



North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Steering Committee Meeting Summary
August 29 & 30, 2012

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Welcome and Introductions

Paul Brewster, US Forest Service, and Rory Annett, Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources Management, the steering committee co-chairs, thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting. Paul and Rory noted that they became co-chairs after the December 2011 steering committee meeting. Paul indicated his reason for accepting the role as co-chair stemmed from his excitement to see different organizations working together to pool collective resources and wisdom. Rory expressed his excitement to work with different organizations and make a difference on the ground.

Robyn Thorson, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), also thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Robyn noted that historically managers assumed the landscape was relatively stable, but now, with climate change, managers are realizing that is not true. Robyn expressed that the pace and threat of

climate change is still uncertain and that now is the time to contribute to a wiser approach to conserving the resources we care about, both the natural and the cultural. Robyn expressed her pride in the USFWS's support of the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) and the work being done by the North Pacific LCC.

John Mankowski, North Pacific LCC Coordinator, said that hearing Paul, Rory, and Robyn discuss the vision and promise of the North Pacific LCC re-inspires him and everyone involved. John introduced the steering committee to EnviroIssues, a natural resources consultation company skilled at bringing people together. John introduced Penny Mabie as the facilitator for the steering committee meetings. Penny also introduced Angie Thomson who will facilitate subcommittee meetings and Daniel Brody who will provide support and take meeting notes.

Penny reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives:

- Inform steering committee members about progress and products of North Pacific LCC activities and funded projects.
- Learn about how partner organizations are addressing climate science and management.
- Review, discuss, and make decisions on the North Pacific LCC strategic plan framework, Science/Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S/TEK) strategy, and Communications strategy.

North Pacific LCC Progress and Direction

John Mankowski gave a presentation (Attachment 1) that reviewed the North Pacific LCC's mission, goals, and organizational structure. Mary Mahaffy, North Pacific LCC Science Coordinator, discussed the North Pacific LCC's fiscal year 2012 activities and priorities including:

- Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Tribal priorities
- Creating a data management platform
- Synthesizing literature for terrestrial habitats
- Creating a GIS data layer inventory
- Working with other organizations to hold workshops and forums

John previewed the new North Pacific LCC website, currently under development, and asked steering committee members to contribute photos and ideas for the website. The steering committee liked the website overall and noted that it should link to other LCCs. John indicated that a beta of the website will be shared with the steering committee for further input before it goes live.

Lastly, John discussed what has been going on with the International Network of LCCs.

North Pacific LCC Strategic Plan

John Mankowski presented a strategic plan overview for the North Pacific LCC (Attachment 2). John noted that this will be a ten year strategic plan which will be built on the Science/Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S/TEK) strategy, the Communications and Outreach Strategy, and the Tribal/First Nations and Partnership Strategy being developed by each subcommittee. John introduced a strategic planning model he proposes to use in creating the strategic plan (see below).



Bold and Underlined Text: indicate this is content that already exists

Bold Text: indicates content is in development

Regular Text: indicates where content needs to be developed

Steering Committee Discussion

The following are the key points noted during the steering committee discussion of the strategic plan framework:

- In creating the strategic plan, the North Pacific LCC needs to be aware of clarifying how the North Pacific LCC relates to other initiatives and organizations.
- The strategic plan should support cross boundary linkages with other LCCs and institutions.
- The strategic plan will be used as a high level planning document. It will inform annual workplans which will indicate the priorities and actions for that year, which will be based on partner priorities and goals that year.
- The steering committee liked the design of the strategic plan, especially the emphasis on evaluation and performance measures.
- Some steering committee members noted the discrepancy in planning horizons for the strategic plan and the S/TEK Strategy. It was explained that the mission and vision of the North Pacific LCC can withstand the ten year planning horizon for the strategic plan. However, identifying science priorities for a ten year period may not allow enough flexibility to deal with emerging issues. Thus, the S/TEK Strategy will be based on a shorter time horizon. As the S/TEK Strategy is reviewed and updated in four years, it will be reflected in the strategic plan.
- It is important to keep the strategic plan short.
- The strategic plan needs to articulate the value of the North Pacific LCC. The value of LCCs goes beyond just simple collaboration and the sharing of resources; they are redefining people's view of conservation. The goal should be to get organizations to see themselves as part of a network.
- There is potential for using the strategic plan to inform steering committee member's own organizations' strategic planning processes. The committee identified the importance of tracking opportunities to share the strategic plan with partners and receive feedback on how the strategic plan is used by their organizations.

