

**FY 2020 TEMPLATE**  
**Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution (ECCR)<sup>1</sup>**  
**Policy Report to OMB-CEQ**

On September 7, 2012, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued a revised policy memorandum on environmental collaboration and conflict resolution (ECCR). This joint memo builds on, reinforces, and replaces the memo on ECR issued in 2005.

The memorandum requires annual reporting by departments and agencies to OMB and CEQ on progress made each year in implementing the ECCR policy direction to increase the effective use and institutional capacity for ECCR.

ECCR is defined in Section 2 of the 2012 memorandum as:

*“ . . . third-party assisted collaborative problem solving and conflict resolution in the context of environmental, public lands, or natural resources issues or conflicts, including matters related to energy, transportation, and water and land management.*

*The term Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution encompasses a range of assisted collaboration, negotiation, and facilitated dialogue processes and applications. These processes directly engage affected interests and Federal department and agency decision makers in collaborative problem solving and conflict resolution.*

*Multi-issue, multi-party environmental disputes or controversies often take place in high conflict and low trust settings, where the assistance of impartial facilitators or mediators can be instrumental to reaching agreement and resolution. Such disputes range broadly from policy and regulatory disputes to administrative adjudicatory disputes, civil judicial disputes, intra- and interagency disputes, and disputes with non-Federal persons and entities.*

*Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution can be applied during policy development or planning in the context of a rulemaking, administrative decision making, enforcement, or litigation with appropriate attention to the particular requirements of those processes. These contexts typically involve situations where a Federal department or agency has ultimate responsibility for decision making and there may be disagreement or conflict among Federal, Tribal, State and local governments and agencies, public interest organizations, citizens groups, and business and industry groups.*

*Although Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution refers specifically to collaborative and conflict resolution processes aided by third-party neutrals, there is a broad array of partnerships, cooperative arrangements, and unassisted negotiations that Federal agencies may pursue with non-Federal entities to plan, manage, and implement department and agency programs and activities. The Basic Principles for Agency Engagement in Environmental Conflict Resolution and Collaborative Problem Solving are presented in Attachment B. The Basic Principles provide guidance that applies to both Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution and unassisted collaborative problem solving and conflict resolution. This policy recognizes the importance and value of the appropriate use of all forms collaborative problem solving and conflict resolution.”*

This annual reporting template is provided in accordance with the memo for activities in FY 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> The term ‘ECCR’ includes third-party neutral assistance in environmental collaboration and environmental conflict resolution

## FY 2020 ECCR Report Template

Name of Department/Agency responding:	<u>The Department of the Interior</u>
Name and Title/Position of person responding:	<u>William Hall, Director</u>
Division/Office of person responding:	<u>Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR)</u>
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Date this report is being submitted:	<u>February 19, 2021</u>
Name of ECCR Forum Representative	<u>William Hall, Sarah Palmer</u>

### 1. ECCR Capacity Building Progress

- a) Describe any **NEW, CHANGED, or ACTIVELY ONGOING** steps taken by your department or agency to build programmatic and institutional capacity for environmental collaboration and conflict resolution in FY 2020, including progress made since FY 2019.

Please also include any efforts to establish routine procedures for considering ECCR in specific situations or categories of cases, including any efforts to provide institutional support for non-assisted collaboration efforts.

Please refer to the mechanisms and strategies presented in Section 5 and attachment C of the [OMB-CEQ ECCR Policy Memo](#) for additional guidance on what to include here.

Examples include but are not restricted to efforts to:

- Integrate ECCR objectives into agency mission statements, Government Performance and Results Act goals, and strategic planning;
- Assure that your agency's infrastructure supports ECCR;
- Invest in support, programs, or trainings; and d) focus on accountable performance and achievement.

Please refer to your agency's FY 2019 report to only include new, changed or actively ongoing ECCR capacity building progress. **If none, leave this section blank.**

The Department of the Interior (DOI) continues to provide programmatic/institutional capacity to encourage the broadest possible appropriate and effective use of ECCR processes. Within DOI the directives in the OBM/CEQ Memorandum on ECCR are operationalized through the following structures:

- The Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) in the Office of the Secretary, serves as an independent, impartial source of collaborative problem solving and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) expertise and services. Established in 2001, CADR supports all Bureaus and Offices for both ECCR and workplace matters. CADR oversees implementation of the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1996, other relevant laws, regulations, directives and guidance, and the Department's policy on the use of collaborative processes and problem-solving, ADR, ECCR, consensus-building, and related

training. CADR provides Departmental decision-makers with analysis and advice about when to use ECCR and how the Department can effectively engage its stakeholders. Moreover, CADR is strategically positioned within the Department to help address inter-Bureau natural resource, cultural resource, and land management issues, as well as to assist individual Bureaus and Offices in reaching unified decisions.

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) CADR Program resides within the BLM Headquarters Office of Resources and Planning Directorate; Division of Decision Support, Planning and NEPA. Established in 1997 as the Natural Resource Alternative Dispute Resolution program, BLM CADR provides leadership, guidance, and assistance in collaborative implementation of the BLM’s mission “to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America’s public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

Collectively, there are 14 FTEs in DOI (Office of the Secretary and BLM) supporting ECCR services and programs, and internal collaboration and conflict management activities that build capacity for employees’ engagement with the public. Collateral duty Bureau Dispute Resolution Specialists (BDRS) carry out ECCR-related responsibilities in many of the other DOI Bureaus, such as the Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and an additional 31 collateral duty BLM-CADR coordinators work in the BLM State or center offices to provide ECCR support, guidance, and capacity building to BLM employees and stakeholders in the field and district offices.

### Programmatic Support

CADR staff, BDRSs, and BLM-CADR work collectively to support Bureau and Office missions at all levels through education about using ECCR so that DOI’s employees can:

- Recognize and manage conflict early,
- Identify opportunities and access resources and assistance to engage interested stakeholders in non-adversarial problem-solving processes to produce durable policies, decisions and solutions, and
- Utilize conflict resolution tools whenever possible to achieve goals without unnecessary delays and costs.

In March 2020 much of the internal and external work for the Department became virtual due to the Coronavirus pandemic. A key decision at that point was for each bureau to identify which virtual systems would be used to securely support their bureau mandate with external stakeholders while across the Department. Microsoft Teams had been adopted for internal operations. CADR staff and bureau counterparts worked quickly to train and support staff in virtual engagements with external stakeholders.

