

Subject: [gbird] Update from Washington

From: Royden Saah <royden.saah@islandconservation.org>

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To: "gbird@lists.ncsu.edu" <gbird@lists.ncsu.edu>

Hi All,

Overview:

During the Innovations Summit (Dec 5), several presentations were made that linked invasive species and human health. I started investigating the potential interest in this technology as a solution for potential rodent vector disease mitigation technology. On ~Jan 5, Jamie Reaser (Dept of Interior) and I met with staff in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. A product of this meeting included an invitation to speak to the Pandemic Prediction & Forecasting Science & Technology Working Group (PPFSTWG) that consists of representatives from many agencies.

Also during the Innovation Summit, Jamie Reaser and NWRC Director Larry Clark invited Karl and Karen to a preliminary meeting to examine the need for a more in-depth or different report from the National Academy on Vertebrate Gene Drives. A follow-up scoping meeting was scheduled for Feb 24. Owain Edwards (CSIRO) and Dan Tompkins (Landcare) were also invited to the National Academy Scoping Meeting.

Activities:

On Wednesday Feb 22, Karl, Dan, Owain and I gave a presentation to the Pandemic Forecasting group on GBIRD. The presentation is attached. Feedback was that the delivery by scientist from 4 nations representing 3 countries was impactful in content and delivery. Larry Clark from NWRC was also able to attend the PPFSTWG presentation.

On the same day, the four GBIRD team members met with Stephanie James, Science Director of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health. She gave an in-depth overview of the foundation's activities and we presented the efforts of the partnership. The meeting appeared to be mutually beneficial.

On Thursday, Feb 23, Jamie Reaser and Larry Clark convened a scoping meeting to assess the need for an academy report on vertebrate gene editing or gene drives. The partnership was well represented. Karl, Dan and Owain gave well-articulated perspectives of their own organizations (IC, CSIRO, and LCR) as well as a coordinated perspective of the partnership.

Later today, I have a follow-up meeting with CDC to investigate their interest/knowledge in rodent-vector issues, invasive species and gene drives.

With Respect,
Royden

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—Attachments:—

PPFSTWG GBIRD Final PDF.pdf

3.2 MB