- There is utility in including local examples of science needs in the strategic plan to highlight how the plan will address these needs.

John provided a general outline for moving forward with the strategic plan. He hopes to have a working draft for the steering committee to review at the December steering committee meeting.

National Wildlife Federation – Informing the S/TEK Strategy

Dan Siemann, National Wildlife Federation (NWF), presented work done by the NWF on identifying climate-related stakeholder needs for S/TEK in the North Pacific LCC region (Attachment 3). Dan’s presentation focused on the results of the NWF study and how the North Pacific LCC has used this information in developing the S/TEK Strategy. The study identified the four most requested types of support in the North Pacific LCC region as:

1. Decision-support systems and tools
2. Collaboration and other capacity building activities
3. New or different science, data, and information
4. Science communication and outreach.

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

How did NWF identify the 375 stakeholders used in their analysis?

The stakeholders were identified using snowball sampling. The NWF is in the process of creating a database of all the stakeholders involved in the analysis.

What was the composition of the 375 stakeholders in the analysis?

The stakeholders included a wide range of people from various agencies (federal and state) as well as other organizations. Dan noted that the participants were biased towards coastal issues and that the NWF is working to identify how to deal with this bias.

Did the study focus on identifying how much information is needed to address the science needs?

The project focused on identifying science needs rather than what level of information resource managers required to make decisions. However, based on the responses from managers, the information needs are so great that it is unlikely they will be satisfied anytime soon.

The steering committee also made the following observations:

- There is a concern that the study only focused on local resource managers. This focus could skew science needs away from larger regional issues that need to be addressed.
- There is a need to provide case studies highlighting how scientific information is used and applied on the ground. This could model for managers how science is used as well as provide lessons learned.
- The North Pacific LCC should be focused on identifying existing data before it invests resources in developing new data or tools.

- There is a need to understand that it isn't always a lack of scientific information that paralyzes management, but regulatory structures that may require the ability for managers to guarantee specific outcomes.
- There are three types of science needs: 1) the information you know, 2) the information you know you don't know, and 3) the information you don't yet know you don't know.
- The Fire Science Program (<http://www.firescience.gov/>) offers a great model for transferring technical information to managers. The Program focuses not only on what information is needed for managers, but what is the best way to deliver that information to managers. The North Pacific LCC should review the Program's work in identifying how best to deliver scientific information to managers.

Science/Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S/TEK) Strategy

Frank Shipley, US Geological Survey and S/TEK Subcommittee Chair, discussed the formation and goals of the S/TEK Subcommittee (Attachment 4, slides 1-8). One of these goals is the development of a S/TEK Strategy that provides priorities for the North Pacific LCC to use in the next four years.

Karen Jenni, Insight Decisions, explained the method used to identify the S/TEK priorities (Attachment 4, slides 9-11). The method began with three motivating questions:

- What are the important information gaps to address?
- What mix of work and priorities will best meet North Pacific LCC objectives?
- What are the best approaches for addressing the information and support gaps?

This led the subcommittee to identify four steps in the development of the S/TEK strategy:

1. Identify potential information and support needs
2. Define S/TEK Strategy objectives and portfolio criteria
3. Evaluate the identified needs; identify priorities
4. Develop and evaluate S/TEK strategies

Karen noted that these four steps were not independent and that many activities were used to identify information needs including a framing workshop, literature review, and the NWF analysis.

