



NPLCC INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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- Project Title: Cascadia Transboundary Adaptation Efforts
- USFWS Award: F14AC00556
- Award Period: September 1, 2014 through March 31, 2017
- Award Total: \$27,500 (Original 2014 award for \$9,500 amended with additional funding in 2015)
- Date of Report: December 21, 2015

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

The Cascadia Partner Forum fosters a network of natural resource practitioners working with the Great Northern and North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperatives to build the adaptive capacity of the landscape and species living within it. Funding from the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative supported vital portions of the 2014-2016 work plan of this partnership.

In 2015-2016, the Cascadia Partner Forum aims to continue work to meet our mission to foster a network of natural resource practitioners working with the Great Northern and North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperatives to build the adaptive capacity of the landscape and species living within it. Additionally, we seek to build on the work we have done to date contributing to the science planning of our LCC partners.

We seek to complete, review, and communicate on the work underway on priority issues identified by our partner forum including addressing conservation targets of the Great Northern LCC present in Cascadia such as wolverine, grizzly bear, salmon, aquatic connectivity, and terrestrial connectivity. Each of these issues spans both sides of the Cascades crest, touching on important conservation planning to inform both the Great Northern and North Pacific LCC's. We seek to build our data library content and utilization by partners in conservation planning in both our publicly viewable Cascadia Partner Forum Working Space within the North Pacific LCC Conservation Atlas on Databasin, and the private LCMAP portal for layers that require special permission to utilize.

In continuing to identify opportunities for applying existing science and gaps in information necessary to further climate adaptation actions within Cascadia, we will initiate a living inventory of timely management decisions by land and resource managers throughout Cascadia. We will first prioritize those in the North Pacific LCC portion of our Cascadia geography to contribute the NPLCC Science and TEK Strategy dialogue underway to set objectives and metrics including an objective to "Identify decision-relevant information needs associated with understanding how

changes in [stressor] will affect [resource]” addressing the list of information identified by their metrics to evaluate for each decision.

Finally, our work on priority issues to date has led to recognition of the importance to also coordinate with our network on spatial priorities throughout Cascadia. Organizations throughout Cascadia prioritize landscapes for a wide variety of reasons all the time. This prioritization can focus investments, foster coordination amongst partners, and/or highlight an area of importance.

Organizations throughout Cascadia prioritize landscapes for a wide variety of reasons all the time. Places that are selected for this higher ranking can be permanent (i.e. wilderness designations) or temporary (i.e. priority watersheds where investments are focused for a duration of time in hopes of achieving a specific goal). Additionally, scientific analyses in recent years have informed our understanding of priority landscapes vital to increasing our ecosystems and species ability to adapt to predicted changes in climate. In the coming year our partner forum sees a clear need to lead a Cascadia-wide effort to do two things:

1. Identify and inventory existing spatial priority landscapes for natural resource conservation and management in Cascadia. It is important to be aware of existing spatial priority landscapes identified by different entities throughout Cascadia. In understanding where these places are, why they are highlighted, and what the goals are within the landscape our hope is that in many cases this awareness can lead to increased coordination and resources towards efforts to strengthen resilience in these special places.
2. Review and synthesize existing relevant climate science analyses within or overlapping Cascadia to identify spatial priorities for climate adaptation. To provide focus in scope to this process we will prioritize this review to spatial priorities identified in existing climate adaptation strategies, and review of climate science relevant to the priority issues and conservation targets addressed by the partner forum to date.

As we address this issue, we will share links to information on those existing spatial priorities that we inventory through this website and relevant data layers in our Cascadia Partner Forum Working Group within the North Pacific LCC’s Conservation Atlas on Databasin.

In completing this work, we will again use our annual WildLinks gathering to bring many of our transboundary practitioners together in person to share information and foster dialogue towards fulfilling this workload. We’ll also use that time to identify emerging opportunities and needs from Cascadia that inform our work. Outside of this event we will continue to rely on smaller in-person meetings, webinars, working groups, and a team of fellows to fulfill our workload.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Our December 2014 Interim Report summarized work funded through 2014, so this report will build upon that report with an update on work completed since that time in 2015.

With the support of NPLCC funding, our partner forum hired two fellows this year: Brent DeWolf and Daniel Hertel. Brent, based out of British Columbia, led a literature review and series of interviews with Cascadia experts a transboundary science plan for grizzly bear as well as drafting a methodology along with data layers for an access management analysis of the full transboundary North Cascades grizzly bear recovery region. Daniel, based out of Bellingham, supported the partner forums work to inventory existing spatial priority analyses and identify spatial priorities of

our network. Daniel's work added to the Cascadia Partner Forum's data catalog in our working group space on Databasin in the NPLCC's Conservation Atlas, and produced a new draft set of spatial layers for review by our network reflecting their feedback on spatial priorities throughout Cascadia.

Our partner forum hosted our annual WildLinks gathering October 28-30, 2015 at Manning Park Resort to bring together the diverse pool of practitioners working throughout Cascadia to create a more resilient landscape for species and ecosystems today and into the future. The objectives of the meeting were:

- Sharing information on current and planned adaptation related efforts in the transboundary region to increase coordination and involvement, while providing opportunities to further such efforts;
- Providing local context and expertise for North Pacific and Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperatives' regional planning efforts;
- Providing updates on, and increase coordination of transboundary science planning for conservation targets selected last year by the Cascadia Partner Forum as priority issues: Salmon, Grizzly Bear, and Ecological Connectivity and recent investments in access management planning in Cascadia's geographic priority areas;
- Contributing a "Made in Cascadia" perspective to LCC regional science planning for two new priority conservation targets for 2015-2016: Canada lynx and bull trout;
- Identifying spatial priority areas in Cascadia that are vital for species and ecosystem resilience to climate related changes and broad criteria for building on those priority geographies;
- Continuing to build a network of practitioners whose work includes climate related adaptation and resilience in the Cascadia region.

More information on the event can be found at <http://cascadiapartnerforum.org/wildlinks-2015>

Prior to *WildLinks*, we agreed to hire Meade Krosby of the University of Washington to lead a discussion with climate experts in Cascadia on a process and methodologies for identifying spatial priorities in light of climate change. She presented an introduction at our WildLinks conference to our larger network inviting them into the dialogue and laying out the suite of options for looking at setting priorities through the lens of climate change in this ecosystem.

We have initiated a spreadsheet to "Identify decision-relevant information needs associated with understanding how changes in [stressor] will affect [resource]" addressing the list of information identified by their metrics to evaluate for each decision. During summer 2015, a fellow reached out via phone and email to resource managers throughout Cascadia to begin populating this spreadsheet. Her work identified the revision of the Northwest Forest Plan as a key upcoming regional opportunity, while also revealing that additional work is needed in 2016 to explain this need to partners to better identify decisions.

Finally we engaged in discussions with Environment Canada staff, initiated through introductions by NPLCC staff, to coordinate on 1-2 meetings between Washington and British Columbia around the issue of data (sharing, coordination, gaps, challenges, opportunities, needs).

PROJECT TIMELINE: We are on schedule to complete all tasks within this grant period.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH: Our Cascadia Partner Forum has maintained a quarterly e-newsletter managed through MailChimp, while maintaining our website as a place for any interested parties to gain information on our work as well as a data working group on Databasin. We added a new video to our Voices of Cascadia project, <http://cascadiapartnerforum.org/voices-of-cascadia>. A full list of attendees of our 2015 WildLinks conference is included as an attachment to this report.

SIGNATURE:

This signature is to certify the submittal of this report:

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