



North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Steering Committee **Draft** Meeting Summary
Webinar
February 19, 2014

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Welcome and Introductions

Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues facilitator, welcomed everyone to the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC) Steering Committee (the Committee) Internet meeting.

Rory Annett and Lyman Thorsteinson, NPLCC Co-Chairs, welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed their gratitude for everyone's continued participation. John Mankowski, NPLCC Coordinator, added that 2014 will be an exciting year to be involved in the NPLCC. Staff plan to focus on demonstrating the LCC's value to partners in 2014.

Penny reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives:

- Review Project Accountability plan; discuss Request for Proposals response ; and approve a process for inviting 2014 S-TEK project full proposals
- Review progress and provide input on the implementation of the Partnership Engagement strategy and 2014 priorities for the Communications and Outreach strategy

Science/TEK Strategy Update

Frank Shipley, US Geological Survey (Pacific Northwest) and S/TEK Subcommittee Chair, said the Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S/TEK) Subcommittee has been discussing accountability and the relevance of their work. Since 2011, the NPLCC has funded about 30 projects. Some of these projects are

beginning to produce results. As the Subcommittee has considered project results, it became clear they needed to discuss program accountability and relevance. In their discussions, the Subcommittee decided to draft a document outlining project management and accountability practices. Frank gave a brief overview of the contents of the draft document, including:

- Identification of project priorities
- Award of projects
- Project implementation
- Project review
- Delivery of project outcomes

He explained that the Steering Committee would be presented with a draft soon for adoption at their April meeting.

Frank remarked that underlying the discussion on accountability, the Subcommittee realized there is a need to ensure the products of funded projects are relevant to management decisions. If projects are not relevant to on-the-ground activities and management then the NPLCC is not fulfilling its objectives. The idea of relevancy is rather intangible. One way to increase relevance is ensure project results are shared and communicated to the correct networks and people. However, ensuring relevance is considered at the beginning of the project is also important. Frank shared the following ideas the Subcommittee brainstormed to begin working on relevancy:

- Develop metrics of success to look at relevancy
- Review lessons learned across the LCC Network related to relevancy to see what the NPLCC could draw on
- What is the best role of TEK and the issues around sharing TEK
- Identify potential ways to link relevance to funding
- Link project proposals to management needs from the beginning
- Involve the Communications and Outreach Subcommittee to enhance relevance

Mary Mahaffy, NPLCC Science Coordinator, gave a presentation on progress in selecting projects for funding in 2014. Mary reviewed the S/TEK Strategy and Implementation Plan. She explained that in 2014 there were five focus activities:

1. Augment, integrate, and share existing S/TEK data and information
2. Align and coordinate the delivery of S/TEK with decision-maker needs
3. Identify S/TEK information necessary to support large-scale planning and management efforts
4. Incorporate climate information into line management activities
5. Joint support for partner-initiated projects

The S/TEK Subcommittee decided to release three RFPs (Request for Proposals), one for Focused Activity 2 and two for Focused Activity 4. For Focused Activity 2, the NPLCC is interested in projects on how scientists present information to managers. A number of pre-proposals were submitted and the S/TEK has recommended several to submit full proposals. For Focused Activity 3, there is no planned activity currently; however, once the NPLCC receives its budget, there could be additional recommendations in this activity. For Focused Activity 4, pre-proposals were collected relating to helping managers

incorporate climate change in their decision-making. For Focused Activity 5, there is no planned activity at this point, but Mary will work to identify if there are any projects to work collaboratively with other entities.

The Subcommittee collected pre-proposals for the two RFPs that were released. The pre-proposals focused on:

- Action 2.5 – Synthesize information on existing work related to species, ecosystem or ecosystem service/characteristic in different geographic locations to inform common factors affecting that resource across a broader geography and issues that may be unique to that one geography. *(Priority Topics: B, C or E)*
- Action 4.2 – Assist with incorporating climate change information into habitat restoration, adaptation or enhancement *(Priority Topics: B or E)*
- Action 4.4 – Assist with incorporating climate change information into natural resource management through linking actions to key climate impacts, vulnerabilities or adaptation options. *(Priority Topics: Any)*

A total of 60 pre-proposals were received on these actions, the table below summarizes information about the pre-proposals.