Mary Mahaffy then presented the approach for the S/TEK Strategy, which focuses on principles and topics that will be most useful for managers in making decisions (Attachment 4, slides 13-18). Mary discussed the draft priority principles identified by the S/TEK Subcommittee:

1. The North Pacific LCC will provide the following:
 - a. Information and support to help managers understand the availability and effectiveness of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions (primary focus).
 - b. Support the acquisition of new information to improve the scientific understanding of climate change influences and impacts (secondary focus).
2. Traditional Ecological Knowledge, where desired by Tribes and First Nations, will be incorporated throughout the work of the North Pacific LCC.
3. The North Pacific LCC will recognize cross-ecosystem interactions where appropriate and possible.

4. The North Pacific LCC will focus its efforts on types of information and support where partner entities have (historically) focused less effort. Generating new data and scientific findings will be a secondary focus for the North Pacific LCC.

Frank then presented the process used to prioritize the identified science needs (Attachment 4, slides 19-36). The subcommittee began by creating an impact matrix with 424 cells. Subcommittee members scored each cell from 1-5. This narrowed down the science needs to 22 (those with greater than 20 votes). The subcommittee then used evaluation criteria to narrow this list down to the following draft priority areas:

- Hydrologic regime – rivers, stream, and riparian habitats
- Hydrologic regime – anadromous fish
- Invasives, disease, pests – biological communities
- Precipitation and air temperature – forest
- Effects of sea level changes and storms on the marine shoreline, nearshore, and estuaries

Mary explained the proposed process to use the S/TEK Strategy to create annual implementation plans (Attachment 4, slides 38-40). These annual implementation plans will guide the types of projects the North Pacific LCC will fund each year.

Steering Committee Discussion

The following are the key points noted during the steering committee discussion of the S/TEK Strategy:

- There are several layers of nested elements occurring. First the annual implementation plans are nested within the four-year S/TEK Strategy. The S/TEK strategy is then nested within the North Pacific LCC strategic plan.
- The absence of social science from the S/TEK Strategy and the need for its inclusion in order to ensure North Pacific LCC products are useful and relevant to managers. Social science could be added into the guiding principles so that projects that engage science and managers are prioritized.
- The crosscutting nature of biological communities throughout the draft priority topics.
- The amount of work and thought that went in to developing this process and identifying the priority principles and topics.

The steering committee approved the work the S/TEK subcommittee has completed so far and asked to see a draft S/TEK Strategy document for the October conference call meeting.

Steering Committee Roundtable

Penny Mabie introduced the roundtable discussion as a time for steering committee members to identify organizational changes, new and noteworthy initiatives, or climate change related challenges members are facing within their organizations.

Terry William, Tulalip Tribe, discussed:

- The difficulty and complexity of providing TEK to the North Pacific LCC.

- Tribes are discussing whether they should share TEK and if so what the process for providing TEK to the North Pacific LCC would look like. This discussion will take time and will require many rounds of discussions.

Preston Hardison, Tulalip Tribe, discussed:

- A white paper he is drafting on the process for sharing TEK. The paper discusses both the positive and negative consequences of exchanging TEK. It also discusses the legal and cultural issues involved.

Bruce Newton, USDA National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), discussed:

- A recent NRCS Request for Proposal (RFP) for conservation innovation grants which funded nine projects to promote marketable credits for greenhouse gas emission reduction or mitigation projects.
- The NRCS is in the process of developing a climate change adaptation strategy.

Stephen Zylstra, USFWS, discussed:

- How the USFWS is implementing an adaptation framework to review how the agency plans and revisits conservation decisions. The USFWS's newest initiative is based on surrogate species, which support measureable outcomes. The initiative is designed to help the agency communicate in a more meaningful way.

Keith Hatch, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), discussed:

- A BIA-administered grant program that funded two Pacific Northwest tribe projects.
- Nationally, the BIA is working with tribes to participate in the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy.

Nancy Munn, NOAA Fisheries, discussed:

- A recent publication by Lisa Crozier that reviews Klondike-related climate science research from 2011.

