



**Conservation  
Northwest**  
*Keeping the Northwest Wild*

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January 3, 2013

Dear Mary Mahaffy,

Please accept this Interim Progress Report on our grant from the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative. Since being awarded the grant, we hosted our 2012 WildLinks conference that brought together practitioners from Washington and British Columbia while launching the Cascadia Partner Forum. We have signed an agreement with the University of Washington to allow us to exchange funds with Meade Krosby for work on a transboundary climate analysis focused in the early stages on developing transboundary understanding of available existing analyses and data layers, and agreement on methodology for future analyses. Updates on these efforts are below:

### **WildLinks 2012**

This fall, we hosted WildLinks at the North Cascades Institute with a specific focus to move forward dialogue and work sessions on three timely topics: 1) Launch a pilot Cascadia Partner Forum to the North Pacific and Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, 2) Work session for the Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group to further a transboundary analysis, and 3) Define the Transboundary Carnivore Working Group. We had full attendance at the event, and made success in all three topic areas.

Please see attached for a list of registered attendees, and notes from the breakout discussions towards a Cascadia Partner Forum. Additional notes are available from other work sessions upon request, and an official General Technical Report is to be finalized early in 2013 for release by Andrea Lyons.

### **Cascadia Partner Forum**

Following our launch at WildLinks, the Pilot Council for the Cascadia Partner Forum met for a meeting to set up a mission statement and structure for our pilot year. We decided that we would maintain an informal structure in our pilot year with a body of work run by our pilot council, and decisions simply made by consensus. The mission statement of this group is to foster a network of natural resource practitioners working with the LCC's to build the adaptive capacity of the landscape and species living within it from Mount Rainier in Washington to the convergence of the Thompson Plateau and Fraser Valley in British Columbia.

Objectives:

1. To identify and prioritize science and management needs and resources to increase adaptive capacity in the Cascadia landscape;
2. Highlight successes and challenges in implementation of adaptation actions;

3. Facilitate communication to share ideas and expand implementation of adaptive actions including identification of new approaches;
4. Draw attention to this unique landscape.

Three interns have been hired to help synthesize information on four priority issues to the pilot council in our pilot year. These issues are: 1) Connectivity and fragmentation, 2) Water, 3) Iconic Species (to be selected at our January 2013 meeting), and 4) Access Management.

Notes from any of the pilot council meetings are available upon request.

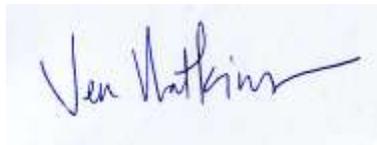
### **Climate Progress Report**

We have completed the following tasks under the objective of assessing tranboundary connectivity conservation needs under climate change:

- Convened a transboundary climate subgroup of government, NGO, and academic partners
- Facilitated Wildlinks breakout discussions with diverse stakeholders to assess transboundary climate-connectivity information needs
- Gathered and summarized relevant models and data layers
- Evaluated the utility of existing models in identifying transboundary climate-connectivity priorities

We truly appreciate your support of these efforts above, and look forward to providing more updates as they move forward. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jen Watkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jen Watkins  
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