Action	2.5	4.2	4.4	Total
# Pre-proposals	19	19	22	60
<i>Distribution</i>				
NPLCC	4	1	1	6
AK	3	1	3	7
BC	4	5	9	18
WA	6	6	8	20
OR	7	9	5	21
CA	6	4	1	11
<i>Tribes/First Nations</i>	1	4	9	14
<i>Priority Topics</i>				
A - Streams			7	7
B - Forests	11	10	7	28
C - SLR / Storms	3	9	5	17
D - Anadromous fish			7	7
E - Invasive, pests, disease	9	2	2	13
Across Topics			4	4

Mary briefly reviewed the S/TEK recommendations on which pre-proposals should be requested to submit a full proposal. She outlined the next steps for this process:

- Steering Committee members should contact Mary and John by Feb. 28th with any significant concerns about any of the recommended proposals or a wish to read the pre-proposals
- Steering Committee members should contact Mary if they want additional information on non-selected pre-proposals
- An Ad Hoc Committee (Co-chairs, Chair S-TEK, and NPLCC Staff) will make final selection for requesting full proposals in early March

- Full proposals will be requested from the selected pre-proposals
- Final recommendations for projects to fund will be presented at the April Steering Committee meeting

Mary introduced the Conservation Planning Atlas (CPA). She explained that a few other LCCs have CPA sites and these sites have been identified as a high priority. The CPA provides spatial data and will include information from NPLCC projects and projects from other sources as well. A team will be convened in April to review the CPA and provide input on how to make it more usable. Mary asked for interested Steering Committee members to let her know if they wanted to participate in this review. Following the review, staff will make updates and present the final product to the Steering Committee at their April meeting.

Steering Committee Discussion

The following are the key points noted during the Steering Committee discussion:

James Partain, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Climate Center), remarked that the issue of relevance is often called research to applications or operations. He suggested one way to get researchers to consider relevance is by having them address next steps for their work.

Gustavo Bisbal, Northwest Climate Science Center (CSC), added that relevance needs to be considered at the proposal stage. The CSC asks researchers applying for funding to consider who would be waiting for the results of their project upon its completion. The CSC then encourages researchers to work with those audiences from the beginning of their work. This creates a relationship from the beginning of the project.

Wayne Owen, US Forest Service (PNW Research Station – Alaska), explained it is important to consider relevant to whom. It is important that relevancy is considered broadly. He gave an example that there are opportunities for the LCC to help tribal organizations who may see something as a local issue relevant to them, realize their work is part of a larger context. Thus the LCC has a role in shaping relevancy and the scale of a project's outcomes.

Eric Morrison, Tribes/First Nations (Alaska), discussed that tribal groups in southeast Alaska are looking into the impacts of climate change on herring. He added that federal agencies still struggle with engaging tribes meaningfully.

David Patte, US Fish and Wildlife Service, suggested that RFPs ask scientist to work with affected communities and decision-makers in developing their research.

Mike Cox, Environmental Protection Agency, asked how many proposals were submitted in 2013.

Mary Mahaffy responded that the NPLCC received 85 full proposals in 2013. Each proposal was four pages and this led to a lot of reading for reviewers. In 2012, a total of 110 proposals were submitted. While the number of proposals has decreased, that is due to better targeting and clarifying of what the NPLCC is asking for with proposals.

Mike Tranel, National Park Service (Alaska), said that it seems there is a one in three chance for a submitted proposal to be funded, which is very good for grants. He suggested that the NPLCC let potential applicants know that.

Lyman Thorsteinson commented that there were a number of TEK pre-proposals; however, none of them were being recommended to request a full proposal.

Mary Mahaffy responded that a part of this comes down to grant writing. This is something that the S/TEK Subcommittee can look at more closely, especially in the following year.

John Mankowski added that a number of TEK projects were funded in the last several years.

Lyman Thorsteinson suggested that emphasis needs to be placed on communicating with Tribes and First Nations.

