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UA3/9/5 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

WKU President's Office

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*David - Rain down from Lexington!
Dean - I thought Boggs was
Boo's counter!*

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

AUGUST 17, 2005

DR. RANDELL TALKING POINTS

- WESTERN IS PROUD TO BE BOTH A RESEARCH PARTNER AND A PARTICIPANT IN THE **CREP** PROGRAM.
- OUR ROLE AS A RESEARCH PARTNER BEGAN A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO AS A RESULT OF SENATOR McCONNELL'S EFFORTS TO SECURE A FEDERAL EARMARK IN THE USDA BUDGET TO PROVIDE FOR MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS MAJOR CONSERVATION EFFORT ALONG THE GREEN RIVER. ALL TOTALED, THE CONSERVATION EFFORTS HERE REPRESENT A PUBLIC INVESTMENT OF \$110 MILLION.
- OUR FACULTY AND STUDENTS - LED BY *Blaine Ferrell,* SCOTT GRUBBS, ALBERT MEIER, AND OUIDA MEIER (*ASK THEM TO STAND*), AND ALSO STEVEN KENWORTHY WHO WAS NOT ABLE TO BE HERE TODAY - ARE WORKING WITH THE VARIOUS CREP PARTNERS WHO ARE REPRESENTED HERE TODAY TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROJECTS THAT WILL MEASURE THE

**OUTCOMES EXPECTED AS A RESULT OF CREP
IMPLEMENTATION.**

- **SOME OF OUR STUDENTS ARE ALSO WITH US TODAY
– I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE JASON BUTLER,
KAMI McDONALD AND BEN HUGHES.**
- **AS I MENTIONED, WKU IS NOT ONLY A RESEARCH
PARTNER, WE ARE ALSO A PARTICIPANT IN THE
PROGRAM.**
- **JUST A LITTLE MORE THAN 15 MILES DOWNSTREAM
FROM HERE LIES THE UPPER GREEN RIVER
BIOLOGICAL PRESERVE, 671 ACRES PURCHASED BY
WKU IN EARLY 2004 THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE
KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND.**
- **WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF
IMPLEMENTING A CREP CONTRACT TO RESTORE 42
ACRES OF GREEN RIVER FRONTAGE TO
BOTTOMLAND HARDWOOD FOREST AND NATIVE
GRASSLANDS, AND WE INTEND TO RESTORE MANY
MORE ACRES OF THE PRESERVE TO NATIVE FOREST,
GRASSLAND, PRAIRIE AND SPECIAL HABITATS.**

- **THE CREP PROJECT ALONG THE GREEN RIVER IS AN IMPORTANT EFFORT TO KEEP OUR NATURAL *eco* SYSTEMS INTACT AND FUNCTIONAL.**

- **ON BEHALF OF WKU, I WANT TO THANK ALL THE PARTNERS, THE LANDOWNERS AND OTHERS WHO ARE IMPACTED BY THESE EFFORTS, AND I WANT TO SAY TO SENATOR McCONNELL THAT WE ARE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR WORK OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS TO ENSURE THAT THIS PROJECT CONTINUES AND IS SUCCESSFUL.**

- *Senator,* **YOUR LEGACY AS THE IMPETUS BEHIND THE FUNDING OF THIS PROJECT WILL BE ONE OF LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE ECONOMY AND THE WAY OF LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THIS REGION OF KENTUCKY.**

- *On a personal note* **(TO SENATOR McCONNELL) THANK YOU, SENATOR.**

*for your leadership
across the Commonwealth
and particularly in this
region of Ky!*

*As Ky's longest serving
Republican Senator - you impact
is far and wide - and your
legacy will be of great historic consequence*

CREP Field Day Attendees

Partner agencies attending

1. **Senate** – Senator McConnell, Larry Cox, LeAnn Crosby, Pennie DuBarry
2. **Natural Resources and Conservation Service** – David Sawyer, State Conservationist, Gary Mast, Special Assistant to the Chief
3. **Farm Service Agency** – Jeff Hall
4. **US Army Corps of Engineers** – Mike Turner, Ralph Walls, Col. Ray Midkiff
5. **Western Kentucky University** – Robbin Taylor, President Ransdell, Dr. Ouida Meier, Dean Blaine Ferrell, Dr. Albert Meier
6. **The Nature Conservancy** – Richie Kessler, Jim Aldrich
7. **US Geological Survey** – Mark Ayers, District Chief, Dan Evans, Mike Griffin
8. **National Park Service-Mammoth Cave National Park** – Mark DePoy, Bruce Powel, Acting Supervisor
9. **Kentucky State Division of Conservation** – Steve Coleman
10. **Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources** – Jon Gassett
11. **Gov's Office** – Keith Rogers

Speakers

1. Dr. Richie Kessler – The Nature Conservancy (*emcee*)
2. Mr. Dan Richardson – CREP Landowner
3. Mr. David Sawyer, State Conservationist, NRCS
4. Mr. Gary Mast, Special Assistant to the Chief, NRCS
5. Mr. Mike Andrews, Chief Conservation Officer, The Nature Conservancy
6. Dr. Gary Ransdell, President, Western Kentucky University
7. Dr. Jon Gassett, Commissioner, Kentucky Dept of Fish & Wildlife Resources
8. Ms. LaJuana Wilcher, Secretary, Environmental & Public Protection Cabinet
9. Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican Majority Whip

Invited Guests Attending

1. Billy Fudge, Chairman of the Board, Taylor County Home Place
2. Richie Farmer, Commissioner of KY Dept of Ag. (*possibly*)
3. Senator Carol Gibson, District 5
4. Representative CB Embry, District 17
5. Davie Greer (female), Barren County Judge Exec
6. Terry Martin, Hart County Judge Exec
7. Mary Ann Baron, Green County Judge Exec
8. Ronnie McFall, Russell County Judge Exec
9. David Morgan, Kentucky Division of Water
10. Rick Toomey, Mammoth Cave Research Learning Center Director
11. Judy Peterson, Kentucky Waterways Alliance
12. Dr. Chris Groves, National Speleological Society
13. Lee Anderson, Field Supervisor for Kentucky, USF&WS
14. Samuel Vanmeter, NRCS_DC in Barren County
15. Danny Hawes, NRCS_DC in Green County

16. Jason Cole, NRCS_DC in Hart County
17. Melinda Cave, NRCS_DC in Metcalfe County
18. Richard Davis (acting), NRCS_DC in Russell County
19. Kathy Hodges, NRCS_DC in Russell County
20. NRCS staff in Russell, Barren, Hart, Green, Metcalfe, Taylor, Edmonson, and Adair counties
21. Board of supervisors for the County Conservation Districts, (Jeff Hall made these contacts)
22. Dave Howell (Dave may send someone in his place), Quail Unlimited
23. Round Stone Seed Co

This is the list of confirmed partners, speakers, and invited guests thus far. I will make more follow up calls on Monday. As you can see, I didn't get much response from state senators or state reps. I've been told that FSA and NRCS DCs are going to bring farmers to the event, but I do not have any of their names. I will also follow up with job titles for respective state and federal agency heads.