MSCFR & RREA Administrative Meeting
November 15th, 2021
National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

The McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research (MSCFR) and the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) programs will hold two events (Fall 2021 and Spring 2022) to identify opportunities, discuss challenges, and collaborate in addressing the sustainability of forest and rangeland resources through research, education, and extension strategies.

This first meeting –Nov. 15th-, intends to connect MSCFR Administrative Technical Representatives and RREA Administrative Representatives and Project Directors (PDs) through a series of presentations, breakout sessions, webinars, and guest speakers to learn more about the latest changes in the NIFA Reporting System (NRS), financial and administrative management of programs. There will also be a discussion on NIFA’s efforts to work with MSCFR and RREA to identify criteria that fully capture the many contributions of MSCFR and RREA to sustainable forest and rangeland resources.

The Spring meeting –Date TBA-, will bring together RREA and MSCFR PDs to share their projects in terms of planning and implementation challenges and successes. As an output, we expect that the meeting serves as a venue for PDs to learn about each other’s efforts and initiate a conversation on how they can collaborate to advance sustainable agriculture systems.

Program (1:00-6:00 PM Eastern Time)
1:00 PM  NIFA Introductions & Opening Remarks by Dr. Kevin Kephart
1:15 PM  MSCFR & RREA Programs: Overview by Dr. Daniel Cassidy
1:40 PM  Administrative processes: Request for applications, Amendments, Extension for award, Notice of Award, and more by Kaitlin Claren and Amy Ochsner (Grants Management Specialists-Award Management Division)
2:10 PM  NIFA Reporting System Refresher and Q&A by Dr. Lynn Khadiagala (Planning and Program Evaluation Lead)
2:40 PM  Break
3:00 PM  Panel Discussion: RREA and MSCFR Program opportunities, challenges, etc.
4:20 PM  MSCFR & RREA Program Evaluation-stakeholder discussion (Evaluation Team)
5:20 PM  Q&A and Feedback
6:00 PM  Adjourn
Panel Moderator

Jeffrey W. Stringer, PhD
Chairman, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. Extension Professor of Hardwood Silviculture and Forest Operations. University of Kentucky

Dr. Stringer is currently the James G. Brown endowed chair of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Kentucky and Extension professor of hardwood silviculture and forest operations. Over the last 35 years he has focused on research, science delivery and technology transfer to provide solutions for high quality timber production. He is currently director of the Kentucky Master Logger Program, Center for Forest and Wood Certification, and Fellow of the Society of American Foresters and the James B. Beam Institute for Distilled Spirits.

Panelists

George Ruyle
Specialist, Rangeland Ecology and Management
Marley Endowed Chair for Sustainable Rangeland Stewardship
Co-Director, Natural Resources Users Law and Policy Center
University of Arizona

As a professor and extension specialist in Rangeland Management, his primary role is to provide leadership for statewide educational programming backed by problem-solving research and focused on sustainable use of rangelands. His interests have a central theme to provide various client-groups the ecological foundation essential for the implementation of effective rangeland management. Through participatory research and education, George’s programming helps build capacity in collaborative conservation, usually in rural communities and involving publicly held resources. Dr. Ruyle enjoys working with widely diverse interests and blending the theoretical aspects of rangeland science with the practical needs of local communities. He specializes in conservation ranching for sustainable rangeland livestock production, primarily through the practices of planned grazing, monitoring, and adaptive management.

Mark Thorne
Associate Specialist in Range and Livestock Management
University of Hawaii-Manoa, Cooperative Extension Service

Dr. Thorne has served Hawaii since 2003 with a focus on sustainable tropical livestock production. Dr. Thorne’s applied research and extension outreach programs focus on the development of decision support tools, livestock production practices, and grazing management strategies that help Hawaii livestock producers remain sustainable in the face of changing climate conditions that result in frequent droughts, severe storms, and invasive pasture pests. The findings of his research are disseminated through workshops, extension publications, and direct assistance to Hawaii’s
livestock producers. Interests: food, agricultural sustainability, natural resources.