Partnership Engagement Strategy

Angie Thomson, EnviroIssues, gave a presentation ([Attachment 2](#)) outlining progress on updating the Partnership Engagement Strategy. Along with Angie, Sue Rodman, Chris Tunnoch, and Lynn Helbrecht have been working on moving this work forward. Angie highlighted that the strategy's purpose is to engage a variety of groups who are not directly represented on the Steering Committee. These groups may not know much about the NPLCC and the NPLCC may not know much about what these groups are doing. Angie then reviewed six objectives that the working group developed for the updated strategy, including:

1. Increase awareness of the NPLCC and its work
2. Provide partners with the understanding of how they can engage with the NPLCC
3. Connect partners so they work together on common goals and leverage resources
4. Share NPLCC information and data
5. Ensure that partners see the value in sharing their information and data with the NPLCC
6. Create a diverse funding structure for projects

Angie then reviewed the next steps the working group is taking to update the strategy:

- Step 1: Develop partnership engagement objectives (completed)
- Step 2: Review and prioritize potential partners (in progress)
- Step 3: Partnership assessment
- Step 4: Revise Partnership Engagement Strategy based on assessment
- Step 5: Steering Committee approves the revised Partnership Engagement Strategy

Angie highlighted that the working group is about to conduct a partnership assessment. The assessment will allow the NPLCC to hold discussions with potential partners to assess how partners want to engage in the NPLCC, what the NPLCC can offer partners, and what partners can offer the NPLCC. NPLCC Staff will conduct a series of individual interviews with potential partners across the reach of the NPLCC, as well as convene small groups of partners with the help of Steering Committee members.

John Mankowski added that he will send Steering Committee members lists of potential partners. He asked that members review the lists to see if any partners were missed, identify opportunities to convene these groups, and prioritize which groups the NPLCC should focus on meeting with. He added that when conversations with these groups are organized, he would like to see Steering Committee members involved in those discussions. John reiterated his enthusiasm for this approach and thinks it will help the NPLCC broaden its collaborative network.

Steering Committee Discussion

The following are the key points noted during the Steering Committee discussion:

Eric Morrison expressed a desire to see Steering Committee members attend tribal meetings to identify what is needed on both ends to increase working relationships between agencies and tribes. He suggested that a tribal liaison be identified to help promote these conversations.

John Mankowski responded that he hopes to use this process to continue efforts on engaging Tribes and First Nations. He said he has started to participate on the Southeast Alaska tribal calls with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Communications and Outreach Strategy

Mike Tranel, COR Chair, said the Communications and Outreach (COR) Subcommittee has been meeting regularly. There is a continued need to reach a wide array of audiences in order to communicate about the NPLCC and its work. At their latest meeting, the Subcommittee validated the current Communications and Outreach Strategy, reviewed implementation tools, and discussed performance metrics. In the next few months, the group will work on developing an implementation plan for 2014.

Meghan Kearney, NPLCC Communications Specialist, gave a presentation ([Attachment 3](#)) on current communications tools that are being implemented, performance metrics, and identified 2014 communications priorities. Meghan highlighted that the website continues to be updated, two e-newsletters are sent out monthly, and new social media platforms are being developed. She discussed how analytical data is monitored across communications platforms. The COR Subcommittee will review performance metrics and analytics quarterly to help determine the most valuable content, audience demographics, and more.

Meghan then presented the draft list of communications priorities in 2014, including:

- Website updates
- Sending e-newsletters
- Developing science management webinars
- Developing a 2013 annual report
- Increasing efforts to connect with National LCC & Climate Science Centers
- Identifying ways to communicate results of projects funded by the NPLCC
- Shaping quarterly analytic reports
- Creating partner profiles on the website/newsletters—highlight the level and diversity of partners

Steering Committee Discussion

The following are the key points noted during the Steering Committee discussion:

David Patte, US Fish and Wildlife Service, commented that in the past NPLCC staff would attend conferences and provide information on the NPLCC. He felt this was a valuable way to communicate about the NPLCC and said it should be included in the 2014 priorities. He added that Steering Committee members could also assist in presenting NPLCC information at conferences and meetings.

John Mankowski responded that David's point was good and that conference attendance should be considered in annual work plans.

Mary Mahaffy added that the NPLCC has stock presentations and posters that Steering Committee members are welcome to use if they ever want to present on the NPLCC at a conference or meeting.

