



Partners in Stewardship

Joint Ventures Conference Attendees Urged to Serve as Ambassadors for Partnerships

Any doubts about the purpose of the Partners in Stewardship conference were eliminated during Tuesday's opening plenary session—a crisp, well-staged event that sent conference participants to their breakout sessions filled with a new sense of possibilities. On hand were several local park and recreation officials from the city and the State of California along with Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge, who brought a welcome from Mayor James Hahn. Federal agency heads were introduced to the crowd of about 1,500, split almost evenly between government employees and partner group representatives.

National Park Service Director Fran P. Mainella, the opening speaker, said she hoped the participants would leave at the end of the week with “a stronger dedication to public lands and cultural areas.” “This is a gathering of optimists,” Mainella said. “You are people who believe that there are better ways of working together. When you go home at the end of this conference, I want all of you to serve as ambassadors for the partnership concept. I am thrilled with the possibilities that lie ahead,” she said.

Assistant Interior Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget Lynn Scarlett likened partnerships to music. She said partnerships can be like a duet or a symphony. “It’s all about finding points of convergence,” she said. “We need to learn to listen and to ask questions.” Scarlett introduced an 11-minute video, “All Together Now,” produced by an interagency group to be premiered at the



David Rockefeller, Jr. captivated conference attendees with thought-provoking challenges.

conference. The video was distributed to all attendees and will also be sent to all partnership offices in the federal agencies. The fast-paced, high-energy video set the perfect tone for promoting the theme of the conference.

The next speaker, John Gersuk, Vice President for Government Relations for the JASON Foundation for Education, said his organization is opening up avenues and building bridges to help kids learn more about science, math and technology. “Kids learn best by not being passive acceptors of information but rather by actively participating in their education. The most effective way to reach them is through making connections with the real world and working across a variety of disciplines,” he said. By continuing to build on their partnerships, and building new ones, JASON

hopes to expand their efforts even further and make this type of innovative education accessible to all.

Next up to the podium was David Rockefeller, Jr., who, amongst many other titles, currently serves as vice chairman of the National Park Foundation Board of Directors. Rockefeller spoke passionately about partnerships, especially true partnerships that support the “history and the mystery” of our public lands. He described himself as a family man and an organization man who takes energy from the land, explaining that as in the words from the Psalm, “it restoreth my soul.” He said, “Most early settlers came west with a mission to extract the natural resources, but fortunately some were in awe of the history and the mystery and realized that they

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Corps Partnerships Build Successful Future

It is a pleasure and honor to welcome you to the Joint Ventures: Partners in Stewardship conference, and I wish you every success as you explore the partnership topics on your agenda this week.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the nation's leading provider of outdoor recreation. This year, one in ten Americans will visit a Corps lake. We also serve as steward to 11.7 million acres of public lands and waters. This is a relatively small figure when compared to the other land managing agencies; however, most of our 456 Corps lakes are located within a short drive from a major metropolitan area. The Corps is where the people are!

Land management is just a small part of what the Corps does. We are also responsible for navigation, flood control, environmental protection, disaster response, the construction of military facilities, and providing construction support for other federal agencies. We welcome partnerships from the public and private sectors to improve the qual-

ity of our natural resources and our other various missions. We have discovered that partnerships are the key to finding solutions that can meet the greatest number of needs for the least expense by all involved. When we put our heads together, we can find answers far better than anything we can think of

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by ourselves. In an effort to do just this, I have requested my Corps team members to ask everyone they meet whether their organization has worked with the Corps in the past and if so, how was the experience; and if not, why not. We want to know how we can improve our ability to develop partnerships with our constitu-



Commander and Chief of Engineers LTG Flowers

encies. The Corps has always been a partnering organization. As the public demand for recreation and our other services is ever increasing, we as an agency must rely heavily on partnerships as a means for improving the quality of our service. We look forward to a meaningful conference and continuing success in future collaborative ventures.

By LTG Robert B. Flowers, U.S.A.C.E.

Riding History to Make History

Conference dignitaries led by Interior Secretary Norton arrive for the opening plenary session. What better way to arrive at the first-ever Partners in Stewardship conference than in such an example of a successful partnership?

Back in the 'teens, '20s and '30s, White Motor Company supplied custom-built touring buses for use in some national parks. Most were retired long ago, but the bright red '30s vintage vehicles remained in service and became fixtures in

Glacier. Time took its toll on the fleet. Checks uncovered problems in the 1990s, and all 33 vehicles were pulled from service, perhaps never to grace the Going-to-the Sun Highway again.