Additional examples of coordinated programmatic capacity-building efforts during FY 2020 included:

- Consultation, training, and support internally and with external stakeholders to constructively and authentically hold space for dialogues related to systemic injustices and increasing equity;
- Consultation services to individuals, offices, teams, and Bureaus on appropriate use of ECCR by assessing the prospects for collaboration, and, when appropriate, designing and facilitating ECCR processes that are responsive to party needs and mutual

interests;

- Education and support of DOI managers on when and how to work with a third-party neutral, and education and support of external third-party neutrals about DOI and its Bureau organizational structures, culture, and coordination needs;
- Providing leadership education and training as well as basic public participation, collaboration, conflict management, ECCR, and negotiation skills training for managers and employees throughout DOI (see response in #2 below);
- Assisting parties within and external to DOI in identifying and acquiring timely, skilled third-party neutral services acceptable to all parties; and
- Managing an internal facilitation roster that supports ECCR and other ADR efforts.

CADR staff members regularly represent DOI on several interagency groups and participated in a variety of interagency efforts to build common understanding and jointly advance collaboration and ECCR. Examples include the ECCR forum led by OMB/CEQ and the Interagency ADR Working Group.

In FY 2020, CADR continued its work convening an ECCR community of practice with representatives from Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Bureau of Reclamation (REC), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), and United States Geological Survey (USGS). This group collaboratively developed and hosted a webinar to orient other DOI employees about the use of ECCR in general and in various bureaus.

The FY 2020 programmatic approaches to ECCR among the DOI Bureaus/Offices included:

The **Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, through its Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action (RACA)** engaged the CADR Office to advise parties who have matters on appeal before the Board of Indian Appeals, who are seeking alternatives to traditional dispute resolution processes.

The **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** regularly made use of the CADR ECCR contract to support public engagement and collaborative efforts initiated by BLM State, Field, and District Offices and programs.

In January 2020, the BLM Washington DC Office for Decision Support, Planning, and NEPA held a four-day NEPA planning workshop in Phoenix that was attended by both live and virtual audiences and recorded for future educational opportunities. The program brought together over 100 BLM employees working on a wide range of NEPA projects including the use of third-party neutrals in pre-scoping phases of projects.

In response to the changed work environment necessitated by the pandemic, the BLM purchased 100 Zoom.Gov licenses, which were distributed to BLM State Offices and key information management hubs across the nation. The acting BLM CADR coordinator was assigned the responsibility of managing the licenses and training license holders in skills and operational opportunities for virtual internal and external meetings, including public engagement for planning purposes. A Virtual Meeting Operations Team (VMOT) was established and the BLM began a new era of operations, learning and adapting as new lessons were integrated into following events, each tailored for desired outcomes. While the VMOT sunset in mid-August, Team members continue to share skills and knowledge throughout the

agency.

**Virtual Meeting Operations Team Key Accomplishments (April 22, 2020 – August 14, 2020):**

- Hosted more than 850 Zoom meetings for over 11,900 participants and over 200 webinars for over 9000 participants.
- Continued to host high-profile public meetings supporting secretarial priorities, internal all-employee meetings, important conversations with Tribes, and congressional outreach.
- Prepared materials to support the agency’s rapid need for virtual meetings, including a public meeting playbook, communications materials, training, and materials for use in preparation and during public meetings. The team developed an internal SharePoint website for users to easily access the materials. The site received over 2,300 visits since going live in May 2020. The conferencing tool comparison chart created by the National Operations Center (NOC) leadership with contributions from the VMOT has received over 18,000 visits from almost 5,000 unique visitors.
- Provided technical support, training for license holders, and a virtual platform to facilitate public engagement in priority BLM projects in Arizona, Alaska, California, Colorado, Eastern States, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon/Washington, Utah, Wyoming, and National efforts.

**Additionally, the BLM CADR and DOI CADR** recognized the need to capture the institutional learning on virtual engagement to support capacity-building, to prepare for anticipated challenges, and to further the success of virtual stakeholder engagement. Through the DOI CADR IDIQ a Task Order was issued to define **Virtual Public Meetings Needs and Lessons Learned**. The contractor is presently gathering data on:

- Successful meetings associated with previous experience in virtual facilitation.
- Adaptations from in-person meetings to virtual.
- Understood constraints and opportunities associated with the virtual meeting format.
- Greater understanding of needs for a facilitation plan or tech annotated agenda.
- Success and challenges to accomplishing each individual meeting’s purpose.
- Virtual public engagement needs for BLM and DOI.

Once complete (summer 2021) the findings will be shared throughout the DOI ECCR community.

The **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)** uses ECCR to help the Bureau fulfill its mission. The Marine Minerals Program (MMP) relies heavily on the CADR’s contract for ECCR services to secure third-party neutrals in support of outreach meetings with Federal, State, and local stakeholders concerning regional offshore sand management for coastal restoration projects. The BOEM Pacific Region and Headquarters utilize CADR staff and contracted neutrals from the CADR ECCR contract to facilitate Tribal consultation, stakeholder outreach, and taskforce meetings. In 2020 the BOEM Pacific Region used contracted neutrals and technical experts to create simulations of offshore wind developments in order to maximize stakeholder understanding and feedback about the potential visual impacts of offshore wind development.

By their nature, the **Bureau of Reclamation’s** water and power activities are complex, multi-purpose projects that can be the focus of conflict among various stakeholders with often divergent objectives. As such, collaboration is a cornerstone of Reclamation’s mission and operating principles and continues to be integrated into the way they do business.

Reclamation has integrated environmental collaboration and conflict resolution (ECCR) as an ongoing effort into the following:

1. Project Operations – aiding in decision making related to water and power releases and operations and maintenance. Examples include the Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Work Group, which guides the operations of Glen Canyon Dam; operations of the Central Valley Project, in coordination with the State Water Project in California; implementation of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP); and the Lewiston Orchards Project in Idaho.
2. Regulatory Compliance - such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Project examples include development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP); the operation of the Central Valley Project in California; Bosque del Apache Pilot River Realignment in which Reclamation staff are working with non-federal stakeholders to resolve their issues with proposed Environmental Assessment; and the Klamath Project Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation in CA and OR.
3. Value Engineering Program - Because of its technical expertise, Reclamation’s Value Program managers facilitate collaborative efforts to review technical designs with an eye toward improving the cost effectiveness of engineering or technical solutions to water and power management issues. As a result, the Program improves the effectiveness and efficiency of a proposed water and/or hydropower project –for contractors, customers, and taxpayers. The program also encourages “outside of the box” thinking to identify design alternatives that may meet project requirements but may not have been explored previously. The process also can assist in consensus building – allowing Project Stakeholders and Reclamation to collaboratively discuss alternatives that either side may otherwise resist to reach a consensus solution.
4. Indian Water Rights –Reclamation uses a facilitated process to avoid litigation and rapidly resolve Indian water rights claims.

