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Participants went around the room and Introduced themselves and affiliations.

Reports from each person followed starting with john Tunberg. NRCS-NM. Accomplishments and highlights include the following items. Michael Carpinelli who served as the Range Conservationist assigned to the Grants Soil Survey team has moved on to another position as the Forest Ecologist on the Cibolla NF in Albuquerque. The Grants range position is vacant at this point. Prior to his departure the following ESD were the subject of a State and Transition (S and T) model workshop and then full development into ESD. These are not new ESD but significant upgrades;

Gravelly Hills R036XB132NM

Malpais R036XB007NM

Salt Meadow R036XB009NM

Salty Bottomland R036XB010NM

Sandy Slopes R036XB111NM

Sandy R035XA113NM

Salt Flats R035XA126NM

Shale Hills R035XA130NM

Foothills R035XA131NM

Shallow Sandstone R035XG121NM

Noe Gonzales a BLM employee who has been working on ESD development completed development on a forested ESD F039XB103NM Mesa Hills and Slopes 12 to 19. He also completed scouting for a series of additional woodland ESD for MLRA 39.

David Trujillo who served as the Range Conservationist assigned to the Las Cruces Soil Survey team is going to be retiring in January 2011. He has been assisting with the White Sands Missile Range soil survey and they are moving on to the White Sands National Monument Survey. This summer the following new ESD were the subject of an S and T model workshop hosted at the Jornada. They were then developed into full ESD with the following results.

Gyp Outcrop R042XB007NM Published in ESIS

Alkali Flat R042XB001NM DRAFT

Gyp Interdune (Wet) R042XB004NM Published in ESIS

Gyp Interdune (Dry) R042XB005NM Published in ESIS

Gyp Duneland Barren R042XB002NM Published in ESIS

Vegetated Gypsum Dunes R042XB003NM Published in ESIS

Gyp Playa R042XB008NM DRAFT

Gyp Playa Step (Shallow) R042XB029NM DRAFT

Gyp Playa Step (Deep) R042XB030NM DRAFT

Saline draw Transected but needs more sampling before ESIS entry

Saline Lakebed Proposed but consolidated into one or more of the above

Deep Sand Gyp Proposed but consolidated into one or more of the above

Sandy Gyp Proposed but consolidated into one or more of the above

John Tunberg developed 86 Rangeland Health Worksheets to assist BLM with their evaluation efforts. In addition 6 Riparian ESD were developed and published in MLRA 48A out of field work completed in 2008.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [R048AY020NM](http://esis.sc.egov.usda.gov/ESDReport/fsReport.aspx?approved=yes&id=R048AY020NM) | R | 048A | Mountain Fen  | /Carex aquatilis-Carex utriculata |
| [R048AY021NM](http://esis.sc.egov.usda.gov/ESDReport/fsReport.aspx?approved=yes&id=R048AY021NM) | R | 048A | Wet Sedge  | /Carex-Deschampsia caespitosa |
| [R048AY022NM](http://esis.sc.egov.usda.gov/ESDReport/fsReport.aspx?approved=yes&id=R048AY022NM) | R | 048A | Subalpine Fen  | /Carex utriculata-Carex aquatilis |
| [R048AY023NM](http://esis.sc.egov.usda.gov/ESDReport/fsReport.aspx?approved=yes&id=R048AY023NM) | R | 048A | Subalpine Moist Meadow  | /Carex canescens-Veratrum |
| [R048AY024NM](http://esis.sc.egov.usda.gov/ESDReport/fsReport.aspx?approved=yes&id=R048AY024NM) | R | 048A | Mountain Marshy Swale  | /Scirpus-Carex |
| [R048AY025NM](http://esis.sc.egov.usda.gov/ESDReport/fsReport.aspx?approved=yes&id=R048AY025NM) | R | 048A | Mountain Wet Meadow  | /Salix/Carex nebrascensis-Carex aquatilis |

John and Wayne Robbie participated in a follow-up riparian sampling workshop on Valles Caldera this past summer. Another riparian sampling and ESD workshop will be conducted August of 2011 on the Gila NF.

Herman Garcia is a new member of the ESD core group for New Mexico. He has been on the job for 3 weeks as the Soils MO office Range person for quality control and quality assurance in Phoenix. <http://soils.usda.gov/contact/mlra_offices/>

Herman said the exact duties and methods of operation for these new positions are still under development.

Clarence Chavez reported that he has been helping John Tunberg with generating the soils data that goes into the ESD reports we all use. He does this along with other duties. Clarence is also the main editor of the NASIS soils database where the soils and ESD correlation is maintained.

Jeff Herrick; See the attached Jornada report for Jeff and Brandon Bestelmeyer and Kris Havstad. Jeff has been working to assure that nationally BLM collects the same or comparable data as NRI on their lands. FS collects FIA data on their lands. It is not directly comparable to NRI.

