

Public Works DIGEST

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Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., plans to build three-level townhouse barracks along a new transit corridor, a plan that will support walkability and infill development. Image courtesy of The Urban Collaborative LLC. Page 14



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U.S. Army Installation
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Federal Planning Division regional conference report

by Andrea Wohlfeld Kuhn and Jill A. Schreifer

The first-ever Federal Planning Division of the American Planning Association Regional Workshop met in Denver Nov. 9-10. The workshop's theme was "Interagency Collaboration for Sustainable Landscapes."

The conference brought federal planners from the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Highway Administration and the Department of Defense as well as consultants together to discuss key federal land management planning topics.

The opening plenary speaker, Harris Sherman, the under secretary for natural resources and environment, Department of Agriculture, challenged participants to think about how to bring federal planners together in the future, how they can make data collection more consistent and how they can learn from one another's planning efficiencies. Sherman emphasized the critical relationship between ecological, economic and social sustainability. Partnerships must involve state, local, federal and nongovernmental organizations in leveraging funds and working together to achieve common goals.

Another plenary speaker, Mark Gelernter, dean and professor, College of Architecture and Planning, University of Colorado, Denver, stated that the population in many Colorado regions has doubled or tripled within one lifetime. Eighty-two percent of Colorado's population now lives in cities, necessitating additional consideration of the impacts to public lands and transportation systems, and making planning that addresses these issues even more important.

Throughout the conference, panel and workshop presentations covered sustainable transportation and land use, resource management in an era of collaboration, interagency memorandums about climate

change and air quality, and the revised DoD Master Planning Unified Facilities Criteria.

Transit in Parks Technical Assistance Center representatives highlighted unique transportation projects under way in national parks with grant funding available for transportation initiatives and innovations. National Park Service planners also discussed a planning approach at Yellowstone that focuses on the district or zone scale. Limited planning resources are directed to the areas in most need. The result is a plan that identifies suitable building locations, building sizes, functions and design standards. This process is similar to DoD's plans in implementing its revised Unified Facilities Criteria, which will focus in part on area development planning.

The closing plenary session featured speakers from each agency addressing the future of land management planning from their organizational perspectives. Key challenges include unfunded mandates, capacity issues and climate change.

The Bureau of Land Management is



Plenary speakers (left to right) Barbara J. Johnson, National Park Service; David Loomis, U.S. Forest Service; Alan Gilbert, Department of the Interior; Mark Gelernter, University of Colorado, Denver; and Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Harris Sherman, Department of Agriculture; pose at the opening session in Denver. Photo by Mark L. Gillem

revising land-use plans to create more effective, outcome-based and responsive planning. The Fish and Wildlife Service is looking at adaptive management to develop more meaningful planning documents, and the Forest Service is emphasizing its "roadless rule" by designating one-half of national forest lands off-limits. The Forest Service will also shift its land management focus from timber harvesting to preserving existing resources and administering recreation lands that will meet increased demands from larger populations.

These land management issues sometimes result in conflicting

Planning conferences to convene in April

The American Planning Association and the Federal Planning Division will hold their annual conferences and training workshops in Los Angeles. The Federal Planning Division will meet April 11-13, and the American Planning Association April 14-17.

This year, the Federal Planning Division's National Training Workshop will feature a two-day of Department of Defense-related session April 10-11, before the workshop. Sessions will address critical planning issues including energy, sustainability, climate change, environmental concerns, natural and cultural resources, transportation planning and land use.

More information can be found at the websites, <https://www.planning.org/conference/index.htm> and http://www.federalplanning.org/training_workshop_2012.htm.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

DoD Department of Defense



Department of Defense Master Planning Institute 2012 classes

by Andrea Wohlfeld Kuhn

Recognizing the need for an enhanced, comprehensive suite of training classes that focus on the essential topics of master planning, the instructors of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Proponent Sponsored Engineer Corps Training master planning courses developed new courses and area development plan workshops that are now under the auspices of the Department of Defense Master Planning Institute. These classes range from introductory to advanced and include universal planning practices as well as Army-specific information.

The key goal of the DoD MPI is to develop a world-class workforce by providing the most up-to-date, essential tools and materials to achieve sustainable, energy-efficient planning, engineering and architecture solutions. Classes and workshops are open to all interested parties, including private citizens; contractors; and



Students at a workshop in Sembach, Germany, work on their area development plan proposal. Photo by Andrea Wohlfeld Kuhn

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demands on scarce resources. All the closing plenary speakers concurred that the key to success is effective data management in a collaborative, interagency manner rather than individual agency data bases. Planning must be done at the district or neighborhood level to be effective.

The planning committee hopes to make a regional workshop an annual event to

federal, state, city and county employees.

The original Army-focused materials are now expanded to include information relevant to all DoD service branches and other government agencies. All courses are fully accredited by the American Institute of Certified Planners, the American Institute of Architects and the National Society of Professional Engineers, and they provide continuing education units.

One of the unique features that sets these classes apart from others is that the instructors employ a variety of dynamic media that go beyond lectures. The teaching methods include hands-on training, small group exercises, field trips, site visits and other learning opportunities.

While basic theory and history is a part of the curriculum, students have the opportunity to develop ideas or plans that can actually be implemented at their locations. By identifying and engaging all relevant stakeholders in area development plan workshops, full participation is realized and buy-ins to solutions and subsequent implementation is enhanced.

Technologies include computer programs used for site design and calculations of space, materials and personnel. Sketches, data from on-site observations, interviews with stakeholders, guest lecturers, multimedia presentations, field trips and literature reviews are used to provide

allow federal planners opportunities to collaborate and share best practices.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

DoD MPI	Department of Defense Master Planning Institute
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a complete learning experience. The instructional staff is composed of federal and private-sector professionals who are accredited subject matter experts.

A brief description of the calendar year 2012 DoD MPI schedule of classes follows. More detailed descriptions and registration are available at <http://www.dodmpi.org/> or <http://ulc.usace.army.mil/>. Increase your understanding of master planning by signing up for one or more of these courses at either website.

Course 948 Master Planning Visualization Techniques

Jan. 30–Feb. 2, Huntsville, Ala.

This course provides a fundamental overview of planning visualization tools such as Google SketchUp, Google Earth and Photoshop. Students receive hands-on instruction in various software applications and produce renderings and area development plans that illustrate sustainable, energy-efficient solutions.

Course 392 Historic Structures I March 12–16, Seattle

This course presents the unique characteristics, legal requirements, procedures, technical knowledge and skills necessary to administer, maintain and repair federal historic properties. Sustainable, energy-efficient solutions for historic preservation as well as pertinent laws, regulations and guidance are covered.

Course 258 Master Planning Energy and Sustainability Factors March 19–23, Denver

This new course covers energy and sustainability on a broader level, rather than at the individual building level. Discussion and demonstration of energy-related planning practices and initiatives demonstrate effective strategies. ➤