Reclamation promotes collaboration at the local watershed level through its WaterSMART’s Cooperative Watershed Management Program. This collaborative program encourages watershed groups to engage diverse stakeholders to develop local solutions for their water management needs. The program provides competitive grant funding in two areas:

1. for watershed management group development, watershed restoration planning and watershed management project design, and
2. for cost-shared financial assistance to watershed management groups to implement on-the-ground watershed management projects.

The funding provided through the Cooperative Watershed Management Program helps local stakeholders develop local solutions that will improve water reliability while reducing conflict, addressing complex water issues and stretching limited water supplies.

The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Human Dimensions Branch (FWS-HD)** serves a unique role in assisting FWS units and teams with stakeholder engagement. The Human Dimensions Branch examines the complex relationships between people and the wildlife and habitats the FWS Refuge System protects. This enables decision-makers to consider social systems in conservation planning, design and implementation. Both biological and social sciences should inform landscape-scale management of wildlife and their habitats. Building a connected

conservation community ensures continued protection of wildlife resources for the American people. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Human Dimensions Resource Portal is a place to put Human Dimensions tools into the hands of practitioners by centralizing resources, promoting shared learning, fostering cross-agency collaboration, and creating a community of practice.

This past fiscal year, the USFWS Human Dimensions Branch, Natural Resource Program Center completed its Public Engagement Wayfinder Toolkit for FWS employees. This toolkit uses the Spectrum of Engagement as a framework for conducting meaningful public engagement. It offers a suite of commonly used techniques, resources, and case studies to better navigate public engagement processes and reduce conflict around controversial decisions.

The **National Park Service** manages a number of programs that help organizations and people at local, state, regional, and national levels to carry out a wide range of conservation and recreation activities that fulfill natural and cultural resource preservation and enjoyment purposes. Some examples of such programs that make use of ECCR include:

The **Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Division** has four collaborative programs – Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA), National Trails System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program (WSR), and Hydropower Recreation Assistance Program.

- The RTCA coordinates five communities of practice to help employees interested in recreation, conservation, and community collaboration connect virtually and share lessons learned.
- The Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Division supported the DOI Urban initiative and the Urban Waters Federal partnership-- an innovative collaboration between Federal agencies and partnerships with communities who are revitalizing rivers and watersheds.

The **Cultural Resources Stewardship, Partnerships, and Science Directorate** provides leadership for the protection and interpretation of the nation's heritage, guides a national historic preservation program that embraces national parks and heritage resources, engages everyone with the places and stories that make up their national identity, and serves as a model for the stewardship of cultural resources throughout the world. This program's work in historic preservation and engaging the public in sharing the stories of Park sites is another aspect of NPS's robust use of collaboration.

The **Office of Partnerships, Community Engagement, and Visitor Experience** collaborates with partners and local leaders including communities, local governments, nonprofits, interpreters and educators, and volunteers. The Office supports communities by providing assistance to enhance access to parks, trails, rivers, and offers facilitation and partnership expertise and support to insure our Nation's diverse heritage and historic treasures.

The **Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Directorate** (NRSS) provides scientific, technical, and administrative support to national parks for the management of natural resources. NRSS develops, utilizes, and distributes the tools of natural and social science to help the NPS fulfill its core mission: the protection of park resources and values. NRSS provides leadership and expertise to ensure understanding, awareness, representation, and stewardship of the natural resources of the NPS so that they remain unimpaired for future generations. Programs under NRSS include Night Skies and Natural Sounds, which is responsible for air tour operator management plans in National Parks.

Another element in NRSS is the Cooperative Conservation work executed through the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network a national consortium of Federal

agencies, Tribes, academic institutions, State and local governments, nongovernmental conservation organizations, and other partners working together to support informed public trust resource stewardship. The CESU Network is a key partner with the **BIA, BLM, BOEM, FWS, NPS, Reclamation and USGS**, and includes more than **450 non-Federal partners** and **16 Federal agencies** across **seventeen CESUs** representing biogeographic regions encompassing all 50 States and U.S. territories.

The CESU Network is well positioned as a platform to support research, technical assistance, education and capacity building that is responsive to long-standing and contemporary science and resource management priorities. The seventeen CESUs bring together scientists, resource managers, students, and other conservation professionals, drawing upon expertise from across the biological, physical, social, cultural, and engineering disciplines (from Anthropology to Zoology) to conduct collaborative and interdisciplinary applied projects that address natural and cultural heritage resource issues at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context. Each CESU is structured as a working collaborative with participation from numerous Federal and non-Federal institutional partners. CESUs are based at host universities and focused on a particular biogeographic region of the country.

The **BLM, FWS, NPS, and Reclamation** each actively engage in 22 individual, self-directed partnerships — Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) across the North American continent, Pacific Islands, and the Caribbean. Each LCC is governed by a voluntary steering committee with members typically representing conservation and resource management partners from a wide variety of Federal, State, territorial and international agencies; Tribal and other indigenous governments, non-governmental organizations and others located within the LCC geographic region. Each LCC also has a staff Coordinator and Science Coordinator. The 22 LCCs collectively and their active members represent the “LCC Network”. The LCC Network’s purpose is to harness the capacities and abilities of the LCCs in support of common conservation outcomes and serve as a strategic forum for collegial collaboration, coordination and integration. At the national level, there is an LCC Network Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator as well as communications, budget, grant and other support staff. The LCC Network office is located in the FWS headquarters.

In FY 2020, **the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA)** built its capacity to offer ECCR options to litigants who appear before its divisions and appeal boards. For example, OHA is developing tools and techniques to identify which cases are best suited for ECCR/ADR. Additionally, an OHA attorney advisor completed training to become a collateral duty mediator through the DOI’s) CORE PLUS program. Historically, OHA attorney advisors have gained experience mediating through the CORE PLUS program and then, after working with an experienced public lands mediator, started to work on OHA mediations. All of OHA’s attorney advisor mediators remain active on CADR’s CORE PLUS roster to contribute to the program and sharpen their mediation skills. OHA neutrals conduct mediations at the request of parties who have been offered information about different sources of qualified ADR providers, including the roster maintained by CADR and the roster maintained by the National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution. OHA is also in the process of developing a virtual hearings program and keeping an eye focused on how that platform could be cross utilized for ECCR. In summary, OHA is maintaining a sustained effort to expand its use of ECCR and achieving that goal. Currently, all of OHA’s divisions and appeals boards are evaluating the best ways they can utilize ECCR and most have at least one case that is currently proceeding under some form of ADR.