Thanks to a unique partnership between Ford Motor Company, the National Park Foundation, and Glacier National Park, the red buses have been brought into service. Ford replaced the aging chassis and brought the engine, transmission, and body on each bus to modern safety standards while retaining their style.

It was a natural as an exhibit for the conference Expo, and a fitting way for several of those heading organizations participating in the conference to arrive for the opening plenary session.



NPS Ranger Margie Steigerwald greets Secretary Norton as dignitaries arrive for the plenary.

Army Corps Mission Expands

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is America's number one provider of water-oriented recreation, including many lakes and river stretches at its dams nationwide. Most of these lakes are managed by Corps park rangers, lifeguards, and O&M staff. In three western states the Los Angeles District manages flood control basins, including recreation, but with a new management twist: most of the basins are leased to local agencies who have developed outdoor recreation facilities with the Corps, thus also providing active management of much of the District's basin acreage.

In southern California, Corps basins serve literally millions of people. Some of the dams and partners include: Sepulveda and Hansen dams (City of Los Angeles, partner), Whittier Narrows and Santa Fe dams (Los Angeles County, partner), Carbon Canyon and Fullerton dams (Orange County), and Prado Basin (Riverside and San Bernardino counties), to name a few of the southern California dams and their major Corps partners. At Alamo Lake/Dam in Arizona, the AZ State Parks and AZ Game & Fish Departments manage most of the stewardship responsibilities, and similarly the San Luis Obispo (central CA) County Park Department manages Salinas Dam.

These recreation leases date from the 1950s and later when Congress authorized such development via cost-sharing programs which changed the national recreation landscape. Hansen Basin, for example, contains soccer fields, equestrian trails, and a willow woodland, which provides habitat for a federally listed endangered bird species. The Corps and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works cooperate on bike trails along both the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers, which provide major trail opportunities stretching from the mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

In addition to the recreation lease partnerships, the Operations Branch of the L.A. District also cooperates with other



Focus of water projects broadens for U.S.A.C.E.

entities to coordinate grant-funded habitat enhancement projects on Corps lands. While most significant recreation developments occurred during the 1950s-70s, the District reviews and approves many smaller projects such as "pocket parks" beside channels, exotic plant removal and other habitat restoration programs, wildlife watching and other interpretive site access, and community outreach such as cleanup events to "remind" urban dwellers of the rich riparian resources within their local flood basin.

Recently, a new "softer" type of partnership has emerged at Corps basins. Cost-shared and locally sponsored projects concerning water conservation, water quality enhancement, and ecosystem restoration are increasing. The District also participates in local community master planning efforts where watersheds are being viewed in new ways, and new facilities are being developed to assure that future generations may still enjoy wetland resources. In a community, everyone at the table, including the Corps, is a partner.

Thus, besides providing necessary flood control, the District has been able to participate in shared development and management of thousands of acres and many river miles that provide recreation, resource conservation and its enhancement, and priceless water conservation for millions of local residents.

Today in L.A.

Need a Tune-Up? Diagnostics Lab Opens Today

The buzz in the hallways at the 2:30 p.m. break on opening day was about the "Diagnostics Lab," opening Wednesday in the Expo Area. "This is about asking yourself 'do I need a tune up?'" said National Park Service partnership guru Ray Murray.

Murray, who is coordinating the Diagnostics Lab, has pulled together partners and agency experts to brainstorm, problem solve, and share experiences on 21 topics as diverse as creating partnership cultures to working with stakeholders and gateway communities.

The lab will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today, remaining open after the last session to assist people who do not want to miss any education sessions, and from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday.

"This is a chance to talk across the table, confidentially, with advisors," Murray added. For those who have learned not to go anywhere without their lawyer, Murray also has arranged for Department of the Interior solicitors to be available.

Funding issues, building friends groups, cutting edge marketing and tourism concepts, and heritage programs also will be featured.

To find the lab, walk through the exhibit hall. The lab entrance is adjacent to the refreshment stand. Look for the entrance signs.

Session Cancelled

One of the Thursday morning breakout sessions, The Middle Rio Grande: Endangered Species Collaborative Solutions, has been cancelled. Session number 511 had been scheduled for room 405.