Joyce Kelly, EPA, discussed:

- EPA's recent priority of integrating climate change science into their programmatic work.
- A collaborative project between EPA and Washington Department of Ecology to review climate change impacts in the South Fork Nooksack River and use that information in establishing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limits.

Sue Rodman, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, discussed:

- The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is working on updating their state wildlife action plan. As part of the process they are incorporating climate change assessments and impacts on habitat and wildlife. They will hold a scoping process in the fall and plan on using the results of LCC research in the plan.
- They are also using a crucial habitat assessment tool to locate crucial habitats and priority areas.

Whitney Albright, California Department of Fish and Game, discussed:

- The California Department of Fish and Game is working on assessing wildlife corridors across desert regions.

- They are updating their state wildlife adaptation plan, with an approach that resembles the USFWS's habitat conservation model. As part of the approach, the department will hold seven workshops over the next six to nine months.

Madeline Maley, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, discussed:

- The Great Northern LCC steering committee meeting in Kamloops, Canada that focused on work being done in British Columbia.
- The Ministry is working on some new initiatives concerning the mountain pine beetle epidemic that have led to the development of 22 management recommendations.

Rory Annett, Coastal Projects, discussed:

- His work to expand communication about the North Pacific LCC with Canadian partners. To assist with this, Rory has brought on Chris Tunnoch.
- A recent scoping of an experimental watershed design project to track shifts in hydrology over time. The project will monitor the impacts on biota and biodiversity to changes in management and long-term climate change.
- A concurrent project to track human well-being in the same areas as the watershed project. This project will measure if enhancing the watershed's ecosystems also increases people's standard of living.

Partner Highlights – Climate Science Centers

Northwest Climate Science Center

Gustavo Bisbal, Northwest Climate Science Center (CSC), gave a presentation on the Northwest Climate Science Center (Attachment 5). Gustavo's presentation highlighted the Northwest CSC's mission, strategic plan, and how the North Pacific LCC can engage with the CSC. Some key points from Gustavo's presentation included:

- The Northwest CSC has funded a total of 19 projects.
- The Northwest CSC held a Climate Boot Camp for college students to learn about climate science.
- More information on the Northwest CSC can be found at www.doi.gov/csc/northwest.

The steering committee's discussion focused on the following key topics:

- How can members of the steering committee raise the awareness for CSCs and ensure greater collaboration among scientists, decision makers, and resource managers.
- The importance of framing scientific research to review and discuss the implications of management alternatives on tribes.

Alaska Climate Science Center

Stephen Grey (Alaska CSC) gave a presentation on the work of the Alaska CSC (Attachment 6). Stephen highlighted the potential opportunities for collaboration between the North Pacific LCC and the Alaska CSC by the LCC's development of science priorities. Stephen noted that he plans to work directly with LCCs to shape the Alaska CSC's action plans and RFPs. Stephen then reviewed projects the Alaska CSC funded in 2012.

The steering committee identified the usefulness of the guiding principles identified in the S/TEK draft Science Strategy as a framework to link funded projects and identify the work completed for each science need.

Project Highlight – Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the Pacific Northwest

John Mankowski introduced Josh Lawler (University of Washington) who is working on developing vulnerability assessments and case examples. Josh Lawler explained that the goal of his study is to assess species and ecosystem vulnerabilities to climate change to inform conservation and management activities in the Pacific Northwest (Attachment 7). Josh discussed:

- The definition of vulnerability of species and ecological systems as the product of sensitivity and exposure.
- Various methods that are used to measure the sensitivity and exposure of species and ecological systems.
- The models use vulnerability assessments to predict the impact of climate change on species and ecological systems.
- Examples of working with land managers on understanding how they can use vulnerability assessments to make management decisions and assist their adaptation planning efforts.