- b) Please describe the trainings given in your department/agency in FY 2020. Please include a list of the trainings if possible. If known, provide the course names and the total number of people trained. Please refer to your agency's FY2019 report to include **ONLY** trainings given in FY 2020. **If none, leave this section blank.**

Training is a cornerstone of DOI's effort to build capacity for effective conflict management and collaborative problem solving. DOI is committed to building conflict management skills and collaboration competency to improve internal and external communication, stakeholder engagement in planning and decision-making, collaborative problem-solving and conflict resolution in all areas of the Department's work. In short, good conflict management in the workplace supports good conflict management with external parties.

During FY 2020, the CADR office and its cadre of in-house trainers delivered 22 training sessions of its foundational course "Getting to the CORE of Conflict and Communication" to 712 employees from all Bureaus and offices in eight geographic regions of the U.S. The course, offered in-person pre-pandemic and then virtually is designed to improve performance in the following key areas:

- Recognizing conflict and its root causes;
- Strategically responding to conflict;
- Efficiently managing and resolving conflict;
- Convening conflict management processes;
- Interest-Based Negotiations; and
- Identifying conflict as an opportunity to create change and build relationships.

CADR team members also delivered five sessions of "Facilitating Dynamic Meetings for Effective Results" to 153 employees in BLM, IBC, FWS, NPS, and USGS. Other regular offerings in 2020 included a regular Virtual Resilience Café, attended by over 1000 DOI employees, four sessions of "Facilitating Virtual Meetings" attended by 231 DOI employees and two sessions on Virtual Mediation attended by 20 DOI employees. In total DOI CADR training offerings in 2020 reached 2329 participants.

## 2. ECCR Investments and Benefits

- a) Please describe any **NEW or CHANGED or INNOVATIVE** investments made in ECCR in FY 2020. Examples of investments may include (but are not limited to):
- ECCR programmatic FTEs
  - Dedicated ECCR budgets
  - Funds spent on contracts to support ECCR cases and programs

Please refer to your agency's FY 2019 report to only include new, changed, or innovative investments made in ECCR. **If none, leave this section blank.**

The CADR Office's 13 FTEs are dedicated to supporting collaborative problem solving and conflict resolution in DOI, both within the Bureaus and with DOI's external stakeholders. The CADR Office established and implements the ECCR contract, which is available for ECCR needs across the Department. In FY 2020 four CADR staff members assisted Bureaus/Offices in determining their ECCR needs and helped the parties secure contracted neutral services through the CADR ECCR contract. These CADR staff members also allocated a portion of their time providing direct ECCR neutral service to Bureaus/Offices and stakeholders.

The Department tracks investments through the use of the ECCR contract managed by CADR. In

FY 2020, DOI Bureaus and Offices invested approximately \$6.7 million in ECCR through the CADR ECCR contract and there were 117 projects initiated or completed, with several task orders supporting multiple projects.

Bureau specific investments included:

**Indian Affairs.** The Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action (RACA) currently is fulfilling collaborative action duties with assistance from the CADR Office. RACA uses contract mediators available through the DOI CADR contract; this is especially useful as there is often a need for neutrals in Tribal disputes and litigation. Funding was available on an as-needed basis by the RACA Office to assist the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to engage in ECCR activities.

**The BLM CADR Program** filled its one full-time program lead position in late FY 2020. The program lead is responsible for policy, guidance, national program coordination and integration, reporting, and analysis. The program lead serves as the BLM's ECCR dispute resolution specialist and participates in the ECCR quarterly forums. This position functions as the BLM headquarters office CADR program's land use planning and NEPA liaison with the field. Across the Bureau, there are 31 BLM CADR Coordinators located in each BLM State office, including Eastern States. These collateral duty coordinators serve as the point of contact for the field in each State office and provide input and feedback for national policy and guidance and are responsible to the Associate State Director. In addition, they connect field and district offices to ECCR resources such as the DOI Facilitation roster, the CADR ECCR contract, incentives funding, and training; the CADR coordinators participate in a monthly call to share information and issues and discuss future activities.

The BLM's National Riparian Service Team (NRST) works directly with local landowners and, since 1996, has responded to numerous requests for multi-phase collaboration assistance from a diverse clientele. Although currently focused on riparian and wetland issues related to grazing, this program is applicable to fostering collaborative solutions for any number of resource issues.

**Bureau of Reclamation.** Project costs and what is included or considered as ECCR costs vary widely per project, making it hard to calculate an accurate estimate of the investment that has been made in ECCR. **Reclamation's WaterSMART grants** provide cost-shared funding on a competitive basis to non-Federal partners in the implementation of water and energy conservation and efficiency projects. Since 2010, Reclamation has allocated more than \$135 million in competitively awarded grants to implement more than \$395 million in water management improvements through 243 projects in 15 western States. This funding has been provided to non-Federal partners including tribes, water districts and municipalities.

- b) Please describe any **NEW or CHANGED** benefits realized when using ECCR in FY 2020. Examples of benefits may include (but are not limited to):
- Cost savings
  - Environmental and natural resource results
  - Furtherance of agency mission
  - Improved working relationship with stakeholders
  - Avoidance of litigation
  - Timely project progression

Please refer to your agency's FY 2019 report to only include new or changed benefits of ECCR realized in FY 2020. If none, leave this section blank.

Across the Department of the Interior on any given day over 100 third-party neutrals assist Bureaus and Offices in fulfilling key policy initiatives related to their missions through ECCR. The benefits are captured through qualitative means as described in the examples below.

#### **Benefits to BLM**

Enhanced public engagement through third-party neutrals has been the most universally used tool in the BLM CADR tool box. This is for two primary reasons: 1) As BLM is required under NEPA to do Scoping and often Scoping involves a public meeting, the use of the third-party neutral adds capacity to BLM's interdisciplinary teams. When a third-party neutral is adding both value and capacity – it is a win-win. BLM CADR has been using third-party neutrals in public engagement efforts, in which a situation assessment helps shape the Scoping. Then the third-party neutral stays with the team throughout public meeting process and facilitates the interdisciplinary team's decision-making process in such a way that conflict is drastically reduced or eliminated. It does not mean everyone is completely happy with the outcome, but the public seems satisfied they were heard, honored, and their input valued. 2) The quality of the public meetings has improved substantially, improving communication. This approach has led to more positive experiences for both the BLM staff and the public.

#### **Benefits to BOEM**

As a result of BOEM's investments through the CADR ECCR contract, BOEM is able to improve working relationships with stakeholders and further implement the Bureau's mission.