Kris Tiles  
*Co-Director, Regional Natural Resources Education Program*  
*Marathon County UW-Extension*  

Kris joined UW-Extension in April 2004. After receiving her bachelor’s degree in Forest Science from the UW-Madison, she joined the Peace Corps where she worked as an agroforestry volunteer for two years. Upon her return, she worked for Oregon State University as a researcher looking at spotted owl habitat. She returned to Madison, where she earned a master’s degree in Social Forestry. Previously to joining UW-Extension, she worked with the Cooperative Development Services assisting private forest owners. She is currently one of the Natural Resource Educators that provide leadership on nutrient reduction and water quality projects and a variety of forestry initiatives across the state. Signature water projects include Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation efforts in the Lower Fox, Wisconsin, St. Croix, Red Cedar and Rock River watersheds and the Lower Fox River Demo Farm Network. Forestry initiatives include Learn About Your Land (LAYL) workshops and other efforts to engage landowners and encourage sustainable management of privately-owned forests.

David Newman  
*Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*  
*Professor of Resource Economics and Policy*  
*SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY*  

David’s primary research areas have been the economics of public policy related to timber supply and land use change. Dr. Newman has consulted on various forestry projects with organizations such as the World Bank, the USDA Forest Service, the World Wildlife Fund, the Agency for International Development, the US EPA, and others. He serves as the Theme 4 leader (Biodiversity and Protected Area Management) for the Northeastern States Research Cooperative; he is the Chair-elect of the NY Society of American Foresters; and he is the President-elect of the National Association of University Forest Resource Programs (NAUFRP). He has given lectures or served as a visiting scholar at several international institutions including the Chinese Academy of Forestry, the Swedish Agricultural University, the Finnish Forest Research Institute, Oslo University, the Colombian National Planning Department, and the University of Tasmania.

Andrew J. Storer  
*Dean and Professor*  
*College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Tech*  

Dr. Storer areas of expertise include Forest insect ecology, Insect/fungus/plant interactions in forest ecosystems, Impacts of exotic species on forest ecosystems, Interactions among fire, insects and disease in forests, and Urban forest health.
NIFA Staff

Kevin Kephart
Deputy Director, Institute of Bioenergy, Climate and Environment

Peter Thompson
Division Director, Environmental Systems Division, Institute of Bioenergy, Climate and Environment

Timothy Conner
Division Director, Bioenergy Division, Institute of Bioenergy, Climate and Environment and Acting Director for International Programs

Diomides Zamora
National Program Leader, RREA

Jim Dobrowolski
National Program Leader, RREA

Daniel Cassidy
National Program Leader, MSCFR

Rocio Gutierrez
Program Specialist-RREA

Monica Jerome
Program Specialist-MSCFR

Andrea Thompson
Program Assistant

Lynn Khadiagala
Planning & Program Evaluation Lead

Kaitlin Claren
Grants Management Specialist

Amy Ochsner
Grants Management Specialist
Contact

For questions related to the MSCFR & RREA Administrative Meeting, please contact your program specialist:

National Program Leader MSCFR: Patrick.cassidy@usda.gov
MSCFR Program Specialist: Monica.Jerome@usda.gov
National Program Leader RREA: Diomides.zamora@usda.gov
RREA Program Specialist: Rocio.gutierrezgarzon@usda.gov

For questions to our Awards Management Division (AMD), please email:

formulagrantforms@usda.gov
capacityequipment@usda.gov
capacitygrantquestions@usda.gov

Registration

You are invited to a ZoomGov meeting.

When: Nov 15, 2021 1:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItd-6grzkrGvcmZw-fx0eZ2a0T170F9X0

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

“If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Rocio Gutierrez, RREA Program Specialist, at Rocio.gutierrezgarzon@usda.gov no later than Monday, November 1st, 2021. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.”