NPLCC Updates

Penny Mabie gave a presentation ([Attachment 4](#)) on the LCC Council's first meeting. The first meeting was held at the Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. Penny reviewed the list of council members. She highlighted that the LCC Council identified three key messages from the meeting, including:

- The LCC Council enthusiastically affirmed their role to support the LCCs and facilitate the work they do to support a sustainable network
- The LCC Council has a shared commitment to landscape scale conservation and the unique contribution of the LCCs
- Recognizing the Council's desire for inclusivity across the Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) Network, the Council reflected this in their name - LCC Council

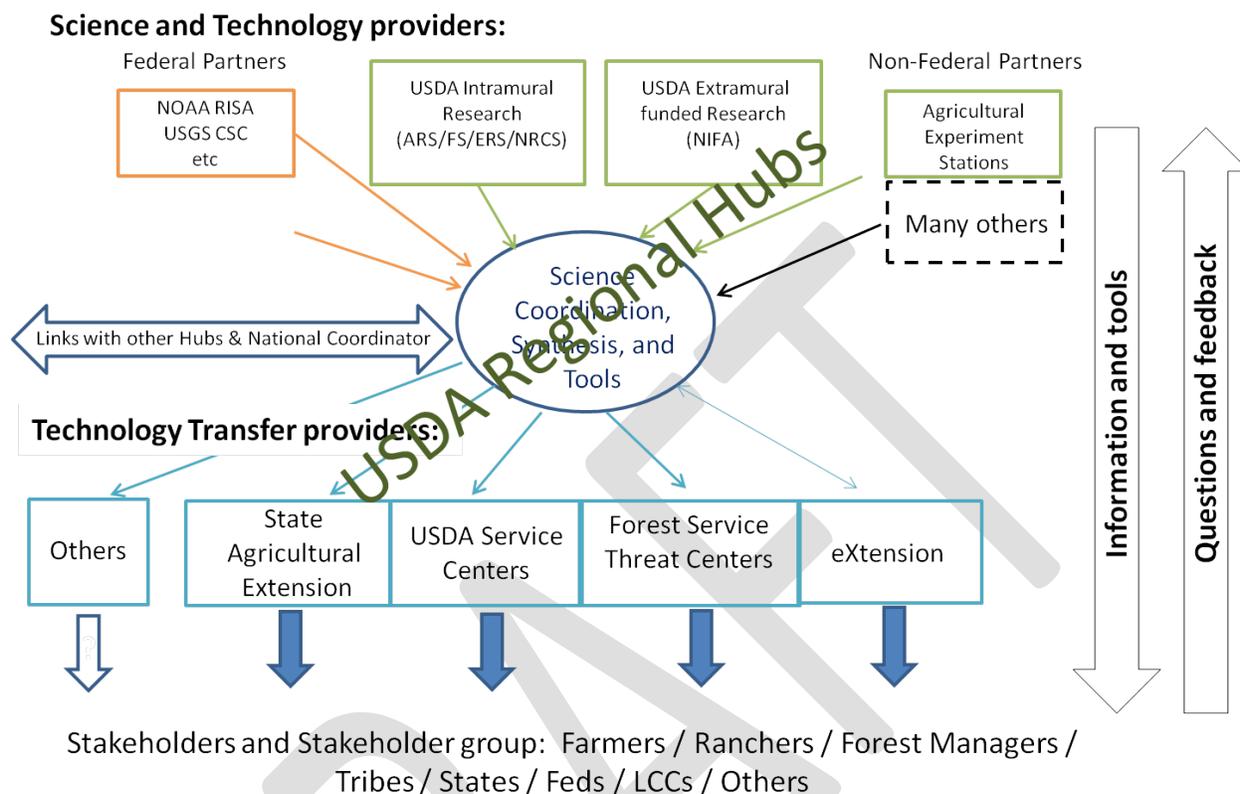
Penny also reviewed the meeting outcomes:

- The LCC Council selected Marc Miller, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Lynn Scarlet, The Nature Conservancy, as its two co-chairs
- The LCC Council established three working groups to work on Communications, Strategic Planning (jointly with the LCC Network), and Charter Refining
- The LCC Council will reach out to LCCs to understand barriers to success, help address these barriers and to celebrate successes
- Council members decided to conduct additional outreach and recruitment to fill vacant international and tribal seats

John Mankowski gave an update on the NPLCC budget. The NPLCC has not seen a final Fiscal Year 2014 budget yet, but they know it will be less than what they received in 2013. Congress did pass legislation that reduced LCC project funds and requires the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study looking at the effectiveness and efficiency of the LCCs overall. For Fiscal Year 2015, the President's budget is supportive of LCCs.