#### **Benefits to Reclamation**

Reclamation has identified the following results of engaging a third-party neutral:

- Parties developed a common understanding and improve the working relationship among the different agency staff and stakeholders.
- As a result of ECCR, timeframes for National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation have improved and led to completion of Section 106 compliance which has positively affected Reclamation's ability to meet construction schedules. ECCR has resulted in improved relations with Tribal parties and other stakeholders.
- By using the ECCR principles of "informed commitment," "accountability," and "openness," Reclamation has built trusting relationships with project stakeholders, resulting in timely decision making and a willingness to work through difficult and culturally sensitive issues in a collaborative manner. In addition, all the joint public outreach and education efforts undertaken by the settlement parties benefit the public by providing opportunities for public input and informed decision making.
- Improved coordination and collaboration with stakeholders and interested parties.

### 3. ECCR Use

Describe the level of ECCR use within your department/agency in FY 2020 by completing the three tables below. [Please refer to the definition of ECCR from the OMB-CEQ memo as presented on page one of this template. An ECCR “case or project” is an instance of neutral third-party involvement to assist parties in a collaborative or conflict resolution process.]

To avoid double counting processes, please select one category per case for decision making forums and for ECCR applications.

	Total FY 2020 ECCR Projects/Cases <sup>2</sup>	Decision making forum that was addressing the issues when ECCR was initiated:			
		Federal agency decision	Administrative proceedings /appeals	Judicial proceedings	Other** (specify below)
<i>Context for ECCR Applications:</i>					
Policy development	13	11			2 (intergov forum, info sharing, Tribal engagement)
Planning	73	57	1	4	11 (strategic planning, capacity building)
Siting and construction	3	3			
Rulemaking	1	1			
License and permit issuance	3	2			1 (information sharing)
Compliance and enforcement action	6	2	4		
Implementation/monitoring agreements	10	8		1	1 (agreement btwn NGOs and agency)
Other (specify): info sharing, ISDA contract dispute, exploring opps for collaboration	8	3	1		4 (info sharing)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>
		(the sum of the Decision Making Forums should equal <b>Total FY 2020 ECCR Cases</b> )			

<sup>2</sup> An “ECCR case” is a case in which a third-party neutral was active in a particular matter during FY 2019.

<i>Context for ECCR Applications:</i>	<b>Interagency ECCR Cases and Projects</b>	
	Included Other Federal Agencies Only	Included Non-Federal Participants (e.g., States, Tribes, and non governmental)
Policy development		6
Planning	1	38
Siting and construction	3	
Rulemaking		
License and permit issuance	1	2
Compliance and enforcement action		3
Implementation/monitoring agreements		7
Other (specify): info sharing, S.106 programmatic agreement, ISDA contract dispute, exploring opps for collaboration	1	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>60</b>

<i>Context for ECCR Applications:</i>	<b>ECCR Cases or projects completed<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>ECCR Cases or Projects sponsored<sup>4</sup></b>
Policy development	4	13
Planning	17	71
Siting and construction	2	3
Rulemaking		1
License and permit issuance	1	3
Compliance and enforcement action	2	6
Implementation/monitoring agreements	2	7
Other (specify): S.106 programmatic agreement, co-mgmt of marine monument	2	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>111</b>

<sup>3</sup> A "completed case" means that neutral third party involvement in a particular ECCR case ended during FY 2020. The end of neutral third party involvement does not necessarily mean that the parties have concluded their collaboration/negotiation/dispute resolution process, that all issues are resolved, or that agreement has been reached.

<sup>4</sup> Sponsored - to be a sponsor of an ECCR case means that an agency is contributing financial or in-kind resources (e.g., a staff mediator's time) to provide the neutral third party's services for that case. More than one sponsor is possible for a given ECCR case.

Note: If you subtract completed ECCR cases from Total FY 2020 cases it should equal total ongoing cases. If you subtract sponsored ECCR cases from Total FY 2020 ECCR cases it should equal total cases in which your agency or department participated but did not sponsor. If you subtract the combined interagency ECCR cases from Total FY 2020 cases it should equal total cases that involved only your agency or department with no other federal agency involvement.

#### 4. ECCR Case Example

Using the template below, provide a description of an ECCR case (preferably **completed** in FY 2020). If possible, focus on an interagency ECCR case. Please limit the length to **no more than 1 page**.

##### Columbia River System Operations (CRSO) Environmental Impact Statement

Overview of problem/conflict and timeline, including reference to the nature and timing of the third-party assistance, and how the ECCR effort was funded.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration, as co-lead agencies, prepared the Columbia River System Operations (CRSO) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EIS was initiated in 2016, with work proceeding through to the fall of 2020. This action is a multi-faceted approach to system operations, maintenance, and configuration of the 14 federal dam and reservoir projects in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, called the Columbia River System (CRS). More than 30 entities from across the region, consisting of Tribes, intertribal organizations, federal agencies, and state and local governments, agreed to participate as cooperating agencies in this NEPA process. It was very important for Reclamation to seek input from a broad variety of stakeholders in the region as there are a wide range of views and opinions about the best approaches to managing the CRS. However, as was made evident throughout the ECCR process, the diverse stakeholders throughout the Northwest share many common values and interests. Reclamation's goal has been to develop an approach to river management that balances these multiple perspectives which can serve as a springboard to continued progress in the region on recovery and mitigation for fish and wildlife, reliable and affordable clean electricity, and economic vitality for the tribes and other communities who depend on the CRS for their way of life. Third-Party facilitated services were acquired to assist with executive and staff level meetings across the 30 involved entities.

Summary of how the problem or conflict was addressed using ECCR, including details of any innovative approaches to ECCR, and how the principles for engagement in ECCR outlined in the policy memo were used.

The co-lead agencies explored opportunities for collaboration, per ECCR policy recommendations, in our planning and decision-making processes related to the CRSO EIS to address different perspectives and potential conflicts. This was done in the spirit of taking a proactive approach to understanding regional perspectives and aimed toward improved outcomes, fewer appeals, and less litigation.

Identify the key beneficial outcomes of this project, including references to likely alternative decision-making forums and how the outcomes differed as a result of ECCR.

The use of ECCR approaches and policy guidance helped to improve stakeholder recognition of regional perspectives and reach agreement on future direction and selection of an alternative that was informed by those perspectives. The use of ECCR approaches assisted with the completion an extremely complicated EIS within four years by reducing conflict and providing inlets for public input.

Reflections on the lessons learned from the use of ECCR

The ECCR approaches and policy guidance helped to gain holistic understanding and consensus at different levels of planning and decision-making. One potential improvement noted was the opportunity to improve the distribution of information vertically across the different levels, e.g., staff through executive forums, which would help equalize understanding of issues at each level.

Overview of problem/conflict and timeline, including reference to the nature and timing of the third-party assistance, and how the ECCR effort was funded.

