

Decision Analysis Framing Workshop for the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Draft Goals and Agenda

The broad purpose of the framing workshop planned for October 4-6, 2011 is to define the framework used to make decisions for the North Pacific (NP) LCC, and to begin identifying the applied science most needed to support decision important to land and resource managers and to other stakeholders. Having a framework will provide a basis for logically evaluating and prioritizing the science needs for the LCC partnership, and for developing a broader strategy for implementation of the LCC's support, funding and coordination roles. The first two days of the workshop will focus on these issues.

After gaining better understanding and alignment on the scope, goals and objectives of the LCC partnership, and on the range of science activities that are likely to be considered relevant through the structured discussions, the third half-day will turn back to some of the fundamental organizational questions and issues that have been raised in previous discussions and interactions. This will include discussion of LCC boundaries, structure and governance, Steering Committee membership, and operating procedures. A draft of proposed operating procedures is being prepared and will be shared with the committee prior to the workshop.

Goals

There are three primary goals of the framing workshop:

1. **To establish a clear framework for understanding and communicating the LCC's decision support function**, by clarifying the types of conservation and resource management decisions that will be made by LCC partner agencies/entities, and the management objectives of those agencies and entities. Clear articulation of this framework will help scientists and resource managers identify the most relevant science needed to inform those decisions and can be used to guide LCC priorities towards the areas of most benefit to the partner agencies and entities.
2. **To review, discuss, and highlight the current state of knowledge** about critical scientific uncertainties that affect the ability of LCC partner agencies / entities to understand and predict conservation outcomes of interest to them over the next 10-25 years (and/or for longer timeframes).
3. **To initiate, continue, and enhance discussions of LCC organization, objectives, and priorities**, and to define and explore alternative strategies for achieving LCC goals. Here the focus of discussion changes from clarifying the goals and needs of the partner agencies to developing and understanding different approaches that the LCC can take to maximize the benefits of the science that it supports, coordinates and funds.

A secondary goal of the workshop discussions is to identify opportunities and approaches for supplementing and enhancing the workshop results. For example, it may be useful and beneficial to obtain input from additional stakeholders on the overall framework; there are several opportunities this next year for the LCC partners to participate in various policy and science related workshops which could lead to additional insights on the relevant science questions; and the overall framework developed during the workshop will provide a solid foundation for the development of a more structured LCC science plan and a process for prioritizing future LCC work.

Participants

The NPLCC Steering Committee members will participate in the workshop, acting both as representatives of agencies with responsibility for on-the-ground conservation decision-making (e.g. as “users” for LCC-supported science) and in their capacity as Steering Committee members with responsibility for guiding that LCC-supported science.

Pre-meeting work

In early September, there will be pre-workshop teleconference and web presentation (webinar) to provide background information and discuss the workshop process. Calls will be scheduled on two or three different days to allow for limited schedules, but you will only need to join one of the calls. To maximize the efficiency of the workshop, we will distribute a short set of notes during or after the webinar, highlighting questions that participants should come prepared to discuss at the workshop.

Draft Agenda

October 4

Time	Topic	Objective / anticipated output
9:00 – 10:00	Introduction to workshop & participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPLCC Overview, Goals of the meeting, DA Process, Steps, and Tools Participant Introductions 	Shared understanding of and commitment to the workshop goals and process
10:00 – 10:45	Identify NPLCC science users: land and resource managers, other decision-makers who affect natural resources, those who have a stake in the outcome of such decisions, etc.	List (categorized) of the decision-makers and stakeholders the LCC will support
10:45 – 11:00	Break	

11:00 – 12:00	Identify resource management decisions and decision types that LCC science may support	List of the major types of landscape-level land and resource management decisions that are being / will be made by the LCC partners and other users
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:15	Identify resource management objectives or outcomes of interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: these are the objectives of the <i>users</i> of LCC science, <i>not</i> the objectives of the NPLCC itself. 	List and/or hierarchy of broad management objectives that are of interest to multiple partners. Note that this hierarchy will provide guidance over the long run for what type of information LCC-supported science should ultimately aim to produce.
2:15 – 2:30	Break (Facilitators will organize the identified objectives)	
2:30 – 2:45	Review and reorganize objectives as necessary; identify objectives / outcomes that will be of interest to multiple agencies and NPLCC customers.	
2:45 – 4:45	<i>In subgroups</i> Begin to define lower tier “sub-objectives” or more specific attributes corresponding to the identified management objective. Aim to identified quantities that could potentially be measured, monitored and/or modeled that provide indicators of ecosystem changes and could be used to estimate how well resource management objectives are being met	Preliminary list of sub-objectives or attributes for each of the broad management objectives. (This will likely evolve over time, but it will be beneficial to have a preliminary list as part of this workshop)
4:45 – 5:00	Wrap up and set up for next morning’s discussion.	

October 5

Time	Topic	Objective / anticipated output
8:00 – 8:30	Review frame developed in Day 1. Finalize identification of a manageable set of objectives that can adequately measure ecosystem change / response and that are of interest to multiple end-users	Agreement on the framing elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Whose” decisions the NPLCC aims to support; What types of decisions; and what outcomes of most interest.
8:30 – 9:30	Introduction to major climate change and other ecological stressors and their anticipated impacts in the NPLCC region	Shared understanding of some of the major stressors and concerns, and the current state of knowledge about those topics

9:30 – 9:40	Break	
9:40 – noon with one 10 minute break	Develop (or review and modify) example conceptual model(s) illustrating the connections between climate change, land and resource management decisions, and outcomes of interest.	Illustrative model(s) highlighting potential information needs; discussion / insights into how this framework could be used to prioritize future work
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
Note: For the rest of the day, the discussion will refocus on decisions that will be made by the LCC itself in fulfilling its science coordination and oversight roles.		
1:00 – 1:30	Re-introduction: NPLCC decisions; science planning questions and portfolio concepts	
1:30 – 3:55 (with one 10- minute break)	Repeat framing steps with the changed focus: What types of decisions does the NPLCC / Steering committee make, and what are their objectives? Additional focus on science planning decisions and objectives, and issues of balancing across objectives (e.g., breadth versus depth of science projects supported; short-term versus long-term investments, etc)	List of the NPLCC decision and high-level objectives (how do we measure the success of the NPLCC?) List of the kinds of science planning decisions that will be / may be made by the LCC and objectives that a “good” science plan would achieve.
3:55 – 4:05	Break	
4:05 – 4:45	Discuss next steps for gathering additional information on science needs necessary for formulating a science strategy / plan	
4:45- 5:00	Wrap-up discussions	

October 6

Time	Topic	Objective / anticipated output
8:00 – 8:30	Review, comments, suggestions based on previous two days discussions	
8:30 – 9:00	Discussion: Steering Committee decision-making processes	Agreement on a(n interim) process for making decisions as a committee
9:00 – 10:00	Discussion: Scope of the NPLCC and approaches for organizing / structuring. Discussion of boundaries, subregions,	Agreement on structure

	and potential organizational structure based on LCC structure.	
10:00 – 10:15	Break	
10:15 – 10:45	Organizational and governance processes for the NPLCC Steering Committee (and potential subcommittees)	Agreement on (interim) processes
10:45 – 11:45	Discussion: Steering Committee membership. Who/what organizations would provide a good representation of the NPLCC partners and other users would add to the ability of the Steering Committee to meet its objectives?	Agreement on whether or not to expand or change the membership of the Steering Committee; identification of candidate organizations or individuals who might be added OR (if committee remains as is) identification of outreach approaches to gain insight and input from other decision-makers and stakeholders.
11:45 – 12:00	Final comments (if any)	
12:00	Adjourn	