Bebo Lee reported for the NM cattle Growers and specifically their federal lands Committee. He warned that those involved in creating ESD need to be aware that there can be consequences to federal land permittees of putting statements in S and T models that say things like livestock removal is necessary to recover an ecological site from one state to another state as a recovery pathway mechanism. Discussion followed on how it is important that those writing ESD focus on “testable hypothesis” when talking about thresholds and transition and recovery pathways. For example avoid saying things like prescribed grazing can get a site from state 3 to state 2. Instead focus on the specific desired outcomes from grazing management. An example would be “ no more than 50 % utilization of shrub species” or “leave enough fine fuels biomass to carry a prescribed fire”. Then it is up to the land managers to decide how to get those conditions on the landscape.

Nick Ashcroft reported that he is now the Extension range specialist for NMSU. He replaced Sam Smallidge in that position and Sam is now the lead for Range Improvement Taskforce.

Jessica Ouzts reported that state forestry uses the Forest Service forest and woodland site guides for their work on forest lands. This is because the ESD NM has for forested sites are very limited in scope. She also mentioned that the cooperative agreement state forestry has with NRCS can be extended to conduct work on ESD development. Training would be needed to implement this idea.

Joel Brown reviewed the highlights of the Chief of NRCS decision to accelerate ESD development across the nation. Joel also reviewed the highlights of the ESD workshop held at the Jornada last month. Task 1 recommendations is to establish a limited number of ESD acceleration tests at the MLRAor LRU scale across the nation. Staff and task them for a few years and then look at the research/Learning/Demonstration lessons learned to move the entire program ahead. Another task that was commonly spoken of at the meeting is the need to integrate legacy data and new data in ESD development. Joel concluded by saying there will be follow-up regional workshops for field level practitioners that will be open to everyone.

Wayne Robbie distributed several handouts that will be useful references for ESD development. They are; “Evaluating the Ecological Sustainability of a Pinyon-Juniper Grassland Ecosystem in Northern AZ.” And “Integrating landscape assessment project modeling process” and a NAU article about “using Terrestrial Ecosystem Surveys to Assess Potential Landscape-Scale Treatments in Arizona and Nevada”. And finally “Using a Terrestrial Ecosystem Survey to estimate the Historical Density of Ponderosa Pine Trees in Northern AZ.” The last one is a paper delivered at the SAF convention in Albuquerque recently. In addition Wayne said that the SW region and PNW region are evaluating the Integrated Landscape Assessment Project (ILAP) model to try and characterize water yield form landscapes and how it might change with climate change. FS is looking at ways to do “wall to wall” assessments. Wayne said VDDT can be used to build S and T models. In the process it can build updated data sets, build GIS base layers and assess departure from reference condition. Wayne handed out a draft TEUI and ESD crosswalk document for the Gila area. This is a product of Esteban Muldavan at Natural heritage It is a working draft. Another product is the Riparian mapping and Assessment Program (RMAP) that looks at water delivery as variables are adjusted. This is a 2 year funded research effort. Valles Caldera Nature Preserve (VCNP) is finished with soil mapping. Both TES and ESD were done for the effort. A correlation can be easily made at that location.

Judith Dyess said that a base level of information that is needed for any Ecological discussion is ESD and/or TEUI. Otherwise folks will compare things that should not be compared with each other.

Tony Rolfs is the new State Soil Scientist for NRCS in New Mexico. Tony spoke of the need to replace after Michael Carpinelli and then David Trujillo when he retires next year. NRCS will need to be creative to do that as these did not get added funding this year to do that from the Acceleration initiative. Reimbursables can be a short term answer to this concern but a long term solution needs to be found.

Don Ellsworth spoke in support of the BLM use of ESD to conduct the Restore NM effort that has been wildly successful. He said that BLM and NRCS are in discussion to determine where exactly that support should go next to do the most good.

Scott Woodall is a new Range Conservationist doing ESD development work out of the Santa Fe Soils office. He is working as part of the contract with NPS to map Carlsbad NP and tie in with the Guadalupe NP mapping being done by TX NRCS. They are in the recon phase now but will get up to speed fast as they survey has a short time to completion.

Charlie Hibner is the MLRA leader in Santa Fe for NRCS. He spoke of Soils needing to be the basis for ESD definition and development. In addition similar soils and vegetation responses need to be grouped together in ESD development. He warned against being too narrow focused when developing ESD need to look across all the range of a potential ESD to determine the range of variability. Then include all that in the write-up.

Next the group discussed what items to emphasize in the 2011 business plan. The consensus is that Task 1 from the SRM/Jornada workshop in November should be pursued with the most vigor here in NM. The coordinating group for the workshop will be developing and disseminating criteria for the pilot areas. Wayne Robbie, Charlie Hibner, Don Ellsworth, John Tunberg volunteered to be the workgroup to discover how to move this forward.

The idea of a series of educational workshops for ESD users and practitioners was fronted. A work plan will need to be developed and whatever is done needs to be interdisciplinary and interagency. Bebo Lee, John Tunberg, Nick Ashcroft, Wayne Robbie and Ann DeMint volunteered to flesh out this idea. These will need to be basic workshops. Be careful to develop a foundation of plant ID, soil quality factors, etc… before wrapping it all together in an ESD format. The Range 101 classes that Judith and Nathan were involved in with AZ SRM could be a good model of how to begin. S and T model concepts will need to be demonstrated on the ground and not just on paper.

The meeting concluded at 2:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted

John E. Tunberg