Earth to Sky
Interpreting Climate Change Workshop
National Association for Interpretation
Spokane, WA
November 13-15, 2017

SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE

Anita Davis
Lead., Earth to Sky Interagency Partnership
SSAI at Goddard Space Flight Center

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Earth to Sky (ETS) Interpreting Climate Change Workshop in Spokane, WA

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Earth to Sky's Interpreting Climate Change Workshop was held Nov 13-14, 2017. Content focused on climate science basics and linking NASA ABoVE campaign research to the lower 48 states. Communication techniques featured sessions on putting research to practice. Course materials are posted at https://tinyurl.com/ets-nai-2017

NASA ABoVE scientist Laura Prugh (right) chats with participants at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

21 participants gathered together from U.S. and Canada's National Parks, several state parks and NGOs, in a collegial environment to learn and share knowledge and techniques for communicating climate science. A field trip to nearby Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge brought global climate change into focus at the local level.

- Preliminary work included ETS' short videos of NASA scientists describing the carbon cycle and Earth's energy budget, and the ETS tutorial on Earth system science.
- NASA ABoVE scientist Laura Prugh (University of Washington) described effects of climate change on wildlife, illustrated through her research on wildlife and ecosystem responses to rising temperatures.
- On a field trip and tour of Turnbull Wildlife Refuge, participants learned from USFWS staff about the significance of the refuge's unique landscape, the changes seen and expected there, and efforts refuge staff are taking to mitigate and adapt as climate shifts.
- ETS Alumni Matt Holly (National Park Service) and Teresa Cohn and her graduate student Kayla Bordelon (Univ. of Idaho) presented on communication techniques.
- Each participant wrote and presented an outline for using course content in their climate communication efforts with their agencies, communities, youth and tourists.
- 100% of the participants indicated they would recommend this workshop to a colleague; 90% plan to use NASA resources in their work.

Guide dog Barry patiently listens as master William Smith discusses with presenter Kayla Bordelon plans for interpreting climate change at his park.

Anita Davis, NASA GSFC, Lead Earth to Sky Interagency Partnership Anita.L.Davis@nasa.gov