

## Recap of 12-7-09 SFF Evening with Kathryn Parker

Dear Senior Fellows and Friends,

Last Monday our network coalesced to greet Kathryn Parker, our long-time colleague and developer of leaders who was in the area for a few days. Kathryn, who trained as a biochemist and who used to work in the EPA's climate change division, is now the climate change coordinator at Grand Canyon National Park - occupying the first such position in the national park system.

Here is my brief summary of her remarks, which were followed by a thoughtful question and answer period.

- The climate is warming, no matter the cause, although we know that human dumping of CO<sub>2</sub> is contributing
- Two kinds of responses can be made, mitigation and adaptation
  - We mitigate by reducing our carbon footprint
  - We adapt by learning to live with the effects of climate change, because a CO<sub>2</sub> molecule lasts a very long time
- The idea at Grand Canyon is to make it a "climate-friendly" park, by
  - Getting stakeholders together for a workshop and to make an action list to reduce its carbon footprint. About 100 people came together recently:
    - Park employees – because they do the work
    - Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona
    - Public utilities
    - Tribal leaders
    - Coconino County's Sustainable Economic Development Initiative
    - Scientists from Georgia Tech and Yellowstone National Park, and so on
    - People love the Park. It's not that hard to find partners." University student interns cut across the turf issues and are being cultivated for that reason.
  - Thinking outside the box (water is going to be a huge challenge)
  - Assisting animal and plant migration by creating corridors (plants and animals are moving north)
  - Broadening research rules and beginning science-based experimentation so that revegetation can be done, with different species that are able to grow there (genetic issues and interdependencies complicate the task)
  - Dealing with land management issues
- [Executive Order 13514](#), followed by [Secretarial Order 3289](#), have created Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, a network that will be managed by the Fish & Wildlife Service

We also talked about the challenge that federal agency cultures can pose for innovation and collaboration. Kathryn made one statement that I fully believe, that "Collaboration is the only way our species will survive."

Participant affiliations were as follows:

ARPA Consultant  
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities  
Consultant, Government Executive  
Department of Commerce/Patent & Trademark Office  
Department of Education

Department of Education, Retired  
Department of Homeland Security/FEMA  
Department of Interior/National Park Service  
Department of Transportation/FAA  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Federal Trade Commission  
Hudson Financial Solutions  
Independent Consultant  
Kahler Communications  
NASA  
Office of Management and Budget  
Social Security Administration  
Storyteller

Please consider joining us next year. Happy holidays!

Sincerely,

Kitty Wooley

U.S. Department of Education