

Discussion topics for EPSCoR Tri-State Meeting, Workshop F4:

Relating science research projects to public land management – what do land managers need from scientists, and what do scientists need from land managers?

Questions for land managers:

1. What sort of management decisions are you making now, and in the foreseeable future, regarding projects that would be affected by water and climate issues?
2. What scientific data and analyses do you already have to inform those decisions, and what data and analyses do you lack that would be useful?
3. What is meant in land manager procedures/regulations by “adaptive management” and “use of best available science”? Can university scientists assist with achieving this? How?
4. How do you believe university scientists/graduate students could contribute to acquiring missing information, or analyzing existing information to assist with land management issues?
5. In what form do these data and analyses need to be, and what needs to be done to facilitate their compilation and transfer to managers in a useful format?
6. What sorts of funding/support would be available to make all this happen?

Questions for research scientists:

1. Do research scientists appreciate that their data/analyses are used in land management decisions and program development? How important is this to your career goals?
2. Are university scientists formally “rewarded” by their institutions, beyond normal evaluations, for practical application of their results?
3. Do you believe that the “color of money” for university-based research (i.e., applied studies vs. theoretical investigations) is valued differently by deans, chairs and tenure committees in evaluating scientists and students?
4. Do you think that common land management “surveys and inventories” or routine “monitoring programs” are of value in university research programs and graduate/undergraduate education programs? If yes, how would they be employed in university research programs?
5. How do you think research programs for faculty and students could be linked to land management issues, and what would you need logistically to do so?
6. Are research permits and regulations for science projects on public lands an obstacle to performing research?