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## *North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative*

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*Steering Committee Meeting Summary  
October 4, 2012*

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### *Welcome and Introductions*

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Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues facilitator, welcomed everyone to the internet meeting. Penny discussed how to use My Meeting technology and had everyone test out the raise hand and chat functions.

Penny reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives:

- Review and discuss the draft Science/Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S/TEK) Strategy.
- Preview updates to the new NPLCC website.
- Advance the Partnership/Liaison Subcommittee
- Learn about how NPLCC partners are addressing climate science and management.

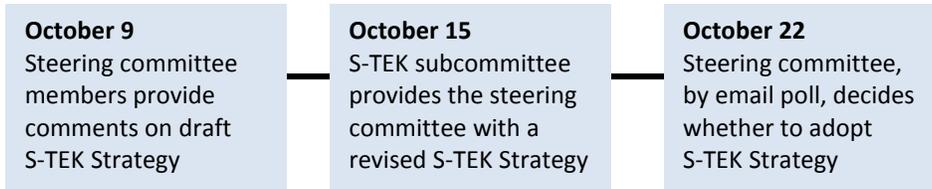
Penny indicated that no edits were received on the August 29-30 steering committee meeting summary. One steering committee member commented that the summary did not fully capture a discussion on the importance of using social science in the NPLCC Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S-TEK) Strategy. The committee approved the meeting summary, requesting that the social science conversation be included. Steering committee members also:

- Requested to have the presentations from the August 29-30 meeting posted.
- Noted that Fire Science Consortia are another model for information transfer between scientists and managers that the NPLCC should review.

## *Draft Science/Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S-TEK) Strategy*

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Frank Shipley, US Geological Survey and S-TEK Subcommittee Chair, gave a presentation on the draft S-TEK Strategy (Attachment 1). Frank explained the proposed timeline for review and adoption of the S-TEK Strategy:



He indicated that the S-TEK subcommittee recommends the steering committee adopt the strategy as soon as possible so annual planning could begin for 2013. Frank noted that the purpose of this discussion was to receive feedback on the draft strategy and ensure everyone understands the proposed guiding principles and priority topics. Lastly, he explained that the S-TEK subcommittee also created a technical supplement that provides details on the method used to develop the strategy.

Karen Jenni, Insight Designs, gave a brief overview of how the S-TEK Strategy was developed. She noted that initially a list of over 100 topics was developed. These topics ranged from specific projects to information needs. Thus, the S-TEK subcommittee decided to separate guiding principles that captured the NPLCC's high level values from specific science topics. The science topics were evaluated in two ways (see page 9 of draft S-TEK Strategy for more details):

- 1) An impacts matrix was created using climate-related drivers and valued resources. Subcommittee members scored options in the matrix, narrowing the topics into a short list of 22 topics.
- 2) Evaluation criteria and balancing factors, such as how big the information gap is, were used to rank the 22 topics down to five priority topics.

Mary Mahaffy, NPLCC Science Coordinator, provided additional details on the selected five priority topics. She noted that a sixth priority topic, biodiversity and biological communities, was so crosscutting that it was incorporated into the descriptions of the five topics and not included as a separate topic.

- **Topic A.** Effects of hydrologic regime shifts on rivers, streams, and riparian corridors
- **Topic B.** Effects of change in air temperature and precipitation on Forests
- **Topic C.** Effects of changes in sea levels and storms on marine shorelines, the nearshore and estuaries
- **Topic D.** Effects of the changes in the hydrologic regime on anadromous fish
- **Topic E.** Invasive species, diseases, pests and their effects on biological communities

Mary then presented the draft guiding principles the NPLCC could use in developing annual implementation plans:

- **Principle A.** Focus on helping managers understand the availability and effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation response actions
- **Principle B.** Focus on facilitating coordination, collaboration, and capacity building, and on developing or assisting with tools to assist decision-makers

- **Principle C.** Identify and promote opportunities to use TEK to inform partner and stakeholder decisions
- **Principle D.** Promote and facilitate consideration of the connections and interactions between ecosystems

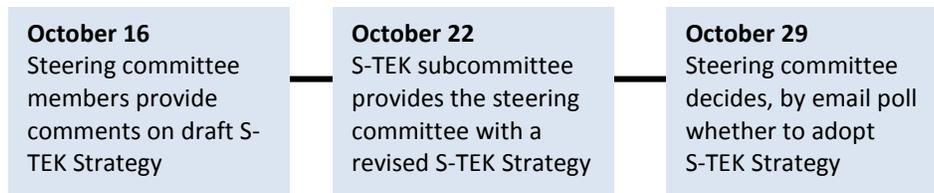
### Steering Committee Discussion

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The following are the key points noted during the steering committee discussion:

