

RLC Agenda

10 AM-12 Noon (Hawthorne Room - Session #128)

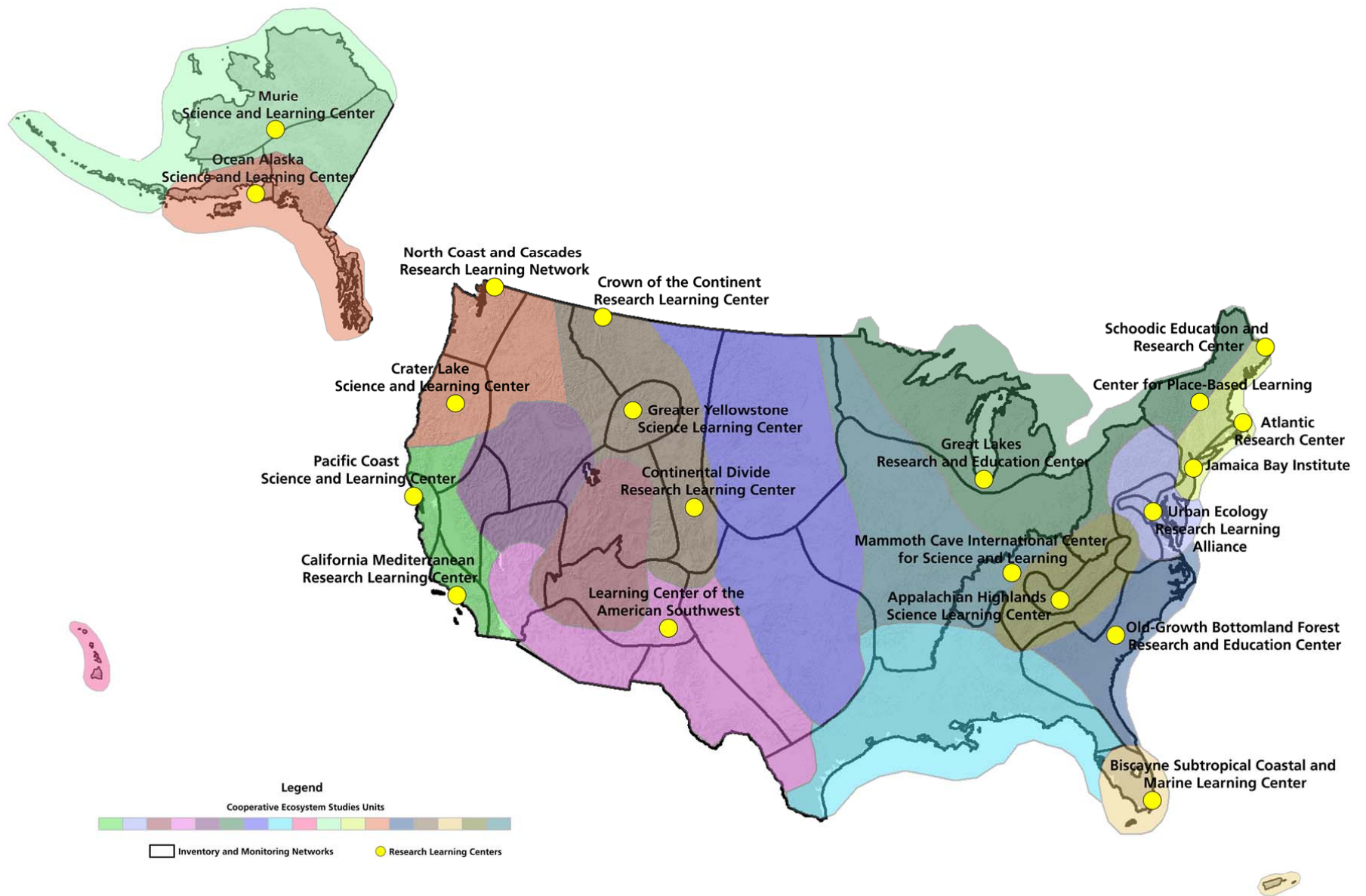
- A. Briefly discuss strategic plan comments
- B. Decide how comments will be addressed/incorporated.
- C. Approve plan for final draft, editing and printing this spring.

