

MoRAP Special Aquatic Topics Meeting
August 22, 2006
Meeting Minutes

- Scott gave a presentation on the history of the aquatic program at MoRAP
- Scott gave a presentation on aquatic projects MoRAP has completed
- Gust gave a presentation on current aquatic projects at MoRAP
- Gust went into discussion of geospatial data needs
 - Randy Sarver: what was decided on the FLIR
 - Scott explained that the park service has been having some difficulty obtaining the data from the Naval Research Institute and that these delays were related to the fact that hurricane Katrina struck shortly after the FLIR data were obtained and that remote sensing projects related to disaster relief and reconstruction efforts have been eating up all of the time for personnel at the NRI.
 - Steve Eder: MDC priority is characterizing health of riparian corridor (land cover, fragmentation, connectivity). Precision of satellite imagery is often not sufficient for characterizing the health of the riparian corridor. Riparian areas are also important to other resource conservationists (forests, bird, amphibians). So it is a real common ground for numerous interest groups.
 - Liz Cook has thought about this issue for some time. The CLU has real potential for characterizing riparian conditions. Liz is planning on using the 24K stream network in conjunction with the CLUs to characterize land cover/use and conservation practices within the buffer of these streams.
 - Liz mentioned the five pilot areas she will be working on.
 - Dave and Gust mentioned the problem with Ag stats at county level, Liz said she has pleaded with FSA to change the geographic units (e.g., 12-digit HUs) for which these data are compiled.
 - Kevin Richards said that updating the species models for Missouri, and this is a big priority of MDC Fisheries Division.
 - Carl Korshgen, getting back to FLIR, we should make a much more concerted effort to get these data
 - Mike Roell would it be timely for a 10-year aquatic program review? Dave, Scott, and Gust said yes.
 - David Galt noted that someone needs to pay attention to keeping these data current – David Diamond noted that this general topic is often mentioned and seldom acted upon
 - David Galat noted that there are great data for MO River tribbs, but little data for MO mainstem, so MoRAP or someone needs to work on that more
 - Scott discussed what the handouts were for, asked if group thought it would be good to reform the aquatic resources task force, yes, and then if we should do a more comprehensive review of info needs, yes, and then asked for committee member volunteers.
 - Joe Engeln, really need to have a discussion on data quality, standards, etc... for existing and future datasets

- Ronnie Lea gave a presentation on MO River floodplain landform modeling
 - David Galat, asked whether or not you could quantify reductions in flood levels with various scenarios such as levee setbacks, increased wetland area, increased public ownership.
 - Just talking about ballpark numbers here, eg. Would we see a 1 foot or 1 inch reduction in flood height with different scenarios.

- Clayton Blodgett gave a presentation on Wetland Mapping using remote sensing.
 - Liz, where is your study area: Clayton, Atchison to Kansas City
 - David Galat: You are dealing with the seasonal variation in wetness, but how are you dealing with interannual variation. Clayton: we will be using multiple scenes covering multiple years.
 - Have to remember wetlands are very dynamic, temporally
 - Using NWI is a good benchmark, but you need to also use the historic river stage and climatic data; Joe Engeln agreed.
 - Local precipitation also plays a role in wetness, perhaps more so than river state for most wetlands
 - Liz, are you using the term inundation to refer to the full spectrum of wetness, Clayton, yes

- Don Huggins gave a presentation that provides an overview of activities associated with MO river monitoring
 - Bottom line is if you want to protect wetlands you need to know where they are at.
 - Were not funded for Phase 2 of project, but are looking to other funding sources, such as EMAP
 - No conclusions, yet still a work in progress
 - Don is looking at herbaceous wetlands of greater than 10 ha in size, and they are calculating a Floristic Quality Index for each community within each wetland complex
 - David Galat, what do you see the term reference meaning from your personally opinion? Don, the least disturbed condition, because there is nothing that functions like it historically did.
 - David, said the problem with that using current conditions is that that becomes our target, ie., the bar is set too low. We need to look at other options, eg., virtual reference/professional opinion. Otherwise we are taking the best of the worst as the reference.
 - Carl, of the 1,700 wetlands (herbaceous, more than 10 hectares) in your study area, how many of them are managed wetlands? Because managed wetlands function very differently from natural.
 - Don, very few.
 - We hoped that our Phase 2 will get funded because this is where we are planning on using a spatially stratified design that would hopefully overcome these potential biases
 - Obvious there are a number of us that need to talk due to our similar efforts