When the Bureau of Land Management - Upper Willamette Field Office started developing the Shotcash Timber Sale project and Environmental Assessment, they identified that the project could generate an unusual level of interest among the public, and possibly some conflicts among multiple resource uses.

This project entailed a timber harvest within the Shotgun Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail System Extensive Recreation Management Area. Due to anticipated trail closures and, in some cases, changes in vegetation along the trails in the very popular and heavily used OHV trails, early and continuous public engagement with interested stakeholders was important to ensure broad awareness around potential trail closures and timelines. The Field Office historically had many protests and appeals of timber sales, with protest issues reflecting some lack of understanding about how the reigning Resource Management Plan (RMP) defines the parameters for timber sales. Therefore, the Office felt that outreach on the Shotcash project can also support education and outreach on these new RMP guidelines.

The BLM sought assistance from CADR for third party neutral support to provide communication and coordination with interested stakeholders, develop informational displays and project background materials, and to facilitate a project open house. The third-party neutral helped BLM conduct direct personal outreach to stakeholders in advance of the meeting, helped review and prepare presentation boards for the clearest messaging, and helped with the logistics of the meeting so that BLM personnel could be out on the floor answering questions.

Summary of how the problem or conflict was addressed using ECCR, including details of any innovative approaches to ECCR, and how the principles for engagement in ECCR outlined in the policy memo were used.

The BLM held a public informational open house to help explain the timber sale parameters set up by the RMP, to alert the public about potential impacts to the trail, and to solicit feedback about how the trail impacts would affect recreational users. The meeting also provided an opportunity to solicit input about the preferred timing of trail impacts if sequencing the work became feasible.

Identify the key beneficial outcomes of this project, including references to likely alternative decision making forums and how the outcomes differed as a result of ECCR.

The BLM learned from OHV users the most heavily used times of year for the trails, and which trails were the most unique to the region, so that the BLM could prioritize those trails when looking at ways to compress the duration of timber sale operations.

The public left with greater understanding of the constraints provided by the RMP, which directly resulted in more focused and targeted comments and protest points from the public rather than the more usual array of issues without merit. The interface for education of the public really made a difference in this regard.

Reflections on the lessons learned from the use of ECCR

The third-party contractor was in an ideal position to review and suggest materials that would explain things to inform a lay public, since agency personnel often don't realize what the public doesn't know or understand. The assistance was key in making more personal contacts with stakeholders to increase public involvement. And the assistance with logistics in both setting up and running the open house resulted in much higher quality presentations, a smoother-running flow through the room, and more orientation of the available content for the guests.

## 5. Other 5. Other ECCR Notable Cases

Briefly describe any other notable ECCR cases in the past fiscal year.

### Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Following development of the *Sagebrush Conservation Strategy Part 1: Science Overview*, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), with its conservation partners and the financial support of the BLM, undertook an ambitious effort to engage stakeholders living, working or invested in the sagebrush ecosystem **to identify innovative strategies addressing sagebrush conservation challenges**.

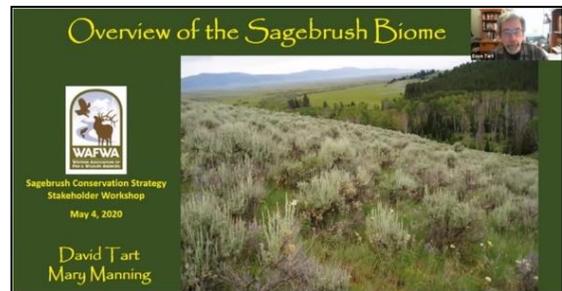
While this work was originally intended to take place at two regional workshops, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in transitioning this effort into an entirely virtual experience. WAFWA convened a series of virtual workshops in May 2020, where over 200 stakeholders developed promising, potential actions to address sagebrush conservation challenges throughout the biome. Scientists, landowners, land managers, communicators, and community members focused on wildfire, invasive weeds, land use, conifer expansion and mining and energy conservation challenges through informational presentations and breakout work sessions.

The extended online engagement opportunity in July captured feedback on actions identified during the May workshops, as well as additional suggested actions for consideration. In total, 561 unique participants visited the online engagement site.

Envirossues, under subcontract to Kearns & West, DOI CADR's ECCR contractor, provided strategic guidance to the planning team regarding workshop design, facilitated all aspects of the virtual information sessions and workshops (including ADA accessibility), and developed and delivered the companion engagement tool.

Overall, the project successfully:

1. Engaged stakeholders in the Sagebrush Conservation Strategy development process and created ownership in the outcomes.
2. Familiarized participants with the current science on key threats to the sagebrush biome.
3. Validated goals and objectives for sagebrush biome conservation, and identified key barriers preventing their achievement.
4. Gathered feedback on potential approaches to overcoming sagebrush conservation barriers and generated suggestions for new, innovative approaches.
5. Identified highly engaged stakeholders wishing to participate in the post-workshop strategy drafting process.



The BLM is preparing to **update BLM grazing regulations** governing all public lands (excluding Alaska), specifically 155 million acres of lands in the western United States suitable for livestock grazing. The updated regulations would represent the first implemented comprehensive revisions to the regulations since 1995.

The Kearns & West facilitation team managed logistical and



design support for BLM’s public meeting strategy, including the development of outreach materials, digital project needs assessment, and facilitation planning. The team coordinated complex logistics related to meeting and travel schedules, venue acquisition, publicizing meetings in local and national print news sources, and development of handouts and posters.

The Kearns & West facilitation team worked closely with BLM staff providing opportunities for conversation between BLM and 180-275 members of the public at each four meeting locations. Following the conclusion of the meetings, the facilitators produced a set of meeting summaries, digitizing written comments and summarizing key themes expressed during the meetings.

### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

Through the DOI CADR Office the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) worked with the Consensus Building Institute, to facilitate the **Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force for the Gulf of Maine (Task Force)**. The initial meeting of the Task Force was convened to facilitate coordination and consultation among federal, state, local, and tribal governments by introducing their respective roles and responsibilities regarding offshore wind energy and the renewable energy leasing process. The meeting also sought to update participants on recent activities in New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts related to offshore wind, as well as provide opportunities for public input.

Sixty-six (66) Task Force members attended the meeting. In addition, 172 members of the public attended, including representatives from the commercial fishing industry and wind energy developers, academic researchers, and interested citizens. The meeting opened with introductory remarks from BOEM and New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu. Presentations during the day described the offshore leasing process, the roles of different governmental bodies, initiatives underway at the state level, and sources of information and relevant research. In small groups, Task Force members discussed the best way to initiate the offshore leasing processes, the role of the Task Force in that process, and other considerations. All members of the public who wished to comment had a chance to do so during sessions in the morning and the afternoon.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) contracted Kearns & West through DOI’s Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) to help the agencies resolve conflict regarding **consultations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)**. Kearns & West conducted confidential interviews with both agencies to identify and understand the scope of issues, interests, and potential areas for collaborative problem solving. Findings from these interviews were delivered via a situation assessment report and used to design a collaborative process to improve working relationships and consultation procedures.

