsibilities for the WRDC include identifying projects/issues that affect the western region, identifying key partners on these issues, and working with these partners to develop strategies for addressing the issues at hand. Theresa will take the lead in agriculture/food systems activities undertaken by the WRDC, and will significantly strengthen the Center’s capacity in this important area.

- **Writer/Editor Hired**

The WRDC has hired Carey Dufner as a 0.8 FTE writer/editor in order to take a leadership role in the communication efforts of the Center. Carey comes to us from a federally-funded regional Head Start quality improvement center located at USU. She has seven years of experience as a writer/editor, and has a bachelor’s degree in applied biology and a master’s degree in technical writing. The addition of a writer/editor will greatly enhance the Center’s capacity to provide timely information and products to partners both in and out of the land grant system.

- **Director Promoted**

In addition, Steven Daniels, WRDC Director, was promoted to Professor in the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology and the Department of Forest Resources at Utah State University.

WRDC Steering Committee

Jack Payne	Utah State University, VP and Dean for University Extension, Steering Committee Chair
Steven Daniels	Utah State University, WRDC Director
Kent Briggs	Council of State Governments-West Executive Director
Perry Brown	University of Montana, Dean of School of Forestry

Dave Bryant Montana State University, Vice Provost/Extension Director
Jim Christenson University of Arizona, Extension Director
Emmett Fiske Washington State University, Organizational Effectiveness Specialist
Nancy Hartley Colorado State University, Dean of Applied Sciences
Jim Jacobs University of Wyoming, Agricultural Experiment Station Director
Lovell (Tu) Jarvis UC Davis, Divisional Associate Dean for Human Sciences
Sally Maggard CSREES-Economic & Community Systems, National Program Leader
Paul McCawley University of Idaho, Associate Director of Extension
Florine (Flo) Raitano CRDC Executive Director
Louis Swanson Colorado State University, Sociology Department Chair

Upcoming Meetings and Travel (preliminary list for Fiscal Year 2002)

Upcoming Meeting and Location	Dates (2001-2002)	Will Attend Only	Will Be Involved Throughout	Presentation Planned	Will Provide In-depth Training
USFS Meeting Montrose, CO	Oct 3-4				X
Great Plains Population Symposium Bismarck, ND	Oct 15-17		X	X	X
WRDC Steering Committee meeting Portland, OR	Oct 29-31		X	X	
Rural Idaho: Challenged to Change conference, Albertson College of Idaho Caldwell, ID	Nov 8-9	X			
All Center Directors Meeting Tucson, AZ	Nov 28-29		X	X	
AZ Extension Directors meeting Tucson, AZ	Dec 12-13	X			
Western Extension Committee Kona, HI	Jan 16-19				
Western Extension Directors Meeting Las Vegas, NV	Feb 20-22				
National CRED Workshop	Feb 24-27			X	X
Ag Experiment Station Directors Meeting Las Cruces, NM	Mar 20-22				
Westland workshop, Colorado State Univ. Greeley, CO	Apr 24-25				

Upcoming Meeting and Location	Dates (2001-2002)	Will Attend Only	Will Be Involved Throughout	Presentation Planned	Will Provide In-depth Training
Joint AES & Extension Directors Meeting Big Sky, MT	Jul 14-17				
Empty Quarter SSci Meeting	TBA				
All Center Directors Meeting Nebraska City, NE	Oct 28-29		X	X	

Summary of Travel/Participation in Meetings (10/01/00 through 9/30/01)

Meeting and Location	Dates (2000-2001)	Attended Only	Involved Throughout	Gave Presentation	Provided In-depth Training
Extension Annual Conference Washington State University, WA	Oct 9-12			X	X
CSREES visit and Congressional information briefing Washington, D.C.	Oct 29-31		X		
<i>Western by Design</i> focus group meeting Spokane, WA	Nov 1-3		X		
RRDC Directors Meeting Baltimore, MD	Nov 13-16		X		
Western Extension Committee meeting San Diego, CA	Jan 8-10		X		
Great Plains Population Conference planning meeting, Colorado State Univ. Ft. Collins, CO	Jan 11-14		X		
Natural Resource Collaboration University of Montana Missoula, MT	Jan 21-24		X		
Western Extension Directors meeting Las Vegas, NV	Feb 4-8			X	
ESCOPE Social Sciences subcommittee Washington, D.C.	Feb 14-16		X		
Rural Education Project Kansas City, MO	Mar 12-13		X		
Kellogg team meeting Utah State University, UT	Mar 20-21		X		
Kellogg/FAS Pittsburg, PA	Apr 22-25	X			
IAP2 Vancouver, BC	May 6-8				X

