



## **Protected Lands Workgroup Meeting**

**Wednesday May 31st, 2023**

**2:00 - 3:00 PM Video call [link](#)**

**Or dial: (US) +1 417-719-9108**

**PIN: 876 763 631#**

### **Attendees**

Aurelia Gracia	Anthony Bobo	Coral Howe
Damien Ossi	Faren Wolter	Jacqueline RS Tahsuda
John Rowe	John Wolf	Kerri Batrowny
Renee Thompson	Sara E Coleman	Steve Storck
Wuillam Urvina	Katherine Brownson	Michael Bonnell
Alegra Eyles	Ben Alexandro	Britt Slattery
Red creek Hermit (Ashton Berdine)		

### **Action Items**

- **PLWG Actions summary document (requested response)**
- **Creation of a GIS action team to focus on improvement, refinements, and opportunities**
- **State data stewards take ownership of state land protection reporting**
- **Establishing state-specific linkages between PLWG members and State Data Stewards**
- **Developing a communication process between this workgroup and the action team**
- **Share the list of current protected lands contacts**

### **Introductions (5 min)**

- **Welcome the federal partners!**

## Review of PLWG Actions (5 min)

- Link to the PLWG Actions summary document (requested response)

## Tracking and Reporting (25 min)

- Chesapeake Progress – why the data is important and why do we collect data?
  - It was particularly challenging to come up with the final update of the protected lands indicator. This final version has been sent out to the jurisdictions for review.
    - What are data stewards? We must define this in order to better the flow of work and information.
    - There are 4 major types of protection: local government land, non-governmental organization land, private land, and state land. This year was the first year for tribal lands. For example, one of the states could find a new type of land that was protected.
    - There has been a decrease in the amount of “protected lands” on federal land.
      - This was due to a change in criteria and definition when it comes to what counts as federally protected land.
        - Clean up of DoD lands
        - Removal of inholdings
        - Removal of reservoirs
        - Federal lands not managed for conservation purposes
    - Multiple categories of land have increased in terms of protected lands but this was contradicted by the “loss” of federally protected lands
    - This was the preview for protected lands data in 2022
- Protected Lands Indicator – Progress Update
- Current method for data collection
  - What is working well with current method
    - We’ve continued to improve methodology for more accurate accounting
  - What are some current obstacles
    - increased accuracy can lead to counterintuitive results
    - attempts to streamline information collection only partly successful
    - perceived duplication of effort with PAD-US
  - Potential to address obstacles or improve efficiency
    - GIS Action team to address consistency and reporting needs
    - State data stewards take ownership of state land protection reporting
    - Strategic plan to address improvements and integration, with input from action team and PLWG
    - Potential for improved efficiency in reporting through PAD-US

## Future Data Collection (15 min)

- Building a relationship with state GIS contacts|Creation of a GIS action team
  - We want to get some buy-in moving forward with a GIS action team. We need to figure out who would be on the team. We need a more routined and structured way to interact with the data stewards from each of the jurisdiction.
- Developing a communication process between this workgroup and the action team
- Identify next steps
  - We know there are opportunities for improvement in the data aggregation process.

- Creation of a GIS action team to focus on improvement, refinements, and opportunities
  - Establishing state-specific linkages between PLWG members and State Data Stewards
  - Ensuring consistent data schema that will achieve the goals of CBP and PAD-US
    - We have too many siloed operations doing similar jobs
- Questions:
  - Ben Alexandro: I really like this idea of establishing a team. My question is that it looks like there is a drop-off. Is there ways to display how much additional lands were conserved despite the drop-off from federal lands and improved methodology?
    - John Wolf: We can describe protection as a rate for each of the categories besides the federal protected land. There are different ways to slice and dice that. We are working towards different ways to show how much land is being protected (protected lands dashboard).
    - Renee Thompson: I like where Ben is going with this. If you take the federal lands off the table, it seems like a positive story. Maybe we should talk with the indicators group? Given the data methodology, can we backtrack and recalibrate the baseline for our baseline year? That would be one way to deal with this discrepancy. In terms of taking out - for example - how many lands are protected by land category, we can do that.
    - Britt Slattery: I think that the idea is, we don't need to always tell the best story. It would be very helpful to separate out the federal lands since it is changing the whole story. If you look at it overall, there is a reduction, but if you look at it by category, there is progress. I'm wondering if the workgroup members would benefit from having a clearer picture of the trends in protected lands so they know where additional effort is needed in order to reach the goals established?
  - Britt Slattery: Has the WV data issue been sorted out? In an earlier PLWG meeting, Ashton noticed a downward trend for WG which was incorrect. Was that due to the fed change?
- Comments:
  - Britt Slattery: The establishment of this action group does not have to wait until after the SRS review. We will probably get input from the wg members for the review.

## Closeout Meeting (10 min)

- Follow ups and next steps
  - Meeting schedule has been updated
    - Last wednesday of each month, next meeting will be june 28th, 3pm to 4pm
  - Connecting with GIS/Data members
  - Next SRS steps
    - During the next few meetings we will be working on some of the SRS steps that will prep us for the upcoming deadlines.
  - Share the list of current protected lands contacts