The steering committee thanked Josh for his presentation and discussed the following key topics:

- The incorporation of anthropogenic technology into vulnerability assessments and how these assessments could help answer feasibility questions for what technology could be used to minimize the impacts of climate change on species distribution.
- The tension of scale that occurs since the North Pacific LCC focuses on broad topics to include all partners, but products and management recommendations need to be based on localized context.
- The importance of focusing on how to interpret and communicate data and science to resource managers and the public.

Communications Strategy

John Mankowski noted that Mike Tranel, National Park Service, is the Chair of the Communications and Outreach Subcommittee (COR) but was unable to attend the steering committee meeting. John explained that the COR recently began work on crafting a Communications Strategy to incorporate into the strategic plan. John also reviewed the goal of the COR: to develop and implement approaches for communicating the work of the North Pacific LCC to the broader stakeholder community.

John described that the COR has been working on identifying audiences, communications objectives, communications tools, and performance measures to include in a Communications Strategy. The steering committee discussed these elements and made the following comments:

- Look into connecting with social scientists on recommendations for disseminating scientific information to managers and provide decision support.
- Develop a map of all the Tribes and First Nations within the North Pacific LCC.
- Ensure that communications promote a common vision of the North Pacific LCC.

Additional detailed comments were captured in a Communications Strategy Matrix (Attachment 8)

John also asked the steering committee if they could provide ideas on additional members for the COR. The steering committee indicated the COR may want to engage with the following:

- Tulalip Tribe
- Ducks Unlimited
- Northwest Indian Fish Commission
- Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

John thanked the steering committee for their input and indicated the COR will work to provide a draft Communications Strategy to the steering committee for the October meeting.

US Forest Service Partner Update

Paul Brewster (US Forest Service) provided an overview of the Forest Service's organizational structure and the work the Forest Service is doing on climate change. Paul explained that the Forest Service is an agency within the US Department of Agriculture with 34,000 employees and about a \$2.5 billion budget. The Forest Service's mission is to provide healthy forests and grasslands for the present and future. The Forest Service has three branches:

1. National Forest System
2. Research and Development
3. State and Private Forestry

Paul noted that he currently works at the Pacific Northwest Research Station, which has ten labs across Alaska, Washington, and Oregon. The research station has four programs focusing on land and watersheds, ecological processes and functions, threats characterization and management, and goods services and values.

Paul discussed that prior to 2007 the agency did not really use the words "climate change" but that now the agency is creating a strategic framework to respond to climate change. The research station has also included climate change as one of their research priorities. Paul provided a web link to <http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc/> which hosts information on climate change studies, projects, and information for both scientists and managers.

North Pacific LCC Charter Review

Penny Mabie explained to the steering committee that they had agreed to review the North Pacific LCC charter within six months of adopting it. Penny noted that there were three areas in the charter that should be discussed: decision-making, membership, and subcommittees.

Decision-making

The steering committee did not have any concerns about the decision-making process established in the North Pacific LCC charter.

Steering Committee Membership

The steering committee discussed the current composition of the steering committee and highlighted the following areas to follow up on:

- Invite the Canadian Climate Centre to participate in the North Pacific LCC.
- The importance of tracking the seats present at each steering committee meeting to accumulate a history of participation to help inform if new members are needed.

Subcommittees

John Mankowski remarked that the S/TEK and COR subcommittees have been convened and are working on products currently. The next two subcommittees that need to be started are the Tribes/First Nations and the Partnership Liaison committees. John noted that he is working on filling tribal seats on the steering committee before convening the Tribes/First Nations subcommittee. Also, more framing for the Partnership Liaison subcommittee needs to occur before that group is formed.

The steering committee discussion focused on the Tribes/First Nations subcommittee highlighting the importance to:

- Add language into the charter with the suggestion of Tribes/First Nations that clearly articulates that TEK will only be used with express permission from tribes.
- Identify protocols in working with Tribes/First Nations on the sharing of TEK.

