

## Interim Report – NPLCC

### **1. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:**

Project Manager: Patrick Edwards

Organization: Portland State University

Project Title: “Using Beaver for Climate Change and Conservation Benefits – the state-of-the-science and workshop dissemination for assessing the stream restoration potential of beaver”

Agreement #: F13AC00451

Report Date: 17 Dec 2014

Report Period: July 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014

**2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:** Recognition of the climate change and conservation benefits of beaver has resulted in a need to consolidate and summarize current techniques for reintroducing beaver, including artificial beaver dam and lodge construction, short-term supplemental food and building supply provision, and riparian planting strategies for long-term beaver food and construction supply. Further, because our collective understanding of how to best address these issues will continue to evolve as additional information is acquired, there is a need to provide outreach and develop a community of practice for scientists, conservationists, and private and public land managers to continually develop information and to share successes and failures of on-ground efforts related to the use of beaver as a climate change and conservation tool. This project will provide the necessary tools to address these needs, and provides a solid foundation for future work.

The specific objectives are as follows:

1. Provide a comprehensive synthesis of the science underpinning beaver recolonization and techniques for successful reintroduction or population expansion, including research gaps, data needs, and implementation recommendations;
2. Provide four beaver reintroduction workshops throughout the NPLCC to disseminate information related to the use of beaver for climate change and conservation purposes, and to ascertain if practitioners and landowners are applying new techniques that are not yet documented in the published or gray literature.

**3. PROGRESS TO DATE:** During the first 15 months of this project, we: (1) convened the beaver research team on at least a monthly basis, (2) conducted a thorough survey of the literature that includes 100s of references, (3) interviewed numerous individuals currently implementing beaver restoration projects in the western United States, (3) visited restoration field sites, (4) compiled an annotated bibliography, (5) wrote and internally reviewed the draft guidebook, (6) developed four case studies, (7) compiled a peer reviewer list of over 40 individuals, (8) developed a draft agenda

for five beaver restoration workshops in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California, (9) conducted outreach regarding the workshops, and (10) established a website to post information for the public regarding beaver restoration.

**4. PROJECT TIMELINE:** The project is mostly on track. The science synthesis is nearly complete and is now in the internal review process. We are planning to give external peer reviewers one month in which to complete their reviews, so the final synthesis report will be complete in June, 2015, rather than in April. The delay is primarily due to the significant amount of feedback and input, and the extensive amount of information that has been compiled. The Juneau workshop has been delayed until April because of weather related travel concerns. All other workshops are scheduled to occur in January and February, 2015.

Action	Date
Start date	July 1, 2013
Project initiation meeting	August, 2013
Objective 1: Science synthesis complete	September, 2014
Objective 2: Workshops	November, 2014 -- March, 2015
Objective 1: Final synthesis report	April, 2015
Close-out meeting	June, 2015

**5. COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH:** We have conducted outreach regarding the upcoming workshops and have posted the information on various social media networks, including a newly established group on LinkedIn. We have also created a USFWS supported webpage where workshop and guidebook material will be posted. Beaver research team members have been providing information to various groups through webinars and teleconferences. We also plan on giving a presentation at the State of the Beaver conference in 2015. We have contacted River Restoration Northwest and have confirmed that we will be providing a short course at their 2016 conference.

6. Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. ... PI". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.