Late Registration



Participants still have a chance to register for the conference in the main lobby on Wednesday until 5:00 p.m. and on Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Focus: National Fire Plan and Joint Ventures

Three years ago, with the skies ablaze over much of the Western United States, we recognized as a nation that something must be done to protect communities and natural resources from big, hot wildfires. The National Fire Plan was born, a blueprint for action that would help the Forest Service and the nation cope with fires and help fire-ravaged communities rebuild. The National Fire Plan also would help reduce the risk of fire far into the future.

Based on that blueprint, a ten year implementation plan was hammered out with the states, counties, and other partners. The implementation plan rests on four pillars: preventing and suppressing big, dangerous fires; reducing dense forest materials that fuel the worst fires; restoring fire-adapted forests to health; and providing assistance to communities at risk. Most importantly, the implementation plan provides a sound framework for administering funds under the National Fire Plan, focusing primarily on local partnerships.

That collaboration allows us to sit down at the national and local levels to decide exactly what long-term outcomes we all want for the land and what we need to do to get there. That's not lip service; collaboration is the heart and soul of the effort. To underscore the point, we and the Department of Interior formed a Wildland Fire Leadership Council to lead and guide the National Fire Plan.

Our purpose was to use the implementation plan to get on-the-ground results through cross-jurisdictional partnerships. The Forest Service and DOI formed the council with the National Governors Association, National Association of State Foresters, Inter-Tribal Timber Council, National Association of Counties, and Federal Emergency Management Agency to participate on the Council. At the local level, we invited state and county representatives to share ideas about desired outcomes and projects. The results have been promising. That is why I am so glad that Joint Ventures is helping the Forest Service



Dale Bosworth, Chief, USDA Forest Service

strengthen old partnerships and form new ones. As the theme of Joint Ventures directs us, changing demographics, environmental factors, economics, and community values require leaders to find new ways to form partnerships among people on the land. It is these partnerships that will help us do the work of the National Fire Plan far into the future.

By U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth

Public TV Correspondent to Headline Today's Plenary Session



Keynote speaker Ray Suarez

This morning's keynote speaker is Ray Suarez, for the last four years a Washington-based senior correspondent for "The News Hour" on public television. Suarez has 25 years of journalism experience in radio and television and has

been a national media figure since 1993 when he began hosting "Talk of the Nation" on National Public Radio. In addition to his journalism work, he is a thoughtful observer of social and demographic trends in America, and has written two books, "The Old Neighborhood: What We Lost in the Great Suburban Migration" and "Saving America's Treasures." His remarks will focus on changes in American life and on how communities can be partners with public agencies to protect not only nationally recognized lands, but also local areas important to neighborhoods, cultures, and communities. Suarez has 25 years of varied experience in the news business. He spent seven years covering local, national, and international stories for WMAQ-TV in Chicago. Suarez was also a Los Angeles correspondent for CNN, a producer for the ABC Radio

Network in New York, and a reporter for CBS Radio in Rome.

Suarez holds a B.A. in African History from New York University and an M.A. in the Social Sciences from the University of Chicago where he studied Urban Affairs. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by Westminster College in Salt Lake City in 2000. He is a longtime member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, and a founding member of the Chicago Association of Hispanic Journalists.

Suarez will be available in the Expo exhibit hall following this morning's plenary session to sign copies of his book. Look for Mr. Suarez at booth 300. Books will be available for sale at this signing, which is sponsored by Eastern National.

Angeles National Forest Inner City Youths Join to Fight Fires and Improve Lives



When a national forest needing firefighters joins hands with an urban community needing employment for its youth, everybody benefits. And that's exactly what has happened over the past decade on the Angeles National Forest, California.

In the wake of civil unrest in Los Angeles in 1992, the Angeles National Forest participated in a USDA employment program designed to provide jobs for residents in riot-affected areas. The forest formed a firefighting crew, "the Highlanders," hiring from the largely African American community in south central Los Angeles.

A second crew, "the Aztecs," was formed in 1994 from the Latino community in East Los Angeles. These initial steps have since evolved into a cohesive education-

to-employment program, with partners in all levels of government within the Los Angeles Metropolitan communities.

The next link in the Los Angeles community/Forest Service relationship came in 1995 through the development of an Angeles NF-sponsored residential Wildland Fire Academy—a Learning-For-Life partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and Los Angeles Valley College. Each year 40 young men and women, ages 16 to 21, receive 96 hours of wildland fire training. Of the 360 graduates to date, most have found employment with the Forest Service, California Department of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, or other fire agencies.

With the high school stepping stone in place, the Angeles National Forest,

LAUSD, and Los Angeles Valley College formed a partnership in January 2002 called the "Tech Prep/School-to-Careers Collaborative." The partnership has hosted two academies, enrolling seniors from nine high schools in greater Los Angeles. Students attend the academy each Saturday for eight weeks, receiving the same training as the residential Wildland Fire Academy. So far, 175 students have graduated.

The Forest has also established four more fire crews, drawing from educational institutions within greater Los Angeles. One crew, "the Wolverines," is tied to the Fire Technology program at Mount San Antonio College. Another crew, "the Monarchs," is part of the Los Angeles Valley College Wildland Fire Technology program. The Rio Hondo College Roadrunners are another rela-

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Web Experts Provide Real-Time Participation

“We just need to see if there’s a conversion doohickey,” Steve Pittleman said. With that, he and Mike Maki agreed that they had overcome the glitch they had encountered and that the newsletters, videos, and session reports would appear at www.partnerships2003.org by day’s end as planned. Pittleman and Maki, along with a handful of other National Park Service IT experts and contractors, manage the conference’s Information Technology requirements from a conference room deep inside the Los Angeles Convention Center.

“What we’ve done is set up a network out of thin air,” Pittleman said. “It’s been challenging; we’ve had to improvise to get over a few hurdles.” The primary hurdle Pittleman and company had to overcome was the high demand for Internet traffic. “When there was no Internet connection, people let us know,” Pittleman said. “But I think we’ve eliminated the bottleneck. We try to make putting info on the web as real-time as possible.”

In addition to providing access to the conference website to the webmasters, Pittleman et al. set up a bank of a dozen web-access computers for attendees, a couple of sections for the newsletter and media staff, access for presenters making finishing touches to their presentations and a station to edit and digitize video taken during the plenary and breakout sessions.

“There are about 100 sessions each day,” said Tom Davies, another of the NPS web experts at the conference. “We have a recorder at each who will take notes on



Terry Johnson takes the live feed from one of the breakout sessions to add it to the website.

What we’ve done is set up a network out of thin air.

the presentation and provide a summary of what the speaker said. We’ll format and proof them, then post them on the conference web site. That way, people who aren’t here can participate.”

Down in the Convention Center’s main lobby, Jason Daiger manages another of the conference’s more important and less visible requirements. The system he designed keeps track of the roughly 300 scheduled sessions, their times and locations and limits attendees to the available room capacity. Just as in college, those who waited too long to sign up for a session ended up with biology lab at 8 a.m.

Inner City Youth Take to Wildland Firefighting

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tively new crew. The newest, “the Marauders,” is sponsored by Antelope Valley College. Together the six crews employ 300 people. The fire departments of Burbank, Pasadena, La Verne, Los Angeles City and County assist in management.

The Angeles National Forest is proud of its youthful firefighting crews and partnerships. Thanks to these efforts, we are building community connections, providing better fire protection, and making a positive influence in the lives of Los Angeles youth.

By Kathy Peterson, Acting Public Affairs Officer, Angeles National Forest. Photos by Rachel M. Rodriguez.



Expo Opens with Fanfare



Public land partners attending the Joint Ventures conference were treated to a reception Tuesday night that officially opened the Expo Trade Show in the Los Angeles.

It was easy to tell when the event began. A noisy and festive Chinese dragon paraded through the lower level of the convention center followed by a line of draggin' participants eager to view the 82 vendor booths (and to get to the food and drink). The outstanding product booths geared to public land and recreation will run through Thursday evening.

BLM Relies on People Power

Bureau of Land Management partners play an important role in helping our agency care for a significant portion of the public lands. Partners provide financial support and materials for projects, as well as people-power to see those projects through to completion. They help educate the public about BLM resources and issues, from wildlife and cultural artifacts to invasive species and fire management.

The ranks of Bureau of Land Management partners are filled with groups of all sizes—small businesses, non-profit organizations, and large corporations, as well as county, state, and federal government agencies. Large or small, BLM partners are committed to a common goal: protecting the health, diversity, and productivity of our public lands. Examples of our partnerships include universities helping us to conduct archaeological and paleontological excavations, and off-road racing enthusiasts assisting with desert clean-ups.