Next Steps

Follow Up & Action Items

Penny Mabie identified the follow up and action items from the meeting:

- Provide comments on draft North Pacific LCC logo John Mankowski
- Provide suggestions for Communication and Outreach Subcommittee members outside of the steering committee to John Mankowski
- Provide photos of the North Pacific region to be used in fact sheets, on the website, etc. to John Mankowski
- EnviroIssues will track attendance at steering committee meetings
- Review beta website before October meeting.
- S/TEK Science Strategy will be drafted for the December meeting
- Provide suggestions for incorporating social science into the S/TEK Science Strategy

Topics for October 4th Conference Call

The steering committee identified the following topics for the October 4th conference call meeting:

- Continue to review strategic plan elements (S/TEK Science Strategy and Communications Strategy)
- Develop the intent of the Partnership Liaison Subcommittee
- Review and approve beta website

Topics for December 4th-6th In-Person Meeting (December 4-6, 2012)

The steering committee identified the following topics for the December 4th–6th in-person meeting:

- Briefing on the Western Governors’ crucial habitat assessment tools
- Presentation on social science perspectives on developing products and services for use by resource managers
- Discuss materials to create to use within agencies to discuss the North Pacific LCC and raise awareness
- Review draft S/TEK and Communications Strategies for the strategic plan

The steering committee also discussed the importance of identifying a location that minimizes costs and travel time while maximizing participation. John Mankowski responded that the North Pacific LCC would gather information on an appropriate location given the steering committee’s discussion.

Closing Remarks

Paul Brewster and Rory Annett made closing remarks. Paul said he felt positive about the meeting and that it had been worthwhile. Rory remarked that the group seems to be gaining traction and moving forward in a positive way.

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

Attachments

Attachment 1: NPLCC Progress and Direction; National Outlook

Attachment 2: What is Strategic Planning?

Attachment 3: Informing Strategic Planning

Attachment 4: S/TEK Subcommittee - Status and Draft Strategy

Attachment 5: NW Climate Science Center

Attachment 6: Alaska’s Climate Science Center

Attachment 7: Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the Pacific Northwest

Attachment 8: DRAFT Communications Strategy Matrix

Attendees

Steering Committee Members and Alternates

Whitney Albright	California Department of Fish and Game
Rory Annett	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – <i>Steering Committee Co-Chair</i>
Paul Brewster	US Forest Service – <i>Steering Committee Co-Chair</i>
Dave Brittell	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Peter Dederich	National Park Service
Armand Gonzales	California Department of Fish and Game
Preston Hardison	Tulalip Tribes
Sono Hashisaki	Tulalip Tribes
Keith Hatch	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Richard Kearney	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Joyce Kelly	Environmental Protection Agency

Steve Klosiewski	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Madeline Maley	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Nancy Munn	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Bruce Newton	USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
James Partain	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Sue Rodman	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mike Roy	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Frank Shipley	US Geological Survey
Lyman Thorsteinson	US Geological Survey
Mike Tranel	National Park Service
Chris Tunnoch	Coastal Projects
Terry Williams	Tulalip Tribes

Others in Attendance

Gustavo Bisbal	Northwest Climate Science Center
Stephen Gray	Alaska Climate Science Center
Robyn Thorson	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Stephen Zylstra	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Josh Lawler	University of Washington
Karen Jenni	Insight Decisions
Dan Siemann	National Wildlife Foundation
John Mankowski	North Pacific LCC Coordinator
Mary Mahaffy	North Pacific LCC Science Coordinator
Penny Mabie	EnviroIssues
Angie Thomson	EnviroIssues
Daniel Brody	EnviroIssues

Steering Committee Members Absent and Not Represented by an Alternate

Brett Brownscombe	Oregon Governor's Office
Debora Cooper	National Park Service
Tom Dwyer	Pacific Coast Joint Venture
Jim Fincher	Bureau of Land Management
Josh Foster	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration RISA
Chip Jenkins	National Park Service
Mark Johnson	Bureau of Land Management
John Laurence	US Forest Service
Tasha Sargent	Pacific Coast Joint Venture
Kathleen Sloan	Yurok Tribe
Mike Strobel	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jeff Walter	US Forest Service