

20 September 2007

Greetings,

I write you to provide a brief status report of the Watershed Condition Assessment report for ROMO and FLFO.

We have completed Phase 1 of the project, the goals of which were to:

- Refine objectives,
- formulate analytical framework,
- identify park issues and
- identify existing data.

The result of phase I work was to generate the attached “Selected Indicators for ROMO/FLFO”. We believe these indicators will offer a comprehensive assessment of the condition of the parks. These process by which these indicators were selected included elicitation from the technical team, discussion from the full team (in December 2007), and review by ROMO/FLFO and ROMN staff. We will use this document as our “blueprint” for the assessment document, but we appreciate feedback at any time regarding the indicators, and in particular assistance in identifying relevant datasets and tangible examples of ways these indicators would (will!) be used.

We are now entering Phase 2, the goal of which is to: compile spatial data & synthesize databases. We have begun compiling data and making data requests of ROMO/FLFO and ROMN park staff – we appreciate your assistance in providing us with your data and your insight into best uses of them.

Our target date for completing the report was May 2008. We anticipate that we will have draft products for the majority of the indicators by May, and will provide a draft final report for review by August, and expect to submit a revised, final report by September 2008. Our anticipated (slight) delay is the result of three factors: 1) realization of the complexity and depth of the synthesis and combination of indicators, in addition to reporting of stand-alone indicators; 2) enhancement of the socio-ecological indicator to explore refined visitor use estimates that include field-based collection of visitor use during a couple summer months at ROMO (May & June at least); and 3) balancing work load requirements to avoid the end of school year rush that occurs in May.

I also wanted to mention how the assessment project, and project that many of you are aware of – a NASA-funded project to assess ecological conditions around National Parks (coPIs are J. Gross, A. Hansen, S. Goetz, F. , and D. Theobald) relate to one another. For the NASA project, we will be producing “core” indicators for landscape dynamics – first targeting a suite of parks (YOSE, YELL, ROMO, and DEWA). There is a large synergy between these projects, and in particular for ROMO and ROMN, which we see as a great strength and opportunity. One slight caveat however – the schedule for product delivery from the NASA project is (1 to 1.5 years) beyond the termination of the assessment. As a result, there will be some very useful overlap of efforts, but the assessment must be

completed before all products will be available from the NASA project. A project website is in the works, and we'll provide a cross-link to it from our WCA website (see link below).

At any rate, we are excited to be working with you all on producing an assessment for ROMO and FLFO, and look forward to more dialogue with you all. Please visit our website for updates and documents at: { HYPERLINK "http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/~davet/romoflfo/wc_romoflfo.html" }

Best,

Dave Theobald, Barry Noon, Jill Baron, and Peter Newman
Colorado State University

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/~davet/romoflfo/wc_romoflfo.html" }
{ HYPERLINK "mailto:davet@cnr.colostate.edu" }

Filename: Status of ROMOFLFO WCA 20070920
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Author: Dave Theobald
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