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## North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative

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Steering Committee **Draft** Meeting Summary  
Webinar and Teleconference  
April 9, 2015

### *Contents*

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Welcome and Introductions .....	1
NPLCC Business .....	1
NPLCC FY 2015 Work Plan.....	2
Committee and Subcommittee Updates .....	3
LCC Network Update.....	6
Round Robin and Wrap Up .....	6
Next Steps .....	7
Attendees.....	8

### *Welcome and Introductions*

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John Mankowski, North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC) Coordinator, welcomed participants to the meeting. Lyman Thorsteinson, NPLCC Steering Committee Co-Chair, recognized Frank Shipley, U.S. Geological Survey, for his outstanding service to the Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Subcommittee (S/TEK) for over three years. Frank is stepping down as S/TEK Chair.

Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues, reviewed the meeting objectives:

- Discuss transition plans for the Steering Committee Canadian Co-Chair and S/TEK Chair positions.
- Discuss the FY 2015 Steering Committee Work Plan and meeting schedule.
- Learn about LCC Network activities, other NPLCC committee and subcommittee activities and the status of FY 15 project selection.

Penny suggested postponing the approval of the November meeting summary to the next meeting. Participants agreed.

### *NPLCC Business*

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Penny Mabie reviewed the nomination process for the new Canadian Co-Chair of the Steering Committee ([Attachment 1](#)). Steering Committee members may submit nominations to Penny through April 23. On April 24, the Steering Committee will receive information about willing nominees and a link

to the selection poll, which is due May 1. The results of the poll will be shared at the May Steering Committee meeting. If there is more than one nominee, the Steering Committee will discuss the nominations and come to consensus at the May meeting. If there is only one nominee, they will be announced at the May meeting.

Penny opened nominations and invited John Mankowski to provide insights on possible candidates. John shared he had talked with Canadian partners about potential nominees and Barry Smith, Canadian Wildlife Service, was suggested as a nominee. John encouraged additional nominations as well. Barry confirmed his interest in serving. Chris Tunnoch, British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, endorsed Barry. Penny stated Barry Smith has officially been nominated.

Penny noted the same process will be used to nominate the S/TEK Chair and opened nominations. John Mankowski added that the S/TEK Chair works closely with the subcommittee and NPLCC staff. NPLCC staff make every effort to keep the workload light and efficient. No nominations were made.

### *Committee Discussion*

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One participant asked if it is only the Canadian members of the Steering Committee that vote.

*John Mankowski clarified that all Steering Committee members vote on the new Co-Chair.*

### *NPLCC FY 2015 Work Plan*

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John Mankowski gave an overview ([Attachment 1](#)) of the FY 2015 NPLCC work plan, which is based in part on the annual planning completed during the November 2014 Steering Committee meeting in Alaska. He expressed that 2015 is the time to bring some items to closure, demonstrate the NPLCC's utility and move on to new endeavors. He noted the work plan is ambitious and has a limited budget for implementation.

In the May Steering Committee meeting, John explained participants would identify a 5-year outlook for the NPLCC based on the LCC Network Strategic Plan ([link](#)) and the results from the November meeting's MeetingSphere activity ([Attachment 2](#)). The meeting will also include discussion of how to better leverage partners' work, recommendations from the Tribes/First Nations Committee, and draft measurable objectives for conservation and sustainable resource management goals. By July, the NPLCC will need to report to the LCC Network about how to align and leverage partner contributions.

### *Committee Discussion*

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One participant asked for clarification on the partner contributions. Who are the partners?

*John Mankowski explained there are many natural and cultural resource managers involved in the NPLCC or affected by NPLCC activities that do not serve on committees and subcommittees. John is developing an inventory of this larger group of managers in order to promote discussion of what really needs to be done at the landscape scale to address climate change and other landscape-scale stressors.*

One participant commented that such an approach might involve the NPLCC in large landscape-scale projects such as large-scale timber sales.

*John Mankowski clarified that it is an opportunity to discuss conservation activities, challenges and goals to identify if there are efficiencies to gain by working together. He explained the*

*NPLCC does not prescribe changes, but does work to break down siloes to gain efficiencies and take advantage of landscape-scale opportunities. He emphasized it is important the Steering Committee is comfortable with the way this work is conducted.*

Another participant asked about the status of the inventory.

*John Mankowski replied the inventory of partners across the region already exists. The next step is a chance for agencies and others to come together, probably at a regional basis, to discuss challenges and opportunities to see if there are ways to work together. Where people are ready, the conversation could move into smaller regions.*

Penny Mabie asked the Steering Committee if the work plan made sense.

*Mike Cox, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), stated the work plan looked great but noted flying to Juneau at the end of September may be difficult because it is the end of the fiscal year. Mike added he would not know if the week will work until later in the year and suggested going ahead with the best time for everyone else. Becky Gravenmier, U.S. Forest Service, agreed and noted she has a lot of meetings that week. John Mankowski explained the last week in September was preferred in the Doodle poll and noted the meeting would be a good opportunity to have Alaska partners at the table.*

Penny Mabie asked if anyone had objections to making the draft work plan the NPLCC's 2015 work plan. No one offered objections, and the work plan was approved.

John Mankowski requested Steering Committee members check their calendars and let him know if they cannot make it to either of the in-person meetings. He noted he will send Doodle polls for teleconference calls at a later date and will work with Steering Committee members on the Partnership Engagement plan.

## *Committee and Subcommittee Updates*

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### Science-Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S/TEK) Subcommittee

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Mary Mahaffy, NPLCC Science Coordinator, provided an S/TEK update. She covered the status of projects funded to-date, questions for the Steering Committee from S/TEK, a status update on the development of measurable objectives for conservation and sustainable resource management goals, and 2015 funded activities ([Attachment 3](#)). Of the 48 projects funded between 2011 and 2015, 23 (48%) are complete, 13 (27%) will be complete in 2015, and 12 (25%) will be complete in 2016 or later.

The last in-person S/TEK meeting took place on February 4, 2015 in Seattle, Washington. At that meeting, S/TEK identified several questions for the Steering Committee to inform project evaluation and future project selection. Questions focus on identifying the needs of managers, the utility of NPLCC-developed products for managers, tools or information used by managers, key up-and-coming decisions and their impacts, and whether the Steering Committee should be expanded to include participation from non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Mary noted the NPLCC Charter states NGO participation can be reviewed at a later time and shared that NGO participants on S/TEK had voiced this question.

Mary explained a small work group will develop draft measurable objectives for conservation and sustainable resource management goals on April 27 and 28, then present the results to the Steering Committee in May for discussion and feedback. The final recommendations will be developed with the

full S/TEK Subcommittee based on Steering Committee feedback and presented at the July Steering Committee meeting.

Mary reviewed S/TEK's four areas of focus in 2015, which were approved at the November Steering Committee meeting, then shared the estimated allocation of project funds for 2015 S/TEK activities:

- **Focused Activity 1 – Evaluation and Reinvesting:** \$60,000 will be used to develop a project evaluation framework and measurable objectives, peer review project products and to reinvest or expand on previous work.
- **Focused Activity 2 – Data sharing and synthesis:** \$5,000 will be provided to expand the Conservation Planning Atlas (CPA). The NPLCC is working with the Pacific Marine Estuary Partnership and other partners to ensure the data being added to the CPA is both useful and being used.
- **Focused Activity 3 – Use vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning:** \$50,000 will be used to support:
  - Implementation of the Tongass and Chugach National Forest vulnerability assessments, for example by identifying priority watersheds for climate change and how the NPLCC can help move the work forward.
  - Incorporation of climate change into State Wildlife Action Plans.
- **Focused Activity 4 – Support landscape conservation planning:** \$50,000 will be used to support areas where work is already starting or ongoing and additional support is requested. This includes continued support for the Cascadia Partner Forum ([link](#)), new support for ongoing work in the lower Columbia River Estuary and coastal areas, and ongoing support in Humboldt Bay to identify next steps from the NPLCC-funded sea level rise workshop ([workshop page](#)).

Frank Shipley added S/TEK is trying to move away from being a project-generator and move toward connecting managers on-the-ground with the information they need. This includes providing both NPLCC results and other partner results to on-the-ground managers. Mary Mahaffy commented that this is why the Request for Proposals (RFP) was smaller in 2015. S/TEK's focus is using the results of existing work to identify actionable information and what is really needed on the ground. S/TEK is also focusing on project evaluation – ensuring things have been done correctly – and providing additional support to existing projects that have identified ways to improve project delivery.

### *Committee Discussion*

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One participant asked how information on the 23 completed projects has been disseminated.

*Mary Mahaffy explained part of the 2015 work is to identify how to communicate better. For example, the work to apply vulnerability assessment tools to managing the protected areas network in British Columbia ([project page](#)) was good work, but the park managers did not know how to use the information. In response, the NPLCC funded workshops to bring together managers and information to make sure information is getting in the hands of those that will use it ([project page](#)). NPLCC and project staff are also discussing the most useful next steps following the beaver restoration workshops ([article](#) and [project page](#)). One idea is producing a manual.*

*Mary added that all projects are on the NPLCC website ([link](#)) with a description of the work. Principal investigators are now required to give webinars, which was not required in initial funding rounds. Information is also shared at conferences.*

Another participant asked how S/TEK is ensuring the quality of the science.

*Mary Mahaffy explained the peer review process is part of nearly all projects. S/TEK is identifying how to add peer review to the few projects that did not include it. John Mankowski emphasized how important it is NPLCC products reach managers and are useful to them. He explained each project undergoes an individual assessment. A webinar and report are the minimum for every project. S/TEK works with partners to figure out the best way to communicate and use project results, and to demonstrate the utility of the work. Mary added it is important the work is co-produced so it is used and usable by the end-user.*

*Lyman Thorsteinson commented ensuring work is used and usable by the end-user is part of the discussion for selecting Steering Committee members. The Steering Committee needs to make sure the managers are represented and can help transfer NPLCC products to the right people.*

John Mankowski added that regarding partner leveraging, the “other” category represents opportunities to partner and leverage resources, which is an ongoing task. He encouraged the Steering Committee to contact NPLCC staff with project ideas. He noted a couple months remain for supporting new work.

### Tribes/First Nations Committee

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John Mankowski reminded Steering Committee members there were nine recommendations made for the NPLCC at the September 4, 2014 meeting of the Tribes/First Nations Committee. At the next Steering Committee meeting in May, participants will hear the results of a questionnaire sent to Tribes and First Nations in the region to gather their preferences for how to prioritize the recommendations. The Steering Committee will be asked to provide feedback on next steps and action items.

John Mankowski invited Raymond Paddock, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA), to share information on a more formalized climate change training for tribes, which was a request by Tribes and First Nations in the NPLCC region ([Attachment 1](#)). Ray explained CCTHITA received funding from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to host a climate training. Southeast Alaska tribes requested a climate adaptation training, and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals agreed to convene the training. CCTHITA would like to hold the training the first or second week in December 2015 in Juneau, Seattle or Portland. They plan to extend the training to southeast Alaska tribes and British Columbia First Nations because the regions are ecologically similar. CCTHITA is also working with the Sitka Tribes of Alaska and their environmental coordinator, Chris Whitehead, who has worked previously on climate change in Washington State. CCTHITA plans to work on climate change with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe as well.

### Committee Discussion

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One participant asked about the scope of the training. Will it cover climate science only or include training on climate action?

*Raymond Paddock explained the goal is to cover climate action as well. They would like to create groups who can go after funding to continue the climate adaptation work.*

Another participant asked how recommendations from the training would be implemented and how funding would be acquired to support implementation.

*Raymond Paddock answered they hope to receive the funding for the training from the BIA and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To implement recommendations all tribal councils would*

*need to approve the actions. They also plan to conduct outreach and work with communities to implement actions. For example, they would like to work with community members to extend the subsistence survey the NPLCC has funded. They are already giving presentations on the training.*

John Mankowski added that the adaptation plans will be specific to each tribe – the focus now is developing the plan, then they will work on implementing the plan. He noted the NPLCC and other partners can contribute to the work. For example, the NPLCC and U.S. Forest Service are already supporting the work. Further, the invitation will be extended to southcentral Alaska tribes in the Chugach area.

### *LCC Network Update*

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John Mankowski provided an update on the LCC Network ([Attachment 1](#)). As noted previously, Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes, sits on the LCC Council. John shared that the LCC Council has met twice and adopted a strategic plan to work long-term to address landscape-scale issues. He reminded the Steering Committee that May's meeting will include discussing how to be aligned with the LCC Network Strategic Plan ([link](#)). The LCC Council is currently reviewing the LCC Network's science strategy to produce, convene and share science. The Council will be more involved in sharing their work and approach to deepening relationships in the future. The LCC Network began working on a communications plan in November 2014.