Meeting and Location	Dates (2000-2001)	Attended Only	Involved Throughout	Gave Presentation	Provided In-depth Training
"Best in the West" Wildfire Workshop Salt Lake City, UT	May 14-17		X		
Fire Monitoring workshop Missoula, MT	Jun 13-15		X		
Western Ag Econ Logan, UT	Jul 8-10	X			
All Centers Directors meeting Keystone, CO	Jul 15-18			X	
Fire Team meeting Denver, CO	Jul 18-19		X		
COSSA Congressional briefing Washington, D.C.	Jul 20	X			
CDS/NRDP joint meeting Duluth, MN	Jul 23-26			X	
Western Governors Association meeting Couer d'Alene, ID	Aug 12-14	X			
PLC Meeting Jackson, WY	Sept 9-11			X	

Financial Summary

The Steering Committee for the WRDC devoted considerable effort during the Fall 2000 meeting to discussing financial issues. Base CSREES funding for the Regional Rural Development Centers has remained flat in nominal dollar terms through much of the last decade at roughly \$260,000 annually per Center. An increase in costs has reduced the ability of the Centers to function; it would take an annual appropriation of nearly \$490,000 to restore the Centers to the real purchasing power they were initially provided in 1974.

The Center Directors have made a concerted effort to raise Congressional awareness of their efforts and accomplishments for rural Americans. They have all been active in providing input regarding the Farm Bill. Dr. Daniels participated in two Congressional briefing processes in Washington, D.C., and met with Senator Hatch's field staff once and Senator Bennett's field staff twice. These efforts are beginning to bear fruit. This year, both the House and Senate Agricultural Appropriations bills included small increases in funding for the Centers. The Centers are also being considered as coordinating bodies for the rural e-commerce initiative being developed by Sen. Bingaman (NM).

WRDC Summary of Extramural Funding
October 1, 2000 to September 30, 2001

Funding Source	Amount
USDA-Forest Service (for "Best in the West" Fire Conference)	\$ 36,000
USDA-BLM (for "Best in the West" Fire Conference)	\$ 20,000
CSREES Innovation Grant	\$ 22,500
CSREES National Fire Team	\$ 10,000
Utah State University	\$ 35,000 (annually)
TOTAL Extramural Funds	\$123,500

WRDC FY01 Budget and FY Actual
October 1, 2000 to September 30, 2001

	RESEARCH		EXTENSION		EXTRAMURAL		TOTAL	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
FY98 Uncommitted Carryover		6,846.56		3,588.28		53,827.04		64,261.88
FY99 Uncommitted Carryover		0.00		4,133.78		0.00		4,133.78
FY00 Uncommitted Carryover		81,544.00		174,336.00		21,000.00		276,880.00
FY01 Income	81,536.67	81,357.00	173,953.00	173,953.00	32,500.00	129,500.00	287,989.67	384,810.00
TOTAL		169,747.56		336,011.06		204,327.04		730,085.66
EXPENSES								
Salaries/Wages/Benefits	63,859.00	46,101.86	136,536.00	146,328.10	3,750.00	68,306.92	204,145.00	260,736.88
Staff Travel	8,011.00	19,801.28	17,129.00	658.83	0	1,205.00	25,140.00	21,665.11
Equipment/Furniture	0	5,995.82	0	2,016.56	0	-519.06	0	7,493.32
Supplies, Printing, Mail, Phone, etc.	9,487.00	26,347.05	20,288.00	11,137.83	1,500.00	22,111.39	31,275.00	59,596.27
Faculty Travel	0	0	0	0	27,250.00	18,866.63	27,250.00	18,866.63
Contractual	0	17,338.60	0	0	0	3,000.00	0	20,338.60
TOTAL	81,357.00	115,584.61	173,953.00	160,141.32	32,500.00	112,970.88	287,810.00	388,696.81
Uncommitted Carryover		54,162.95		195,869.74		91,356.16		341,288.85