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## North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative

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### Aquatic Connectivity Work Group Call

March 30, 2017

**Attendees:** *Kathleen Compton (EPA), Debbie Hart (SE AK Fish Habitat Partnership), Jennie Hoffman (Adaptation Insights), Jill Hardiman (USGS), Peter Kiffney (NOAA), Mary Mahaffy (NPLCC)*

**Conceptual Model:**

Concern was expressed about the focus of the nested targets only being on “movement” with “movement of species” and “movement of water, sediment, wood, and nutrients”. It is important to include that aquatic connectivity is needed to support sustainable aquatic species populations and food webs. Also in some cases, removal of barriers will allow movement of non-native species which would be detrimental to native species. Need to expand beyond just wood to “organic materials”. The nested targets were changed to the following:

- Movement of water, organic materials, sediment, and nutrients to support functioning ecosystems and native assemblages.
- Maintain access to functional aquatic habitat by native aquatic species and provide access to multiple population sources for sustainability

Within Strategy - Important to link terrestrial-aquatic-nearshore. Working from headwaters to nearshore. The streams reflect the valleys.

Within results chain, need to include monitoring as one of the key activities for both water quantity and water quality. For quantity need to stress having necessary volumes of water – connection with water withdraw policies and regulations. Water quality impacted by mines and new development. Temperature is a key issue (linked to riparian habitat).

Linkages were added between the contributing factors (orange boxes on right) to the direct change agents (pink boxes) – see page 2 with Conceptual Model. Removal of riparian cover was deleted as a pink box because it was already included in the description for “Landscape Conversion: Development, Agriculture, Mining” (see page 3 for note with description included in Miradi).

Recommendations were made to include the following (or some edited version) threat reduction results (purple boxes in Results Chain):

- Infrastructure impacts are eliminated, reduced, or mitigated to preserve connectivity
- Water quantity is maintained through a network of inter-related systems
- Water quality is maintained with changes in land use