- An additional guiding principle should be added that clearly articulates the NPLCC's focus on climate stressors.
- One steering committee member asked how the topics and principles will relate to each other. Mary and Frank explained that the principles provide an idea of potential activities that could be applied to the priority topics. They indicated that Figure 5 on page 18 of the draft S-TEK Strategy provides a table that indicates potential activities for the priority topics.
- The steering committee liked the level of detail included in the draft S-TEK Strategy. It provided the right balance of technical information without excluding managers. Additionally, it was noted that the layout was very well done.
- One steering committee member was pleased that the NPLCC is focused on providing information to managers as well as working to generate new information.
- One steering committee member indicated the S-TEK Strategy should express that TEK is the property of tribes and the individuals that provide it. Additionally, there needs to be an established process for how TEK will be shared and government-to-government consent needs to be in place.
- One steering committee member asked how resiliency was incorporated into the guiding principles. Mary responded that language could be added under Principle A to include resiliency. Karen also pointed out that resiliency can be included as a potential activity to focus on in annual planning.
- The steering committee discussed the "Management Importance to LCC" sections included for each priority topic. The committee identified multiple times when language in these sections discusses "resource damage" but never identifies specific resources. Additionally, language indicating the impact of climate change on communities is not present. The committee proceeded to discuss what type of resources should be included (e.g., natural, cultural, communities, infrastructure, etc.). John Mankowski, NPLCC Coordinator, said that it is useful to acknowledge all the types of resources climate change impacts. However, when identifying projects to fund, the NPLCC focuses on natural and cultural resources. The steering committee agreed with John's framing and asked that the S-TEK Strategy acknowledge broader impacted resources while confirming that the NPLCC focuses on natural and cultural resources.
- The steering committee discussed whether the draft S-TEK Strategy could provide guidance for the next four years. One committee member was concerned whether the strategy was too broad, which could cause the NPLCC not to be strategic. Mary explained that the steering committee will be able to review and approve all annual implementation plans and that they can work to ensure these plans are focused.

- One steering committee member asked whether there is a process to amend or revise the S-TEK Strategy once it is adopted. Mary explained that page 18 of the draft S-TEK Strategy discusses revisions and updates.
- Several steering committee members were concerned with the proposed review and adoption timeline. They felt there was not enough time to take the draft S-TEK Strategy to their constituents and get comment and input from them. Mary and John indicated that they are sensitive to the short schedule, but that the NPLCC is trying to have an annual implementation plan for 2013 ready so that the Climate Science Centers can use it in their planning. The committee recognized the need to move forward quickly with the S-TEK Strategy but were concerned with allowing enough time for tribes and others to provide comments. Mary noted that the S-TEK Strategy’s revision and update section includes language that recognizes the need for additional input from Tribes and First Nations. The committee agreed to push out the proposed timeline by a week, making the schedule:



- One steering committee member noted that the difficulty of getting tribal comments on the draft S-TEK Strategy highlights the need to establish the Tribal/First Nations Committee.

### Partnership Liaison Subcommittee

John Mankowski discussed that the NPLCC’s mission emphasizes the need to engage partnerships to be successful (Attachment 2). The NPLCC Charter identifies a Partnership Liaison subcommittee which “will consist of an array of the interested partners, agencies and organizations that are working on conservation and sustainable resource management on a large scale within the NPLCC area.” John highlighted the responsibilities of the subcommittee including a role of interacting with NPLCC partners in order to identify their priorities and to encourage them to use the products and tools developed by the NPLCC.

John noted that in order to develop the 10-year strategic plan for the NPLCC, a Partnership Liaison Strategy needs to be created. He recommended that a few steering committee members work with NPLCC staff and EnviroIssues to draft a strategy and assess potential partners for the steering committee to review.

### Steering Committee Discussion

The following are the key points noted during the steering committee discussion:

- Several steering committee members remarked that there is a close relationship between the Partnership Liaison and the Communications and Outreach (COR) subcommittees. They suggested looking into how these two subcommittees could collaborate in the future. John explained that he envisioned that the COR subcommittee would identify communications audiences, objectives, tools, and performance measures. Then the Partnership Liaison subcommittee would implement the Communications Strategy.

The steering committee approved the recommended path forward and assigned the following members to participate in the process: Chris Tunnoch, British Columbia, and Sue Rodman, State of Alaska.

### *Partner Highlight – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

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James Partain, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Regional Climate), gave a presentation on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the work they do in Alaska on climate change (Attachment 3). James highlighted that NOAA is within the Department of Commerce and is made up of six line organizations. NOAA's mission is to be a science-based service organization that uses science to help make social and economic decisions. James highlighted various NOAA products that are used to understand weather and climate, including:

- 6-10 day outlooks
- 30-day forecast (seasonal outlooks)
- [www.climate.gov](http://www.climate.gov)
- Drought monitor

The steering committee thanked James for his presentation.

