

Proposal submitted to the NPLCC on January 23, 2014

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Integrating Climate Change into Washington's State Wildlife Action Plan Revision

Purpose and Need

Current funding from USFWS (SWG and SWG competitive) is not sufficient to conduct the research and analysis necessary to fully integrate climate change into the State Wildlife Action Plan. Existing SWG funding has been focused on implementation of species and habitat conservation activities and our competitive SWG grant has been focused on species range mapping and ranking habitat of greatest conservation need through the NatureServe methodology. While we have directed significant agency resources towards the SWAP revision, we don't have capacity for the work described herein. Fully integrating climate change data and research into the SWAP, instead of for example, adding a separate climate chapter, represents a significant body of work. The intent of this project is to ask the "so what" questions. How should our conservation priorities shift because of what we are learning about climate change through vulnerability assessments and other research projects? How can we select priorities to address species recovery needs, which will also create resilience to expected climate change impacts? How should the climate sensitivity of habitats affect our management of the species within them? These questions require a deeper look into existing research, and staff expertise and time to conduct appropriate analyses.

Summary of Work to be Performed

WDFW will use funds provided by the NPLCC to integrate climate change impacts and implications into our State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) Revision. We will secure appropriate expertise to review existing research and tools, including products prepared as part of the Pacific Northwest Vulnerability Assessment, and extract and apply information that is relevant to specific components of our SWAP. Our intent is to integrate climate change throughout the SWAP Revision. As described in the preceding section, our goal for the SWAP is to evaluate climate change threats and actions not as a stand-alone concept but in the context of existing stressors and conservation challenges.

Tasks and Deliverables

WDFW will complete the following products:

1. Integrate Climate Change into Species Specific Information

- A. Research existing data sources and add species specific information on climate sensitivity to fact sheets for Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Fact sheets will include data on conservation status and concern, distribution and abundance, key threats and conservation actions needed. Climate sensitivity data will be added for all species for which data can be found, within the timeframe of this project. For those for which climate sensitivity has not been assessed or data is not easily accessible, we will make observations about the sensitivity of the habitats necessary to that SGCN, to the extent that information can be accessed. We currently have 265 animals on our SGCN list.
- B. Include where possible, actions which could help to address a species exposure or sensitivity to climate. For other identified conservation actions (not focused on climate), we will highlight those which may also provide a climate benefit. This analysis will provide important information to managers in determining priorities and identifying actions and conservation investments which can secure longterm benefits.
- C. Identify a subset of species highly sensitive to climate in a "Climate Watch List". For each species on this list (anticipated to be 15-30 animals), we will provide a summary of sensitivity of the species

and its primary habitat and outline potential monitoring opportunities to better assess climate impacts over time. The intent of this section is to illustrate how climate will affect species and habitats over time, as well as provide a “top tier” of climate sensitive species. Over time, this list could be used on our climate change website or as a focus citizen science projects.

2. Integrate Climate Change into Habitat Evaluation

- A. Research existing data sources and provide a discussion of climate sensitivity for each of the 18 major habitats reviewed in the SWAP, and outline possible adaptation actions to help mitigate projected impacts.
- B. Similar to #1, B above, highlight which non-climate related proposed actions will also have potential climate benefits, as a tool for helping managers determine priority and identify where we can achieve longterm benefits from conservation investments.

3. Summarize Methodology and Findings

- A. In addition to integration into the SWAP, we will prepare a separate short document which summarizes the approach to integrate climate change data into the State Wildlife Action Plan, as well as key findings related to the content (estimated length 5-10 pages). We will also highlight what we learned during the project and identify possible improvements for integrating climate change into planning processes for species and habitat conservation.
- B. We will prepare powerpoint materials and in collaboration with NPLCC staff, seek out a minimum of 3-5 opportunities to share findings from the project to NPLCC and broader LCC network.

Timeframe

Tasks are scheduled to be completed by December 31st, 2015. The SWAP Revision itself is due October 1st, 2015, but we anticipate opportunities after this date to profile the climate change integration products to relevant organizations throughout the NPLCC region and to the overall LCC Network.

Budget

Our budget assumes that as pass through funds to subcontracts, we will not need to charge overhead. The breakdown is as follows:

Task 1:	Species specific research and integration	12,000
Task 2:	Habitat evaluation – research and integration	10,000
Task 3:	Summarize and share methodology and findings	2,500
	TOTAL	\$24,500