1 PM - 3 PM (Hawthorne Room - Session #134)

- D. Select 4-5 priority strategic actions for implementation over the next 12 months
- E. Select Core Teams to work on each strategic action
- F. By the end of the meeting, Core Teams will have a draft outline for plans for workgroups over the next 12 months. Any team members not present can participate in future Core Team planning.
- G. Briefly report plans back to larger RLC group.

RLCs

- . Facilitating the use of parks for scientific inquiry
- . Supporting science-informed decision making
- . Communicating relevance and providing access to research knowledge
- . Promoting resource stewardship through partnerships



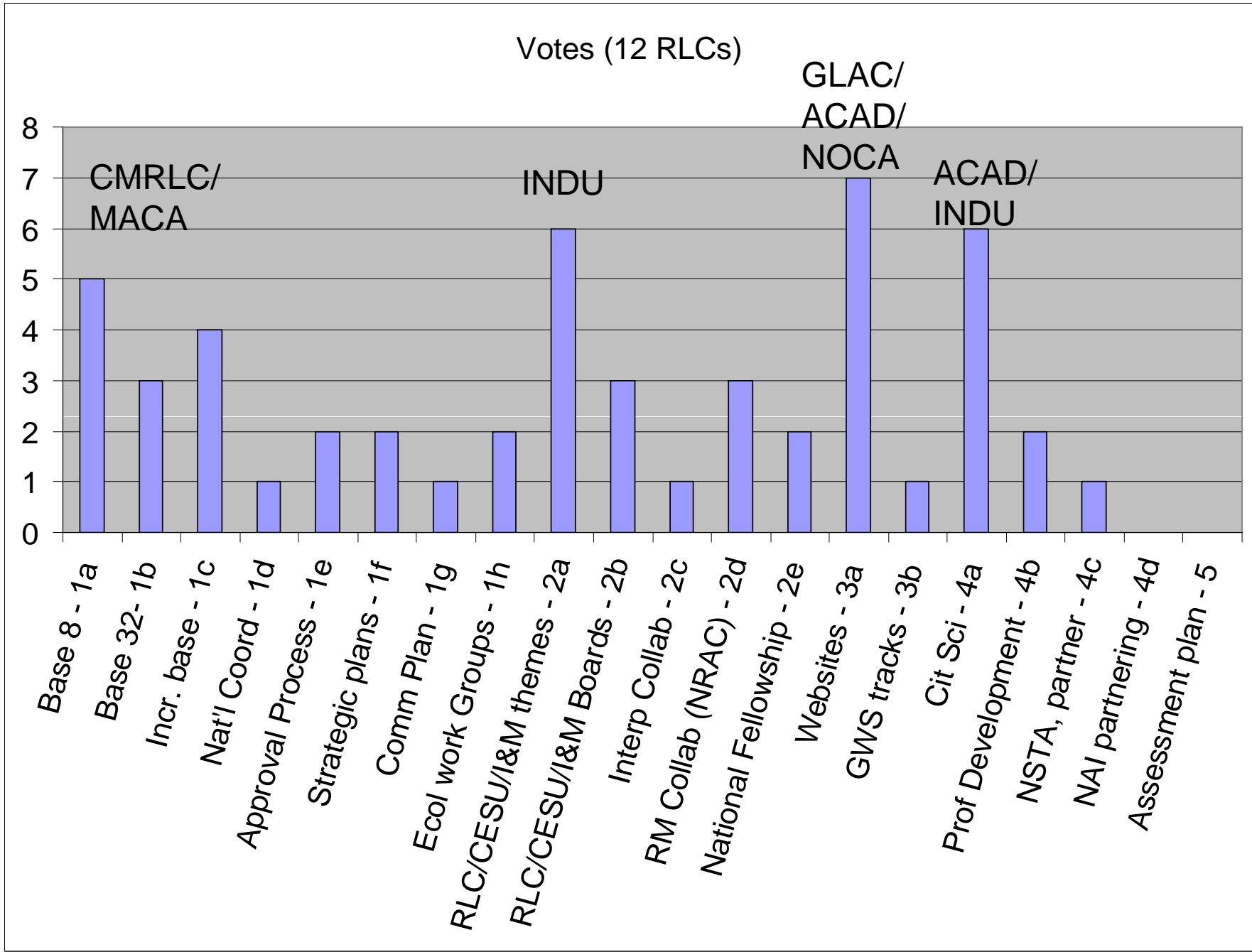
- **Strategic Action 1.** Facilitate RLCs reaching their full potential of service to parks and the entire National Park System.
 - **1a.** Provide base funding for approved but unfunded centers (8) that have begun operations with indirect funding.
 - **1b.** Fully fund at least one RLC in each of the 32 Inventory and Monitoring networks.
 - **1c.** Increase base funding for current funded centers to keep up with inflation.
 - **1d.** Establish full-time national coordination for RLCs. This position would provide leadership, coordination, communications, website, record-keeping, and advocacy for RLCs at the national level.
 - **1e.** Design a consistent process for establishing an NPS approved Research Learning Center.
 - **1f.** Develop individual strategic plans for every RLC, to ensure that each RLC works to accomplish the mission, vision, and goals of the RLC network, as well as address their local/network-level needs and concerns.
 - **1g.** Write and implement a national communications plan for the RLC network designed to facilitate effective internal and external marketing and communications, and raise awareness of the benefits of RLCs in achieving NPS goals internally and externally.
 - **1h.** Communicate NPS research and management needs directly to scientists by addressing research questions, park management concerns, and data gaps, including emerging issues via RLC convened Ecological Working Groups modeled after the National Science Foundation's National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis program.