### *US Fish and Wildlife Service – Surrogate Species*

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Paul Heimowitz, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), gave a presentation on the USFWS's Surrogate Species draft guidance review process (Attachment 4). Paul provided a short policy overview of the initiative (additional information on the initiative can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/landscape-conservation/draft-guidance.html>). He explained that USFWS is looking to use strategies to maximize the benefits of site specific approaches on a landscape scale. He also discussed how surrogate species are different from priority species.

Currently, the USFWS has put out draft guidance on surrogate species for review. The first period of comments ends on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Paul also highlighted connections between the draft guidance and the NPLCC. Lastly, he highlighted the value of NPLCC steering committee members' thoughts and comments on the draft guidance. He indicated that comments could be provided online through the USFWS website (<http://www.fws.gov/landscape-conservation/public-comments.cfm>) or through the mail.

The steering committee thanked Paul for his presentation and asked him the following questions:

How is the USFWS handling the difference between surrogate species and other similar terms such as indicator or keystone species?

*The draft guidance defined surrogate species broadly and identified 18 categories of surrogate species. Indicator and keystone species are included in these categories. An initial step will be to identify which type of surrogate species we are focusing on. This could be different by USFWS region and will be decided when implementing the guidance.*

One steering committee member asked Paul if the USFWS could provide a briefing to the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission on the draft guidance.

## Next Steps

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### Topics and Location for December 5-6 Meeting

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John Mankowski reminded the committee that the next steering committee meeting is December 5-6. John investigated several location options and their travel costs. The steering committee decided to have the meeting in Sacramento, CA. John noted that he will work on developing a list of topics for the meeting and vet them with the steering committee co-chairs.

### Follow Up & Action Items

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Penny Mabie identified the following action items from the meeting:

- Update August meeting summary with richer discussion on social science (EnvirolIssues)
- Steering Committee members will provide comments on the draft S-TEK Strategy to John and Mary by October 16
- Add an agenda item for the next steering committee meeting to discuss operating procedures for review of major documents and products (EnvirolIssues, NPLCC staff)
- NPLCC staff, EnvirolIssues, Chris Tunnoch, and Sue Rodman will meet to discuss developing a Partnership Liaison Strategy
- Provide presentations from August steering committee meeting (NPLCC staff)
- Offline discussion with NPLCC staff and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission on S-TEK Strategy and USFWS Surrogate Species (NPLCC staff/Paul Heimowitz)
- Develop agenda topics for the December meeting (NPLCC staff and co-chairs)

### Closing Remarks

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John Mankowski thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned.

### Attachments

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Attachment 1: S-TEK Strategy

Attachment 2: Partnership Liaison Subcommittee

Attachment 3: NOAA Briefing

Attachment 4: Surrogate Species

### Attendees

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#### Steering Committee Members and Alternates

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Whitney Albright	State of California
Rory Annett	British Columbia – <i>Steering Committee Co-Chair</i>
Paul Brewster	US Forest Service (PNW Research Station - Alaska) – <i>Steering Committee Co-Chair</i>
Peter Dederich	National Park Service (Seattle)
Bruce Duncan	Environmental Protection Agency (Pacific Northwest Region)
Preston Hardison	Tribes/First Nations (Washington)
Sono Hashisaki	Tribes/First Nations (Washington)
Lynn Helbrecht	State of Washington
Joe Hostler	Tribes/First Nations (California)

Richard Kearney	US Fish and Wildlife Service (Pacific SW Region)
Steve Klosiewski	US Fish and Wildlife Service (Alaska Region)
Madeline Maley	British Columbia
James Partain	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Regional Climate)
Sue Rodman	State of Alaska
Mike Roy	US Fish and Wildlife Service (Pacific Region)
Tasha Sargent	Pacific Coast Joint Venture (Canada)
Frank Shipley	US Geological Survey (Pacific Northwest)
Barry Thom	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Fisheries)
Lyman Thorsteinson	US Geological Survey (Alaska)
Mike Tranel	National Park Service (Alaska)
Terry Williams	Tribes/First Nations (Washington)

#### Others in Attendance

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Gustavo Bisbal	Northwest Climate Science Center
Stephen Gray	Alaska Climate Science Center
Paul Heimowitz	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Karen Jenni	Insight Decisions
Mike Goldstein	Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center
John Mankowski	NPLCC Coordinator
Mary Mahaffy	NPLCC Science Coordinator
Penny Mabie	Envirolssues
Daniel Brody	Envirolssues

#### Steering Committee Members Absent and Not Represented by an Alternate

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David Redhorse	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Jim Fincher	Bureau of Land Management (Anchorage)
Mark Johnson	Bureau of Land Management (Portland)
Tom Dwyer	Pacific Coast Joint Venture (US)
Brett Brownscombe	State of Oregon
Leilani Knight	Tribes/First Nations (Alaska)
Jeff Walter	US Forest Service (Pacific Northwest Region)
John Laurence	US Forest Service (PNW Research Station – NW)
Mike Strobel	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (National Water/Climate Center)
Bruce Newton	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (West Region)