Future Directions

Community engagement, assessment and decision support tools

- Agency and public release and training provided for the Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool (C-FERST) and Tribal-Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability Tool (T-FERST), including integration of Community Cumulative Assessment Tool (CCAT).

- Upgrades and additional data layers to include public health, well-being, environmental modeling
- Training, tools, and best practices will be developed and expanded for Health Impact Assessments (HIA). Additional HIA case studies
- Community engagement and regional support through Regional and Applied Research Efforts (RARE) and Regional Sustainable Environmental Science (RESES).

Environmental drivers of community health and well being

- Evaluate educational methods to help reduce health risks
- Role of Race, ethnicity, neighborhood conditions, and socioeconomic status for environmentally-driven health outcomes (e.g., asthma, cardiovascular disease, diabetes).
- Cumulative risks and impacts such as the impact of diet and obesity, chronic stress, and degraded ecosystems
- NCER Cumulative risk research grants

Improving community health, well-being and exposure assessments

- Rapid, reliable, and inexpensive methods for assessing the bioavailability of metals from contaminated soils and other exposure matrices.
- Health and well-being data acquisition and descriptions such as local and regional level morbidity and mortality rates for environmentally associated health outcomes (birth defects, asthma, cardiovascular disease, diabetes).
- Community vulnerability index for wildfire exposure
- Integrate near-source modeling with community based health assessments
- NCER Healthy Schools RFA

Problem Summary & Decision Context

- Health benefits/impacts resulting from community actions are often not well understood
- Communities need convenient access to high quality tools and information to:
  - Evaluate development choices
  - Define problems
  - Prioritize interventions
  - Identify local environmental issues
  - Find solutions

Utility to Agency?

- Community tools: Tribes and Regions, OEJ, communities
- Benefit/Impact assessment: OW, OAR
- Health Impact Assessment: Regions, communities
- Community engagement: Regions, communities
- Cumulative impact assessment: Regions/NCEA/communities
- Bioavailability: OSWER, Regions, communities

Accomplishments

- Completed Proctor Creek’s Boone Boulevard Green Street Project HIA in collaboration with Region 4
- Region 2/ORD collaboration on urban garden soil study
- Partner and community engagement, feedback and beta testing for C/T FERST
- Cumulative risk assessment
- Key publications on: walkability, health burden of wildfire, bioavailability, community stress, social factors and health (see handout)

Partner Engagement Opportunities

- What are the challenges and needs for cumulative risk assessment? (OPP, OSWER, OAR, RSLs)
- Integrate/collaborate/complement NCER, NCEA cumulative risk research programs agency wide CRA guidelines
- How can Program Offices and Regions utilize decision support tools (OSWER, OEJ, OAR, OW, RSLs)
- How can we partner with programs and regions on updating community assessment tools, and community outreach and engagement?
- What interventions or actions are important to consider for impacts/benefit evaluation (OAR, OSWER, OW, RSLs)
- How can the HIA contribute to or integrate with Program and Regional needs? (RSLs)