

Final Progress Report: WildLinks 2011

Prepared on December 15, 2011

Grant information

Recipient: Conservation Northwest, 1208 Bay St #201, Bellingham WA 98225

Project title: WildLinks 2011

Agreement Number:

Period of time covered by the report:

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Project summary

In late October 2011, a two day conference was held in Vancouver BC with over 100 attendees. WildLinks 2011 was hosted by Conservation Northwest in close coordination with transboundary partners to increase coordinating across political borders to help species and habitats adapt to a changing climate. The conference combined sharing new information on science and efforts related to climate adaptation for species and ecosystems with hosted breakout groups working hands-on with timely topics. Attendance included representation from government agencies, NGO's, private researchers, universities, foundations, and interested individuals from both sides of the border.

An event summary including links to presentations is available at <http://www.conservationnw.org/what-we-do/wildlife-habitat/wildlinks-2011>

Highlights included:

- Opening remarks by Minister Terry Lake *"It's inspiring for me to see us all coming together in this conference as one community, not just as Canadians and Americans but people that are worried about the natural landscape and the species that inhabit those landscapes."*
- Transboundary wildlife species management and recovery meeting co-hosted by Harriet Allen (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) and Eric Lofroth (Ministry of Environment). The meeting covered important information, and began a transboundary dialogue that has continued into 2012 to further coordination around specific species management and research.
- A break-out session co-hosted by the Great Northern and North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperatives to engage transboundary partners into their work, and gain feedback on issues of priority.
- Presentations on new products to inform management and conservation in light of a changing climate including a sneak preview of BC's Biodiversity Adaptation and Carbon Conservation Priorities Mapping Project.
- Presentations and discussions highlighting where climate science is already informing management and conservation including how the US Forest Service is integrating adaptation science into management on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.
- Discussion facilitated by Databasin to explore landscapes and climate science with their interactive online mapping tools.
- A ½ day meeting of the Skagit International Technical Team hosted by North Cascades National Park in coordination with the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission to discuss priority research and ecosystem management in the high priority transboundary Skagit watershed.

Funding from the North Pacific LCC helped to leverage additional dollars from 444S Foundation, Brainerd Foundation, Seattle City Light, Sierra Club, Sierra Club BC, Tides Canada, Wilburforce Foundation, Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group, and Wildlife Conservation Society. These dollars provided much needed funding to allow for low registration and travel assistance for attendees.

Attachments

- WildLinks 2011 agenda
- Final agenda – LCC session at WildLinks 2011
- Final notes – Datasharing session hosted by Sean Finn of Great Northern LCC
- Attendee List – WildLinks 2011

WildLinks 2011 – Vancouver, BC
North Pacific and Great Northern
Landscape Conservation Cooperative Workshop
October 24, 2011, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Segal Room 1 & 2

Objectives and Agenda

Theme: Shared Conservation through Collaborative Visioning

Objectives:

- Familiarize participants with LCC: National scope and specific goals and strategies of the North Pacific and Great Northern LCCs.
- Focus, via presentations and breakouts, on 3 primary strategies of LCCs in the northwest: Climate Adaptation Strategies, Vulnerability Assessments, and Trans-boundary Habitat Connectivity
- Synthesize what is the work being done, what are the gaps, what is needed in our LCC landscapes
- Summarize science needs from the field, regarding 3 focal strategies

Agenda:

2:00-2:10 – Landscape Conservation: An International Perspective (Eric Lofroth)

2:10-2:20 – North Pacific LCC (Mary Mahaffy)

2:20-2:30 – Great Northern LCC (Sean Finn)

2:30-2:45 – Vulnerability Assessments (Josh Lawler)

2:45-2:50 – Breakout guidance and room set-up (Mary and Sean)

2:50-4:00 – Breakout sessions (small group, flipchart based)

Breakout 1: Vulnerability Assessments

Leader: (Josh Lawler); Note Taker (Sean Finn)

Breakout 2: Climate Adaptation Strategies

Leader: (Lisa Matthaus); Note Taker (Mary Mahaffy)

Breakout 3: Transboundary Habitat Connectivity

Leader: (Joann Schuett-Hames); Note Taker (Jen Watkins)

All breakout groups are to address the following from 2:50 – 4:00 pm (approx. 14 minutes each):

1. What work is being done in PNW? Who is doing analyses, tool development, implementation or research?
2. What information gaps remain?
3. How would you prioritize amongst the needs?
4. How do we facilitate making this happen across borders, across LCCs? How do we expand on what is being done geographically or thematically?
5. How do we make sure we keep this conversation 'beyond the boundaries'?

4:00-4:15 (during break) Breakout Leads and Note Takers summarize breakout results

4:15-5:20: Large group reconvenes:

- Brief reports from breakout teams
- Synthesis of major themes, gap identification
- Address the following questions:
 1. How do we make efforts synthetic across PNW?
 2. How do we prioritize amongst the ongoing efforts and outstanding needs?
 3. Can we define a landscape-scale, unifying conservation framework?
 4. How do we extend this conversation beyond this conference?
- Meta-summarization of outstanding science needs
- Develop plan for future cross-boundary integration and dialog

WildLinks 2011 – Breakout on Data Sharing across Political Boundaries

24 October 2011 – 4:15 – 6:00 pm, Vancouver B.C.

Session Outline

Objective:

Define the needs, hurdles, and opportunities to development of a cross-boundary data sharing and analysis framework.

Scope:

Twentieth Century solutions (i.e., amassing large static data sets in central repositories) are no longer a viable solution. How do we successfully apply 21st Century technologies to our objective? The conversation is about data sharing mechanisms – not issues with the data itself.

Session Ground Rules:

Everyone's input is equally valued.

Respect each speaker: listen and ask clarifying questions.

Cut to the chase.

The group is responsible for the deliverables.

Every issue identified in the workshop will have follow-up.

Only one conversation will go on at once.

Keep jargon to a minimum.

Keep on target, no sidebar conversations.

No idea is bad.

Keep phones and pagers on silent or vibrate mode.

Roles:

Facilitator: Lynn Helbrecht

Recorder: Sean Finn

Note Taker:

Agenda

I. Introductions (10 min) [Sean Finn and Lynn Helbrecht]

II. Objective Refinement & Audience Definition (20 min)

Define Problem Statement:

Do we need to refine the objective?

State the question(s) that our objective answers

What is it that you want to do that you can't do now?

What does our outcome need to do to be successful?

Who should we target? Who do we want to influence?

Policy makers?: i.e., Guidance for policy changes to improve process

Agency/Organizational leadership?: i.e., Best Practices for efficient data sharing

Practitioners?: i.e., Doing the little things (like completing metadata) to expedite data sharing

III. Establish Principles (20 min)

1. Is it agreed that a federated model of accessing current data for cross border analyses is preferred to the status quo of compiling fixed-time data (at times through formal agreements) from various sources?
2. Is it agreed that in order for a federated model to be successful there is a need for consistent data and publication standards/formats?
3. Is it agreed that one or more tools should be identified or developed with the capacity to conduct analyses based on the federated model?
4. What are alternatives to 1-3?

IV. Opportunities (20 Min)

Examples include:

Build on Existing Efforts (List them – allow 1.5 min per effort to describe)

Technologies available

Who else needs to be included?

Funding Sources (ensure 5 min)

V. Hurdles and Roadblocks: what are they and how do we overcome them? (15 min)

Examples include:

Policy constraints

Data proprietorship

Trust

Security concerns/limitations

VI. Wrap Up: Next Steps and Assignments (20 min)

Agreement on basic outline?

Volunteers to flesh out outline (2 persons per section)

Follow up communication