Beatrice Van Horne, US Forest Service (Pacific Northwest Region), gave a brief overview of the new US Department of Agriculture Regional Hubs. She explained that the Hubs were created to ensure climate change information is effectively communicated to producers, including: farmers, ranchers, and private forest owners. The Hubs are going to users and learning what information is most useful to them. The Hub will then look at how to best make that information available. Beatrice provided the below graphic to provide a conceptual framework for the Hub:

Conceptual Framework for a USDA Regional Hub



Steering Committee Discussion

The following are the key points noted during the Steering Committee discussion:

David Patte asked if the Regional Hub includes Alaska.

Beatrice Van Horne responded that the Regional Hub will include Alaska, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

Frank Shipley asked if there was any information available on the Hub's budget schedule.

Beatrice Van Horne answered that the Department of Agriculture is looking mostly at Fiscal Year 2015 to get the Hubs started. There are going to be seven regional Hubs.

Next Steps

Penny Mabie identified the following action items from the meeting:

- Steering Committee members will contact Mary and John by February 28th if they have any significant concerns about the recommended proposals or wish to read the pre-proposals

- Steering Committee members will contact Mary if they want additional information on non-selected pre-proposals
- John Mankowski will email Steering Committee members potential partner lists broken out by geography.
- Steering Committee members will review the potential partner lists and make recommendations on partners that were not included, opportunities to converse with the identified partners, and prioritize potential partners to open conversations with.

Closing Remarks

John Mankowski, Rory Annett, and Lyman Thorsteinson thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned.

Attachments

- Attachment 1 (Presentation): [Update NPLCC S/TEK Strategy Implementation Plan](#)
 Attachment 2 (Presentation): [Partnership Engagement Strategy](#)
 Attachment 3 (Presentation): [Communications & Outreach Strategy](#)
 Attachment 4 (Presentation): [LCC Council Update](#)

Attendees

Steering Committee Members and Alternates

Rory Annett	British Columbia – <i>Steering Committee Co-Chair</i>
Chris Tunnoch	British Columbia
David Redhorse	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Keith Hatch	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Tasha Sargent	Pacific Coast Joint Venture (Canada)
James Partain	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Climate Center)
Chris Lauver	National Park Service (Seattle)
Mike Tranel	National Park Service (Alaska)
Sue Rodman	State of Alaska
Lynn Helbrecht	State of Washington
Eric Morrison	Tribes/First Nations (Alaska)
Steve Klosiewski	US Fish and Wildlife Service (Alaska Region)
Mike Roy	US Fish and Wildlife Service (Pacific Region)
Wayne Owen	US Forest Service (PNW Research Station – Alaska)
Beatrice Van Horne	US Forest Service (Pacific Northwest Region)
Lyman Thorsteinson	US Geological Survey (Alaska) – <i>Steering Committee Co-Chair</i>
Frank Shipley	US Geological Survey (Pacific Northwest)
Marcus Miller	USDA National Resources Conservation Service (West Region NTSC)
Gustavo Bisbal	Northwest Climate Science Center
Jeremy Littell	Alaska Climate Science Center

Others in Attendance

David Patte	US Fish and Wildlife Service
John Mankowski	NPLCC Coordinator
Mary Mahaffy	NPLCC Science Coordinator
Penny Mabie	Envirolssues
Angie Thomson	Envirolssues
Daniel Brody	Envirolssues

Steering Committee Members Absent and Not Represented by an Alternate

Madeline Maley	British Columbia
Karen Kelleher	Bureau of Land Management (Anchorage)
Sally Sovey	Bureau of Land Management (Portland)
Barry Smith	Canadian Wildlife Service (Pacific/Yukon Region)
Joyce Kelly	US Environmental Protection Agency (Pacific Northwest Region)
Barry Thom	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Fisheries)
Tom Dwyer	Pacific Coast Joint Venture (US)
Armand Gonzales	State of California
Brett Brownscombe	State of Oregon
Kathleen Sloan	Tribes/First Nations (California)
Terry Williams	Tribes/First Nations (Washington)
Rick Kearney	US Fish and Wildlife Service (Pacific SW Region)
Mike Strobel	USDA National Resources Conservation Service (West Region NTSC)