This newsletter presents information about the Baseline Survey, Snow Camp, and the Tri-State Annual Meeting.

PROJECT GOALS

Goal 1: **Watershed Sciences**

Goal 2: **Cyberinfrastructure Visualization**

Goal 3: **Cyberinfrastructure Data**

Goal 4: **Workforce Development**

WC-WAVE Baseline Survey

The Baseline Survey assesses:

- **Impact on participants and institutions in each of the four goal areas.**
- **Impacts on the scientific community, ID, NV and NM.**
- **Quality of project implementation.**
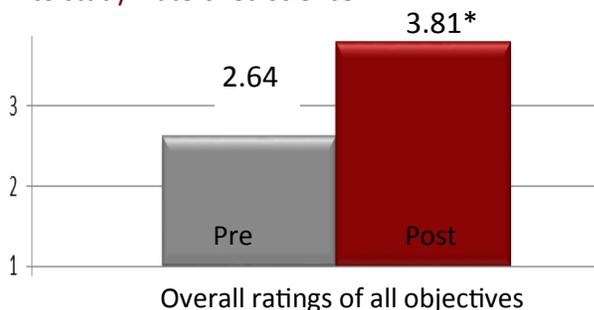- **Collaboration within and across components.**

Snow Camp March 16-19, 2014

Snow Camp is a cohort-building and experiential learning retreat held at Dry Creek Experimental Watershed near Boise, ID.

WC-WAVE Project Universities and Colleges
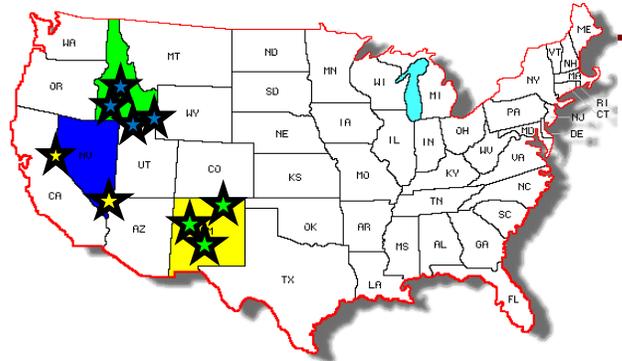
Idaho
- Boise State University
- College of Southern Idaho
- Idaho State University
- University of Idaho

Nevada
- Desert Research Institute
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of Nevada, Reno

New Mexico
- New Mexico State University
- New Mexico Tech
- University of New Mexico

Snow Camp Objectives

Assess relationships between terrain properties and snow distribution.

Determine the extent of the snow covered area with satellite imagery.

Access representative snow units with GIS.

Design field campaigns.

Select sites that can be visited by teams.

Make point measurements of snow depth, density, and snow water equivalent

Describe processes controlling snow accumulation/melt.

Findings

- Program aspects were rated **very** or **extremely useful**
- **Very** or **completely satisfied** with logistics
- **Statistically significant gains** for 6 out of 7 program objectives and 6 out of 7 items related to commitment to study watershed science.

- **Ability to use GIS to determine the distribution of and access to representative snow samples**
- **Ability to develop my dissertation committee from WC-WAVE faculty**

          … did not reach significant gains

2.64   3.81*

Pre   Post

Overall ratings of all objectives
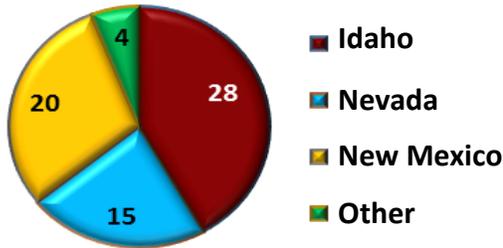
Recommendations for Snow Camp

- Increase outreach to under-represented minority and first-generation college students.
- Incorporate collaboration into all activities.
- Send information on topics before the camp and hold a follow-up session after returning.
- Disseminate a list of responsibilities and expectations.
- Provide more opportunities to develop connections with faculty.

The Annual Meeting brings together all project participants to review progress, plan, and collaborate across components.

Annual meeting objectives
Increase knowledge of:
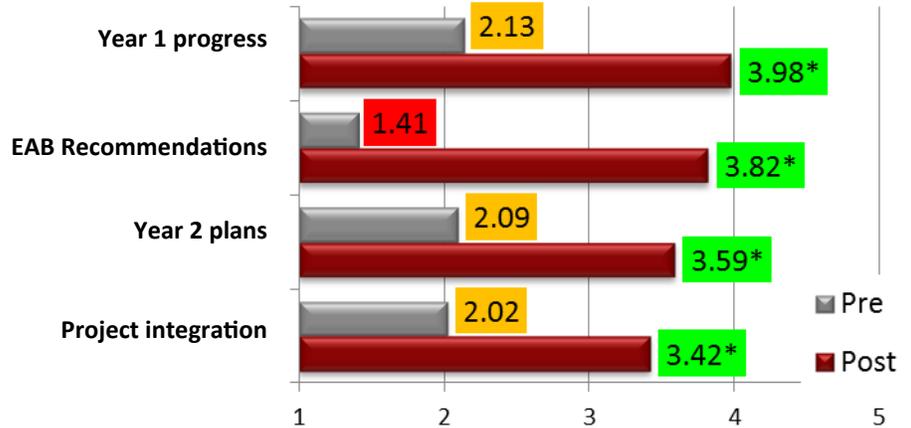- Year 1 project progress
- Year 1 Advisory Board recommendations
- Year 2 project plans
- Project integration plans

Pie chart:
- Idaho: 28
- Nevada: 15
- New Mexico: 20
- Other: 4

Bar chart (Pre / Post):
- Year 1 progress: Pre 2.13, Post 3.98*
- EAB Recommendations: Pre 1.41, Post 3.82*
- Year 2 plans: Pre 2.09, Post 3.59*
- Project integration: Pre 2.02, Post 3.42*

Findings
- Sessions rated **very** or **extremely useful**
- **Very** or **completely satisfied** with logistics
- **Statistically significant gains** for all four program objectives

Recommendations
- Target outreach to females, URMs, and first generation students.
- Give overview of the project's history, research questions, and introduce leads and faculty.
- Use visuals or examples to bring sessions to life.
- Longer breaks and more activities to maintain interest.

The Program Sustainability Assessment Tool

Leaders need to begin planning for future sustainability in each of the eight domains of project sustainability.

- Environmental
- Funding
- Communication
- Strategic Planning
- Partnerships
- Program
- Program Evaluation
- Organizational

www.sustaintool.org

Project Key Findings and Recommendations

VISIBILITY Increase visibility of project leadership and the overall project.

VISION Update project vision, organization, planning, and integration.

COLLABORATION Increase collaboration of the science component with other components and external stakeholders.

COMMUNICATION Cyberinfrastructure teams should develop more consistent communication with the science research team.

ENGAGEMENT Clarify student training and field work plans.

SUSTAINABILITY Review sustainability domains.

IMPACT As you work with participants, reflect on the impact and of the project on participants and surrounding communities.

Upcoming Evaluation Activities

COMING SOON

- Baseline survey results
- May WC-WAVE meeting
- UVMN workshop
- Jemez and Rio Chama Field Experiences
- Discussions of sustainability domains

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EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES