



North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Steering Committee **Draft** Meeting Summary
Webinar
May 28, 2013

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Welcome and Introductions

Angie Thomson, 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.

Angie reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives:

- Adopt Communications and Outreach (COR) Strategy
- Provide input on the proposed Partner Development Group (PDG) concept
- Learn about the 2013 Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S-TEK) RFP response and decision timeline; hear about joint LCC project proposals
- Learn about the Western Governors Association's Crucial Habitats and Corridors (CHAT) Initiative and potential LCC linkages.

Steering Committee Business

Angie indicated that no edits were received on the March 22 Steering Committee meeting summary. The Committee approved the meeting summary.

John Mankowski, NPLCC Coordinator, reminded the Committee that their next meeting will be in-person in Victoria, BC. He emphasized that in-person meetings are a productive and meaningful way to move the partnership forward. He encouraged members to attend, either in-person or remotely and highlighted the following agenda topics for the meeting:

- Opportunities to learn about British Columbia partners
- Adoption of a partnership engagement strategy
- Report out from the Tribes & First Nations Committee
- Discussion of a 10-year strategic plan
- Discussion about adding seats to the Steering Committee
- Update on the Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S-TEK) strategy

Rory Annett added that British Columbia is looking forward to hosting the meeting. He sees the meeting as a great opportunity to expand British Columbia's connections and profile on Climate Change. Chris Tunnoch, British Columbia, indicated that further logistical details for the meeting will be provided in a few weeks.

Update on S-TEK Request for Proposals

Mary Mahaffy, NPLCC Science Coordinator, gave a presentation on the status of the Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S-TEK) Request for Proposals. She reminded the Committee that the two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) were seeking projects that aligned with the S-TEK Strategy and Implementation Plan. She reviewed the S-TEK Strategy and its five priority topics and guiding principles (see table below).

<i>Guiding Principles</i>	<i>Priority Topics</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Focus on helping managers understand the availability and effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation response actions▪ Focus on facilitating coordination, collaboration, and capacity building, and on developing or assisting with tools to assist decision-makers▪ Identify and promote opportunities to use TEK to inform partners and stakeholder decisions▪ Promote and facilitation consideration of the connections and interactions between ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Effects of hydrologic regime shifts on rivers, streams, and riparian corridors▪ Effects of change in air temperature and precipitation on Forests▪ Effects of changes in sea levels and storms on marine shorelines, the nearshore and estuaries▪ Effects of the changes in the hydrologic regime on anadromous fish▪ Invasive species, diseases, pests and their effects on biological communities

The NPLCC released two RFPs for an estimated \$380,000 and have received about \$3.8 million in requests.

The first RFP is a joint request with the Northwest and Alaska Climate Science Centers. The RFP focuses on assessment and adaptation planning for either non-salmonid anadromous fish or culturally-important resources that are gathered or hunted. The RFP has a maximum award of \$75,000 and requires that non-tribal entities subcontract to Tribes/First Nations or receive in-kind contributions from tribal entities to be eligible. The NPLCC has received 19 eligible proposals.

The second RFP focuses on two different activities:

- Focused Activity #4 (from the S-TEK 2013-2014 Implementation Plan) which looks to fund projects that assess vulnerabilities to key natural and cultural resources in a targeted location and assist partners in incorporating climate change information into habitat conservation, restoration, adaptation and enhancement efforts
- Focused Activity #2 (from the S-TEK 2013-2014 Implementation Plan) which looks to fund projects that review case studies that assess vulnerability and resilience of selected anadromous fish populations for a specific audience and increase knowledge, sharing and use of existing tools and approaches by entities involved in landscape-level planning

The NPLCC has received 22 eligible proposals that fall under Focused Activity #4 and 20 eligible projects falling under Focused Activity #2.

Mary explained the proposal review process. For each RFP, a review team will score and recommend projects. These recommended projects will be reviewed by the Steering Committee Co-Chairs, the S-TEK Subcommittee Chair, and other Steering Committee members interested in participating on a call scheduled for Friday, May 31 at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

Mary indicated that after identifying projects to fund, the S-TEK Subcommittee will begin focusing on updating, if needed, the Science/TEK Strategy's implementation plan for 2014 and developing an implementation plan for 2015-2016.

Mary also discussed that the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of the Science Advisor (Arlington, VA), is offering approximately \$900,000 for multi-LCC projects. She has been working with other LCCs to prepare and submit five proposals. They include:

- Alaska's Freshwater Hydrography Proposal – the project would ensure the State of Alaska's hydrology dataset is up to standards by 2020. The Western Alaska LCC is the lead.
- Alaska's Subsistence Harvest Data Proposal – the project would create a web interface to facilitate map-based spatial queries of the Community Subsistence Information System. The NPLCC is the lead.
- Western Governors Association Crucial Habitat Assessment Tools (CHAT) Proposal – the project would integrate 17 state and regional CHAT data and infrastructure into LC-MAP. The Great Northern LCC is the lead.
- Conservation Biology Institute Proposal – the project would build analytical tool capability to assess protection areas with regard to projected climate stress. The California LCC is the lead.

- PRBO Proposal – the project would create mechanism for partners to archive, share, visualize, and disseminate data on birds and their habitats to better understand the spatial and temporal patterns of their environmental requirements, with respect to climate change. The California LCC is the lead.

Mary lastly discussed that the US Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Science Advisor is offering a National LCC Network RFP for approximately \$900,000. The RFP has not yet been released but will seek projects that have broad network-wide themes around science, data, and ecosystems. John Mankowski added that NPLCC staff is aggressively seeking funds from various sources to move the NPLCC's science agenda forward.

Steering Committee Discussion

Mary specifically asked for Steering Committee input on the possibility of obligating additional Fiscal Year 2014 funds, available in October, for 2013 projects. She explained that this would allow the NPLCC to fund more projects under these two RFPs than initially thought. She estimated that the NPLCC could obligate an additional \$100,000-\$150,000.

The Committee agreed that it was a good idea to obligate Fiscal Year 2014 funds for projects seeking funds in 2013. They did raise a concern about obligating funds without knowing the amount of funds the NPLCC will have available in 2014 to fund projects.

Mary responded that the USFWS is confident they will receive at least \$150,000 to support NPLCC projects in 2014. The review group would only choose to obligate 2014 funds if there were important projects that deserved funding now.

John Mankowski explained that the Steering Committee agreed to the proposal review process at their March meeting. He asked members to send him any feedback on the process so that they can refine the process in future years.

Frank Shipley, US Geological Survey (Pacific Northwest) and S-TEK Subcommittee Chair, said that the S-TEK Subcommittee has been working hard to meet strict deadlines, but after approving projects, the Subcommittee can begin to look forward and be more proactive.

Lyman Thorstienson asked how sequestration might impact S-TEK priorities for Fiscal Year 2014 and beyond.

Mary answered that the current S-TEK Implementation Plan only focuses on 2013 and 2014. This plan emphasizes Focused Activities 2, 4, and 5. The S-TEK Subcommittee recognizes that more attention is needed on Focused Activities 1 and 3. Within Focused Activities 1 and 3 there are opportunities for compiling and data access work that does not necessitate direct funding. The S-TEK Subcommittee will spend time discussing what topics should be priorities in order to effectively meet manager needs.

Wayne Owen, US Forest Service (PNW Research Station – Alaska), discussed a recent proposal the Forest Service received from the University of Alaska Southeast to work on updating Alaska's National Hydrology Dataset library. They are requesting a large amount of funds for data servicing. The proposal sounds similar to the multi-LCC project and Wayne was interested in learning more about how these two efforts might overlap.

Mary agreed to send Wayne a copy of the multi-LCC proposal Western Alaska LCC submitted for the NHD project.

Communications and Outreach Strategy

Mike Tranel, National Park Service (Alaska) and Communications and Outreach Subcommittee Chair, reviewed the development of the Communications and Outreach Strategy. The Communications and Outreach Subcommittee (COR) spent most of 2012 developing the strategy. The Steering Committee reviewed a draft at their December meeting and provided a number of comments. The COR has worked to address these comments.

Mike reviewed the Steering Committee comments and how the COR addressed each comment in the strategy (see table below).

Steering Committee Feedback	Revisions to COR Strategy
Discuss communication with tribes, perhaps highlighting the need to work with the Tribes/First Nations Committee to identify how they would like to receive communication and communicate with the NPLCC.	Added language that discusses communication with tribes, highlighting how the COR would work with the Tribes/First Nations Committee to identify how the NPLCC can best communicate with Tribes/First Nations.
Clarify that the main objective for NPLCC communication is to provide useful information to resource managers and decision makers.	Added a sentence emphasizing that the first priority of the NPLCC communications is to provide useful information to resource managers and decision makers.
Clearly indicate which communications tools will be used to communicate with the specific target audiences.	Added a table that clarifies which communication tools will be used to communicate with the specific target audiences.

The COR also recognized that the strategy is a living document subject to revisions. The COR is asking the Committee to adopt the strategy.

John Mankowski thanked Mike for his leadership on the COR. He said the strategy charts the future work for the COR, which will convene quarterly to oversee the implementation of the communications tools. His first priority is hiring a staff member to focus solely on communications.

DECISION POINT: The Committee approved the COR Strategy.

Partnership Development Group Framework

John Mankowski identified that how the NPLCC engages partners is a key element of the NPLCC's strategic plan. The NPLCC's early thinking on how to engage partners included establishing a Partnership Liaison Subcommittee that would interface with the broader natural resource and science community. This is reflected in the NPLCC's charter.

NPLCC Staff and EnviroIssues, along with Sue Rodman, State of Alaska, and Chris Tunnoch, British Columbia, have been working on refining the responsibilities and purpose of such a partnership engagement group. This initial thinking was presented to the Steering Committee at their December 2012 meeting where the Steering Committee raised concerns about how partnership engagement should occur and the explicit need for a Partnership Liaison Subcommittee. Additional thinking has

occurred and after consulting with the Communications and Outreach Subcommittee, it was suggested that the Steering Committee engage in a brainstorm focusing on:

- What are partners and who do Steering Committee members think of when discussing engaging partners?
- What are the best approaches to engage partners?

Sue Rodman added that the Steering Committee conversation in December highlighted the need for more clarification, noting that involving everyone in a brainstorm can strengthen the thinking around engaging partners. She welcomed people's participation in a brainstorm session. Chris Tunnoch echoed Sue saying that it will be useful to receive as much input as possible.

Angie Thomson explained that EnviroIssues has used an online collaboration tool called MeetingSphere that facilitates brainstorming among groups. You can post questions and have people log-in and respond to them prior to the scheduled meeting. Then at the meeting the group can review the comments and suggestions. Angie outlined that the results of the brainstorm session would be used to revise a strategy on partnership development that would reflect the input heard from the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee would have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft strategy and then seek adoption at their September 2013 meeting.

ACTION ITEM: EnviroIssues will send out a Doodle poll to identify a time for the Steering Committee partnership engagement brainstorm meeting.

Steering Committee Discussion

Lynn Helbrecht, State of Washington, agreed with the basic structure of engaging the Steering Committee in a brainstorm and using that input to develop a strategy. She cautioned that it will be important that the brainstorm looks at practical approaches and solutions. The NPLCC needs to identify a pragmatic approach towards engaging partners.

Wayne Owen explained that the NPLCC should focus on its strengths and what it brings to the table when engaging partners. He cautioned that the NPLCC should not just be seen as a funding entity. Additionally, the NPLCC should not just have partners for the sake of partners, but ensure that their partnership is meaningful.

Western Governors Association Crucial Habitats and Corridors Initiative

John Pierce, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, provided an overview the Western Governors Association's (WGA) Crucial Habitats and Corridors Initiative (CHAT). He indicated that the NPLCC partnered with the WGA on developing crucial habitat maps and climate change analysis.

He explained that the CHAT Initiative was adopted in 2007 with the goal of mapping crucial habitats and corridors across the west. This resulted in several committees that looked at CHAT and assessed the current state of information. They found that, at the time, the west did not have a uniform approach for mapping and identifying crucial habitat. They decided it would be critical to develop a map of CHAT that could be used voluntarily to guide smart growth and conservation efforts.

In 2008, the WGA used a test case of the CHAT Initiative to inform their Western Renewable Energy Zone Initiative. The WGA secured grant funds from the US Department of Energy in 2010 to release the CHAT information through a web based tool. This tool will make available the data in a usable interface.

John discussed linkages between the WGA and the NPLCC. One area that they are connected is looking at climate change and riparian corridor mapping. They are working together to identify and map important riparian corridors and their impacts due to climate change. Additionally, they are partnering on one of the multi-LCC project proposals the NPLCC submitted looking to integrate the CHAT and LCC data and decision support.