- **Strategic Action 2:** Increase efficiencies in completing research projects and creating education programs and materials.
 - **2a.** Establish thematic connections between RLCs, CESUs and I&M Networks.
 - **2b.** Collaborate closely with all Natural Resources Challenge programs to identify research questions and help communicate the results of their work, by participate as ex-officio member of the boards for CESU, I&M, and EPMT at the regional and national levels.
 - **2c.** Collaborate closely with the division of Interpretation and Education.
 - **2d.** Collaborate closely with the division of Resources Management through participation on Regional Natural Resources Advisory Committees (NRAC).
 - **2e.** Establish national research fellowship program.

- **Strategic Action 3:** Facilitate the synthesis, translation, and analysis of RLC sponsored research and make results available in useable formats.
 - **3a.** In conjunction with their associated I&M network and CESUs, each RLC will support a national website that serves as a comprehensive source for scientific information on parks' most important resources and management issues. This thematically based site will provide "one-stop" access to information for a variety of audiences from students, to superintendents to research scientists and the public.
 - **3b.** Partner with I&M and CESU at the George Wright Society meetings to run a track on research results that can be applied to national level resource management issues. (Use thematic connections to select content.)

- **Strategic Action 4.** Engage the public and research community in park science.
 - **4a.** Develop and participate in a national Citizen Science Association in collaboration with another organization such as the National Association for Interpretation.
 - **4b.** Provide ongoing professional development for RLC education staff on current issues and research regarding effective science education.
 - **4c.** Partner with organizations such as the National Science Teacher's Association, the North American Association for Environmental Education; the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and the Association for the Advancement of Science on teacher training and development of teaching materials.
 - **4d.** Partner with the National Association for Interpretation regarding informal science education, communication, and interpretation.

- **Strategic Action 5:** Assess value and accomplishments of RLCs by developing and implementing a results-based evaluation plan.



Core Actions

- 1a.** Provide base funding for approved but unfunded centers
- 2a.** Establish thematic connections between RLCs, CESUs and I&M Networks
- 3a.** In conjunction with their associated I&M network and CESUs, each RLC will support a national website that serves as a comprehensive source for scientific information on parks' most important resources and management issues. This thematically based site will provide "one-stop" access to information for a variety of audiences from students, to superintendents to research scientists and the public.
- 4a.** Develop and participate in a national Citizen Science Association in collaboration with another organization such as the National Association for Interpretation.

Small Groups

- Strategic Action
- Group Members
- Actions / Next steps
- Schedule
- Who is doing what?
- Report back to group
- Updates on Monthly conference calls

- May form additional groups