Working with an inter-agency planning team, Kearns & West planned a 3-day workshop to bring both agencies together to discuss ways to strengthen working relationships. During this workshop, the group discussed potential products (e.g., documents or tools) that may help improve the consultation processes, as well as communication processes that may strengthen working relationships. Additionally, the group formed working groups aimed at delivering these products.

Currently, the working groups are drafting potential products. Kearns & West is providing facilitation of working groups on an as needed basis. A second workshop is being considered to focus on continued improvement of ESA consultations for Oil and Gas processes.

Kearns & West is providing facilitation and support to BOEM as part of its effort to **plan for ocean wind energy off the coast of Oregon**. Kearns & West facilitates the Oregon Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force, made up of local, state, and federal agency representatives that have a role in regulating and developing offshore renewables.

Responding to industry interest in offshore wind (OSW) development, the Task Force initiated a conversation among federal, Tribal, state, and local governmental bodies regarding potential OSW planning offshore Oregon in September 2019.

In collaboration with BOEM and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, Kearns & West developed the Data Gathering and Engagement Plan for Offshore Wind Energy in Oregon, an engagement plan to reach out to the public, stakeholder and interest groups, and Tribes to gather data and understand interests related to offshore wind in Oregon.

The draft Engagement Plan was distributed to the Task Force to review in advance of the June 4, 2020 Task Force meeting. At this meeting, BOEM and the State made a commitment to move forward with offshore planning in Oregon and to conduct a planning process that will include data gathering and meaningful public and stakeholder engagement as outlined in this plan.

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

In the United States, black vultures are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and cannot be harmed or taken without a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), even if the vultures are causing agricultural or property damage. The current policy is to issue take permits to individual landowners on a case-by-case basis. However, the vulture population is on the rise and their range expanded over the past couple decades, and with it is increased damage to livestock and personal property.

In an effort to better understand the range and scope of black vulture issues, starting in 2016 the Service contracted with Kearns & West, who subcontracted with DJ Case, via the CADR office to conduct a Structured Decision Making (SDM) workshop, focused on developing a communications and outreach strategy. Since that first workshop, DJ Case has been assisting with additional follow-up phases of the ongoing effort.

Phase two focused on partner agency (USDA APHIS, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources SCDNR) and stakeholder (producer) outreach through the facilitation of a one-day information gathering/sharing workshop in South Carolina. At the workshop, the Service collected input about the permitting process and how to make it better. In phase three, DJ Case assisted with the development of an internal Conflict Species Framework (for black vultures, double-crested cormorants, and other problematic species), along with ongoing virtual/online meeting facilitation and support of the black vulture management team.

Phase four focused on implementing and seeking feedback on a new pilot permitting program where the Service issued a “blanket permit” to the Kentucky and Tennessee Farm Bureau Federations. In this pilot, the Federations received a single permit from the Service, and assumed responsibility to issue a “not-to-exceed” number of sub-permits to cattle producers. DJ Case conducted an assessment of stakeholders engaged in these pilot programs to determine how well they were working, and whether they should be adjusted, expanded to other states, and/or discontinued. DJ Case conducted phone interviews with agricultural producers and federal and state agencies to qualitatively assess satisfaction and agency

effectiveness.

In addition to the telephone interviews, DJ Case facilitated two public meetings in October 2019 on the black vulture issue (one each in Kentucky and Tennessee) for the Service to provide producers (and any other interested publics) in the pilot states the opportunity to meet and talk with agency staff face-to-face. After completing the interviews and public meetings, DJ Case compiled and summarized all the information and presented the findings, along with specific recommendations to the Service regarding the effectiveness of the pilot permitting programs and proposed future implementation.

The **Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA)**, Departmental Cases Hearings Division currently has four active public-land-related mediations in process including two that were added during FY 2020. The Interior Board of Land Appeals has one ongoing OHA-based mediation in process and roughly 75 appeals in which assisted or independent settlement discussions are occurring. The IBLA continues to evaluate how it can best offer ECCR options to litigants who appear before it. The Director's Office has identified types of cases it handles that are generally amenable to ECCR as well as a particular case for which it plans to recommend ADR; that case is currently suspended pending a Federal Court ruling. The Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA) stayed five cases for settlement negotiations during FY 2020 and dismissed a case based on settlement it stayed for negotiations during FY 2019. The Probate Hearings Division provided the opportunity for settlement negotiations in two of its cases during FY 2020 and is evaluating whether certain types of cases it adjudicates are generally appropriate for some type of ADR

## 6. Priority Uses of ECCR

Please describe your agency's **NEW or CHANGED** efforts to address priority or emerging areas of conflict and cross-cutting challenges either individually or in coordination with other agencies. For example, consider the following areas: NEPA, ESA, CERCLA, energy development, energy transmission, CWA 404 permitting, tribal consultation, environmental justice, management of ocean resources, infrastructure development, National Historic Preservation Act, other priority areas. Please refer to your agency's FY 2019 report to only include new or increased priority uses. **If none, leave this section blank.**

Across the Departmental Bureaus and Offices the most common uses of ECCR are in large-scale water resources projects; resource management planning activities, such as stakeholder engagement prior to NEPA Scoping processes; and large scale project and/or program implementation such as the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Committee. Other priority areas in FY 2020 included facilitation of multi-stakeholder task forces / work groups related to marine minerals management and offshore wind leasing led by BOEM.

## 7. Non-Third-Party-assisted Collaboration Processes (Optional)

Briefly describe other **significant** uses of environmental collaboration that your agency has undertaken in FY 2020 to anticipate, prevent, better manage, or resolve environmental issues and conflicts that do not include a third-party neutral. *Examples may include interagency MOUs, enhanced public engagement, and structural committees with the capacity to resolve disputes, etc.* **If none, leave this section blank.**

For many of the land management Bureaus and Offices in DOI, collaboration with stakeholders and other Bureaus or Federal agencies without the use of a third-party neutral is a common occurrence. Below are

selected examples from some of the Bureaus and Offices.

### **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

The BLM maintains 37 chartered advisory committees located in the West. These include 30 statewide and regional Resource Advisory Councils; five advisory committees affiliated with specific sites on the BLM's National Conservation Lands; and two others, including the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board and the North Slope Science Initiative Science Technical Advisory Panel.

Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) are sounding boards for BLM initiatives, regulatory proposals and policy changes. Each citizen-based council consists of 10 to 15 members from diverse interests in local communities, including ranchers, environmental groups, Tribes, State and local government officials, academics, and other public land users. Some RACs are facilitated by third party neutrals e.g., the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board while the regional RACs are often self-facilitated by the Designated Federal Official (DFO), e.g., Western Montana RAC. RAC members vote on recommendations related to public land management and provide those recommendations to the DFO, who serves as liaison to the RAC. The DFO is usually a BLM line manager, such as the State director or district manager. Each RAC has a charter that outlines membership and how the panel operates.

Other examples of self-facilitated work in BLM include:

- **Results Oriented Grazing for Ecological Resilience (ROGER Collaborative):** A BLM National Riparian Service Team (NRST) facilitator is used in Nevada to help ranchers, state, federal agencies, and other stakeholders to work together. They work to incentivize innovative approaches for natural resource management, including grazing adaptability, improving Nevada's riparian and rangeland Health. Funding partners are NRST, BLM NV and the US Forest Service.
- **Jordan Meadows Grazing Allotment Collaborative Group (JMCACG):** Formed in 2016, this partnership includes BLM, permittees, state and federal agencies and others to create a common understanding of the current allotment conditions, develop a shared vision of what is needed to maintain and improve riparian and upland conditions, and experiment with various grazing strategies (within the confines of the current permit) to inform the development of alternatives for the upcoming term permit renewal. With a BLM National Riparian Service Team (NRST) facilitator JMCACG held three meetings, two utilizing virtual technology, to develop a grazing system to that protects Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) and Greater Sage Grouse (GRSG) habitat and allows for sustainable livestock operation in advance of the grazing term-permit renewal process kick-off. The JMCACG received BLM-Public Lands Council 2020 Sagebrush Steppe Stewardship Award for a Collaborative Team and was featured in The Progressive Rancher Magazine.
- **Nevada Collaborative Conservation Network (NCCN):** With aid of a BLM NRST group facilitator NCCN formed a state-wide network designed to incentivize, promote, and support community-based conservation efforts. Work accomplished included process design, facilitation, logistical planning and between meeting coordination for two one-day biannual coordination meetings, one two-day workshop that brings together all community-based conservation groups across the state, and quarterly two-hour virtual coordination meetings. Presently they are focusing on a developing a funding mechanism to support the programs going forward.
- **Kings River Grazing Allotment Collaborative Group:** A BLM NRST group facilitator assisted in this group's successful development of a grazing system that protects Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) and Greater Sage Grouse (GRSG) habitat and allows for sustainable livestock operation in advance of the

grazing term-permit renewal process kick-off. Activities included process design, facilitation, logistical planning and between meeting coordination for three one-day meetings.

- **San Juan Islands WA Terrestrial Managers Group:** Convening monthly since 2014, this team comprises all conservation area management organizations in the San Juan Islands: BLM, NPS, USFWS, WA Dept Natural Resources, WA State Parks, San Juan County (SJC) Land Bank, SJC Parks, and the San Juan Preservation Trust. By leveraging individual organizational resources, the group accomplishes archipelago-wide management initiatives such as inclusive tribal engagement, official county determination of Leave No Trace, and overarching forest health and wildfire prevention. In 2020 the group completed and published a four-year contracted research effort of four studies -visitors to public lands, residents, businesses, and outer islands visitor interest surveys, and an interpretive summary. The purpose is to support an informed community and county government planning decisions.
- **Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery Coordinating Committee:** Included in the Committee are representatives of BLM, FWS, US Forest Service (2 units), BOR, USGS, NV Dept Wildlife, CA Dept Fish and Wildlife, OR Dept Fish and Wildlife, Summit Lake Piute Tribe, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Walker River Paiute Tribe, and the Washoe Tribe of NV and CA. Commencing in 2019 and continuing in 2020 with the aid of a CADR BLM program facilitator, the group met six times in person and six times virtually, developed their programmatic priorities, and produced a video to reveal priorities for upper-level management and agencies' resource leads.
- **Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery Stakeholder Engagement:** Working with a NRST BLM program facilitator, the interagency team designed and commenced a state-wide stakeholder engagement effort for LCT recovery effort, with two two-hour interagency meetings and two two-hour stakeholder meetings.
- **Western Region: Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy Coordinating Committee (CWMSCC):** With assistance of BLM NRST facilitator, the CWMSCC met in person for a two-day field tour and one-day business meeting.

#### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- Reclamation staff in the Albuquerque Area office are working with non-federal stakeholders to resolve their issues with an Environmental Assessment on the potential consequences of a proposed realignment of approximately three miles of the Rio Grande within the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge south of Socorro, New Mexico. The stakeholders' issues include efficient water conveyance and Rio Grande Compact deliveries. The staff are negotiating to reach an agreement on these issues, continue with the National Environmental Policy Act process, and proceed with the project.
- Reclamation staff in the Upper Colorado Basin's Four Corners Construction Office are working with Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project participants and the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office to resolve funding gap issues. Reclamation led project participants through a Value Planning (VP) process in Fiscal Year 2020. Results from the VP Study will be basis for negotiations of potential cost-savings measures.
- A technical writer from Reclamation's Technical Services Center in Denver, Colorado is providing support in stakeholder outreach processes and meetings on the Pecos River - New Mexico Basin Study. The purpose of the outreach meetings is to seek information regarding stakeholders'

vulnerabilities and ideas for adaptation to hydrologic changes as well as their buy-in on modeling process. Stakeholder information will be included in the final report. Reclamation's Basin Study Program has enabled development of trust and shared vision between Reclamation, the State of New Mexico, and local stakeholders in the Pecos Basin.

**National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS-RTCA)**

The RTCA supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation. The national network of conservation and recreation planning professionals partners with community groups, nonprofits, Tribes, and State and local governments to design trails and parks, conserve and improve access to rivers, protect special places, and create recreation opportunities.

**8. Comments and Suggestions on Reporting**

Please comment on any **NEW or CHANGED** difficulties you encountered in collecting these data and if and how you overcame them. Please provide suggestions for improving these questions in the future. Please reference your agency's FY 2019 report to identify new/increased difficulties. **If none, leave this section blank.**

A strong interest exists among the DOI reporting Bureaus and Offices to learn how the annual report is used and useful to OMB and CEQ as well as others. Within CADR, knowledge of the aggregate ECCR project numbers is important for identifying trends and sharing this information back to the Bureaus and Offices to assist with their projections of future ECCR resource needs.

***Please attach any additional information as warranted.***

Report due Friday, February 26, 2021.

Submit report electronically to: [kavanaugh@udall.gov](mailto:kavanaugh@udall.gov)