For the May Steering Committee meeting, NPLCC staff will share an overlay of where the NPLCC is contributing to the LCC Network Strategic Plan to provide a foundation for discussing whether the LCC Network Strategic Plan suggests mid-course corrections for the NPLCC.

John acknowledged 2015 is the toughest budget year so far, but the President's 2016 budget proposes substantial increases in funding at a national level, including approximately \$3.9 million for cooperative landscape conservation, \$4.6 million for adaptive science, \$10 million for service science and \$14.7 million for total science support. However, the actual 2016 budget is still to be determined.

John also provided an update on the National Academy of Sciences' (NAS) review of the LCC model. He reminded the Steering Committee that the FY 2014 budget required setting aside funds to review the LCC model (not individual LCCs) to ascertain whether the model makes sense and is effective. NPLCC staff are responding to all requests for information from the LCC Council, and they make it a priority to do so. They also pass along requests for stakeholder input or project successes to the NPLCC network and will continue to do so. The NAS plans to have a final report to the U.S. Congress by the end of 2015.

### *Round Robin and Wrap Up*

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John Mankowski shared that NPLCC staff continue to get great feedback on the science-management webinars. The Climate Science Digest and North Pacific Tidings are released regularly. Both the number of people reading these newsletters and the overall readership list are growing. John encouraged participants to visit the NPLCC website regularly and to be involved with NPLCC activities.

Penny Mabie invited participants to share updates related to the NPLCC.

- **David D'Amore**, U.S. Forest Service, shared he is continuing transboundary work to model snowpack and hydrologic cycles across the northern NPLCC region. The project is an outgrowth of the NPLCC-funded transboundary coordination workshops ([Alaska projects page](#)).

- **Becky Anderson**, U.S. Geological Survey, invited those with detailed knowledge of Alaska and British Columbia watersheds to attend a hydrographic harmonization phase workshop in Juneau, Alaska. The goal is to populate a new subset of sub-basins in Alaska and British Columbia watersheds with hydrographic data down to the 10-digit code in the United States and the 6-digit code in Canada. Attendees will delineate the watersheds down to those levels.
- **Brad Bales**, Pacific Birds Joint Venture (PBJV), shared that the Pacific Coast Joint Venture is now the Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture. Their new website, <http://www.pacificbirds.org/>, provides information on the organizational changes and new direction. The PBJV hopes to have more collaboration opportunities with the NPLCC.

### *Next Steps*

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Penny Mabie reviewed the action items from the meeting:

- **Committee members** will send nominations for the Steering Committee Canadian Co-Chair and S/TEK Chair to Penny Mabie by April 23.
- **Committee members** will review the November meeting summary and notify John of any conflicts with the May and September meeting dates.
- **EnviroIssues** will send a follow-up email to summarize the nomination process for the Steering Committee Canadian Co-Chair and S/TEK Chair and prepare a meeting summary.

Penny Mabie thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

## *Attendees*

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### *Steering Committee Members and Alternates*

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Barbra Schrader	U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station
Barry Smith	Canadian Wildlife Service
Becky Anderson	U.S. Geological Survey
Becky Gravenmier	U.S. Forest Service
Brad Bales	Pacific Coast Joint Venture (U.S.)
Chris Tunnoch	British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations
David D'Amore	U.S. Forest Service
David Redhorse	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Frank Shipley	U.S. Geological Survey
James Partain	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Karen Taylor-Goodrich	National Park Service
Keith Hatch	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Kim Hyatt	Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Lyman Thorsteinson	U.S. Geological Survey
Lynn Helbrecht	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mike Cox	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mike Tranel	National Park Service
Raymond Paddock	Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Sally Sovey	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Steve Brockman	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sue Rodman	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Vicki Finn	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Whitney Albright	California Department of Fish and Wildlife

### *Others in Attendance*

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Gustavo Bisbal	Northwest Climate Science Center
Josh Foster	Northwest Climate Science Center and Climate Impacts Research Consortium
Stephen Zylstra	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
John Mankowski	NPLCC Coordinator
Mary Mahaffy	NPLCC Science Coordinator
Jill Hardiman	NPLCC Assistant Science Coordinator
Meghan Kearney	NPLCC Communication Specialist
Penny Mabie	Envirolssues
Tricia Tillmann	Envirolssues