Bureau of Land Management partners are helping maintain the quality of life for all of our citizens. They protect and preserve the things we value—the land and resources with which we have been blessed, as well as the principles that guide us as a nation. We at BLM are privileged to be associated with such dedicated organizations and individuals.

By BLM Director Kathleen Clarke



BLM Director Kathleen Clarke

Conference Comments

Kimberly Anderson, USFS



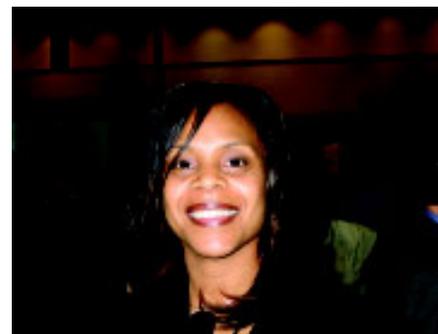
Absolutely fantastic. This is the way of the future. By working with partners forming relationships ... people will be less likely to feel disgruntled and that litigation is the only way to be heard. We talk about it all the time, but are we really doing it as a way of business? I wish all the supervisors and budget people could be here. Look around, everyone is talking. It's a healthier way to look at conservation.

Allen Flanders, Carter-Burgess

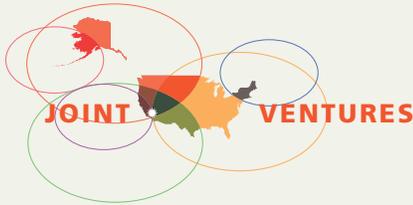


This is an excellent opportunity for companies like ours to meet people, hear what's on their minds and keep up with the changing business.

Sonya Coakley, NPS

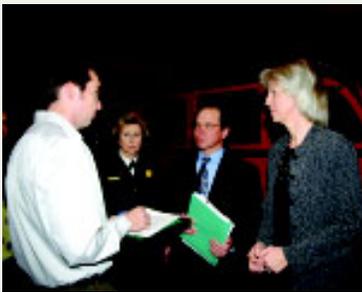


I'm very impressed. I'm in the Executive Leadership Program, and I've learned so much I never knew. This will be extremely beneficial in helping in my career.



Joint Ventures: Partners in Stewardship

The subject matter covered in Joint Ventures will be finding a broader audience than the 1,600 attendees. Representatives of the Los Angeles Times, The Black Voice News, Associated Press, and La Opinion visited the conference on Tuesday. On-line coverage of the conference, including copies of the daily newsletters and summaries of each session will be found at www.partnerships2003.org.



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Speakers Highlight Partnership Benefits

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Major General Carl A. Strock, Director of Civil Works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, signs a Pledge of Partnership. Heads of all seven federal agencies signed the commitment to collaborate.

needed to take a different path.” Admitting that his family has a history of exploiting hydrocarbons from the land, he takes pride in the legacy that they have in making contributions to the public protection of special places. He said the most important elements of good partnerships are mutual respect, well-differentiated roles, openness and honesty, ability to take the long view, a requirement for patience and tolerance, and adjusting to changing circumstances.

Rockefeller then introduced Interior Secretary Gale Norton as an official who enjoys the wildlands. He remembered a camping trip with the National Park Foundation and the Secretary in Alaska. There was a hush as she began to speak of cooperative conservation in environmental protection. Her 30-minute speech traveled 100 years of conservation history, beginning with Theodore Roosevelt’s landmark recognition of the preservation of bird life and the birth of the National Wildlife Refuge System at Pelican Island, Florida. She spoke of the transcending work of Aldo Leopold, whose work on ethics led to the environmental minimum standards set into law.

The sign language interpreter kept up with her quick and friendly discussion, punctuated by personal experiences with partners including the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership in the Southwest and the Five East End Towns in New York. She highlighted the President’s programs in Texas—the Landowner Incentive Program and the Private Stewardship Grant Program—each encouraging private partnerships and a strong belief in the ethics of communication, consultation, and cooperation in the service of conservation. “Cooperative conservation and partnerships give us this ability to build creative and vibrant networks for conservation – they empower people to solve problems in ways that make sense for each community,” she said, stressing that “enforcing minimum standards alone will not achieve the level of environmental quality we want to see.” The audience listened closely when she said, “While there is certainly an important and needed role for government regulations, we need to move beyond a command and control approach to meet new challenges and opportunities.”