

WRTT Conference Call

June 28th, 2010

Monday 11:00 AM Mountain Time

Call: 1-877-612-4949 Passcode: 8870122

WRTT

TIPS, Technology Transfer, Training and General Information:

- Please check out the updated **TIPS** website for recent updates! These are located in the “What’s New?” section of the page.
<http://www.tips.osmre.gov>
- Please check out the updated **NTTT** website for recent updates! These are located at: <http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov>
- Check out the newly designed **OSMRE** website at: <http://www.osmre.gov>
- Check out the newly designed **OSMRE-WR** website at:
<http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov>
- Upcoming events: <http://amd.osmre.gov/ttcalroot/TTCalendar.aspx>
- **Additional Topic(s):**
 - Status of the 2009-2010 Applied Science Cooperative Agreements.
 - Status regarding funding of the 2010-2011 Applied Science program.
 - DOILEARN: Special guest Jessica Villanueva will address your questions on how to sign up for classes using DOILEARN.
 - WRTT annual conference: Where should it be held? Forum topic?
 - WRTT SharePoint site
 - Monday: Best time for our conference call?

The new OSM director has suggested the Applied Science research funds be redirected for use by the stream buffer zone team; so, there is no guarantee of funding for the 2010 research proposals. In light of this fact, the consensus was to resubmit the USDA cheatgrass study in 2011-if it is not funded in 2010- as it ranked in the top three proposals of 2010. The current Western Region high priority choice would be relegated to being submitted for funding afterwards, should funding become available.

The TIPS class sign-up system has changed to allow for direct electronic enrollment through DOILEARN on a first-come, first-served basis, and subsequent applicants are put on a waiting list; then automatically notified by e-mail if someone drops the class and they are enrolled from the waiting list.

The monthly call has been changed to the third Tuesday of every month.

Discussion Topic(s):

Voting will commence on the Western Region's high priority topic for the upcoming Applied Science Cooperative Agreement solicitation and scoring sheet.

The following topic was picked for this year's Western Region high priority topic:

“Research in the application of geomorphic principles and land forming techniques for the design and construction of a post-mine topography”

WRTT Member Reports/Information

Alaska:

Not present.

Arizona (Navajo):

Not present.

Arizona (Hopi):

Title IV and V: Nothing new to report.

Colorado:

Title IV: There are many construction projects starting up. Work on the modernization of the AMLIS system continues with a tentative release date of June 30st.

Montana:

Title V: Lots of applications to review. The Earth justice group sent a letter to MT-DEQ requesting a formal conference in regards to the Savage mine in Eastern MT. MT-DEQ is suggesting an informal conference at this time.

Montana (Crow):

Not present

New Mexico:

Title V: A full bond release application for industrial uses at the La Plata mine is being reviewed. A new hydrologist at BHP-Billiton has been working on an interesting study to determine how to find the source (and fingerprint) of water sources.

Title IV: The state legislature has river ecosystem rehabilitation money that the NMEMNRD is trying to obtain. This will boost the amount of money they have to clean up streams impacted by AML sites. Lots of construction projects have been started.

North Dakota:

Title V: Busy. They have numerous mine plan revisions to review as well as bond release applications to review.

Title IV: Busy. They have three major contracts going on at this time.

Utah:

Title IV: Drilling is occurring on the Maclean project to delineate a mine fire in the area. Reclamation of hard rock sites is also taking place.

Title V: A multi-day board review meeting just took place regarding the submission of the Alton surface coal mine permit. The meeting was requested by Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Natural Resources Defense Council, and National Parks Conservation Association.

Wyoming:

Title V: 10 bond releases (various stages of release) are taking place. One new permit application for a mine in Western WY is being reviewed. An 8000 acre amendment to a 350 acre permit is being reviewed. The Sage Grouse issued continues to be reviewed. 25% of Wyoming lands are "locked up" due to the Sage Grouse.

Casper Field Office:

Nothing to report.

Program Support Division/Albuquerque Area Office/Farmington Area Office:

A HEC-RAS instructor is needed to assist with the teaching of this course. A state /tribal person is encouraged to assist.

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office:

The office is focusing on annual reporting duties. Note: Retirements: Frank Atencio, Mike Russo, Dennis Winterringer and Jerry White (AAO).

TIPS:

TIPS is looking for an individual to apply for a GIS specialist. They must apply under the Federal Career Internship Program (FCIP). Contact Carolyn Garret in the Denver OSM-WR for details.

Next Call: July 20th, 2010 (subject to change)