John offered an example of how the CHAT Initiative can be used in management. The WGA is developing a 10-year energy vision for the west. They are working with LCCs to take information and other landscape mapping and place it in context of energy development. The WGA will release a report this summer that discusses strategic approaches for building out energy development based on impacts to CHAT and other issues.

Questions

Lyman Thorsteinson asked if the CHAT Initiative encompasses only terrestrial environments.

John Pierce responded that the CHAT Initiative does not include coastal or marine environments. It looks at terrestrial and freshwater resources. Looking at the marine environment could be an additional phase to work on in the future.

John Mankowski noted that the CHAT is a huge initiative that has made great progress very quickly. He explained the NPLCC is looking forward to building a deeper partnership with the WGA.

Barry Smith, Canadian Wildlife Service (Pacific/Yukon Region), remarked that the technology used to see landscape and its features is growing fast and is valuable. Since jurisdictions use different standards, it is important that they coordinate. The work of WGA highlights this.

John Pierce commented that the WGA's focus so far for the CHAT Initiative has been on the lower 48 states. However, there is an opportunity for LCCs and their partners to move the effort into Canada as well.

Next Steps

Angie reviewed potential topics for the September 10-12 Steering Committee in-person meeting:

- Opportunities to learn about British Columbia partners
- Adoption of a partnership engagement strategy
- Report out from the Tribes & First Nations Committee
- Discussion of a 10-year strategic plan
- Discussion about adding seats to the Steering Committee
- Update on the Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S-TEK) strategy

Angie identified the following action items from the meeting:

- EnviroIssues will send out a Doodle poll to identify a time for the Steering Committee partnership engagement brainstorm meeting.

Closing Remarks

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

Attachments

Attachment 1: Draft Implementation Plan for the NPLCC S-TEK Strategy, 2013-2016
Attachment 2: Draft S-TEK Strategy Implementation Plan Presentation

Attendees

Steering Committee Members and Alternates

Rory Annett	British Columbia – <i>Steering Committee Co-Chair</i>
Gustavo Bisbal	Northwest Climate Science Center
Michael Cox	US Environmental Protection Agency (Pacific Northwest Region)
Josh Foster	NOAA RISA (Climate Impacts Research Center)
Stephen Gray	Alaska Climate Science Center
Bill Hanson	US Fish and Wildlife Service (Alaska Region)
Lynn Helbrecht	State of Washington
Joe Hostler	Tribes/First Nations (California)
Bruce Newton	USDA National Resources Conservation Service (West Region NTSC)
Wayne Owen	US Forest Service (PNW Research Station – Alaska)
David Redhorse	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Sue Rodman	State of Alaska
Mike Roy	US Fish and Wildlife Service (Pacific Region)
Frank Shipley	US Geological Survey (Pacific Northwest)
Barry Smith	Canadian Wildlife Service (Pacific/Yukon Region)
Sally Sovey	Bureau of Land Management (Portland)
Lyman Thorsteinson	US Geological Survey (Alaska) – <i>Steering Committee Co-Chair</i>
Mike Tranel	National Park Service (Alaska)
Chris Tunnoch	British Columbia

Others in Attendance

Carri Hessman	Bureau of Reclamation
Michael Miller	USDA National Resources Conservation Service
John Pierce	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Stephen Zylstra	US Fish and Wildlife Service
John Mankowski	NPLCC Coordinator
Mary Mahaffy	NPLCC Science Coordinator
Angie Thomson	EnviroIssues
Daniel Brody	EnviroIssues

Steering Committee Members Absent and Not Represented by an Alternate

Brett Brownscombe	State of Oregon
Tom Dwyer	Pacific Coast Joint Venture (US)
Armand Gonzales	State of California

Chip Jenkins	National Park Service (Seattle)
Rick Kearney	US Fish and Wildlife Service (Pacific SW Region)
Karen Kelleher	Bureau of Land Management (Anchorage)
Madeline Maley	British Columbia
Eric Morrison	Tribes/First Nations (Alaska)
James Partain	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Climate Center)
Tasha Sargent	Pacific Coast Joint Venture (Canada)
Mike Strobel	USDA National Resources Conservation Service (West Region NTSC)
Barry Thom	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Fisheries)
Jeff Walter	US Forest Service (Pacific Northwest Region)
Terry Williams	Tribes/First Nations (Washington)

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