

# Great Northern LCC

Steering Committee Conference Call Notes  
February 1, 2011 Notes taken by Scott Bischke

## Attendees:

Steve Guertin US FWS Mountain-Prairie Regional Director  
Tammy Whittington for John Wessel National Park Service Intermountain Regional Director  
Yvette Converse, GNLCC Coordinator  
Tom Olliff, NPS GNLCC Coordinator  
Rick Sojda, USGS GNLCC Science Coordinator  
Kathy Irving, USGS  
Susanna Carrithers, USGS  
Leslie Allen, USGS  
Gary Davis, Bureau of Reclamation, Billings, MT  
Frank D'Erchia, USGS Fort Collins  
Andy Updike, USGS  
Molly Cross, Wildlife Conservation Society  
Carl Scheeler, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation  
Brian Horsburgh, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, ID  
Tyler Abbot, Bureau of Land Management WY  
Michael Whitfield, Heart of the Rockies Initiative  
DeWayne Cecil and Andrea Ray, NOAA  
Don Martin, EPA Region 10  
Greg Servheen, State of Idaho Fish and Game Dept.  
Kathy Tonnesson, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain CESU  
Mark Nelson and John Emmerich, State of Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.  
Rick Mogren, Columbia River Basin Federal Caucus  
Theresa Hanley, Bureau of Land Management, Billings  
Larry Kruckenberg, Intermountain West Joint Venture  
Dave Brittell, State of Washington Department  
Paul Bradford, US Forest Service Northern Forest Acting Deputy Regional Forester

## 1) FY11 Funding Guidance (20 min) - please be prepared for decision on finalization and timing.

- Quick review of major sections; several comments were received and incorporated
- Revised version posted on GNLCC website
- The Guidance will be posted on Grants.gov and other; Q/A on Feb 9 and 17; Mar 2 deadline
- Comments
  - Need announcement to GNLCC audience. Yvette will send email to SC and partnerships.
  - General criteria is for screening and relevance criteria is for ranking.
  - At this juncture we expect to be able to support Canadian projects.
  - Review process: AT will set up process for initial screening, smaller teams, ranking, and \$ recommendation; SC will adjust or tune the AT recommendation
  - Steve Guertin (FWS) commented that we can assume same funding as last year
  - Dave Brittell from WA moves we finalize, Michael Whitfield 2nds— no dissenters

## 2) Partner (Eco) Forum Process (20 min) - we will ask if members are ready to finalize and if we want to start a pilot forum or possibly all forums this year.

- Name has been transitioning to 'Partner' Forums rather than Eco Forums upon request
- Yvette will follow up with DeWayne Cecil of NOAA regarding his questions about Forums
- Does SC want to initiate pilot forum or all forums this year?
  - Likely \$15-25k this year
  - Questions about workload/staffing:
    - Funding support may be available for the forums outside the current LCC staff
    - AT will explore workload need for Forums
- There was a group discussion about what it would take to begin all 3 Forums and if it would be more valuable to learn from a pilot before starting other 2. There was general acceptance that the AT will evaluate workload and process and that at the very least, the Forum Leadership Teams will be initiated for other 2 Forums (in addition to Pilot) to discuss how to move forward and develop a recommendation for the SC
  - The document is open for 2 weeks additional review, then the AT will flesh out specifics on work load and capacity for this year with the intention of starting at least one rolled out this year; The AT will bring the SC a recommendation for Mar 29 conference call.

## 3) GNLCC SC meeting April 13-14 in Pendleton, OR hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla. (10 min) We will ask for some clarification on timing of meeting and will present options for the venue offered by our hosts.

- After some discussion, it was agreed that Yvette and Tom would provide more information about travel times and logistics and either offer a choice or make a recommendations to the SC about whether to do:
  - April 13 noon to April 14 noon OR
  - April 13 all day (with travel days on either side)
  - Post Script: After researching flight options, it was decided that the SC meeting would be held April 13 (all day) through noon, April 14, with travel on April 12 and 14. Yvette send an email to SC with this information on Feb. 16.

## 4) Update on development of proposal for GNLCC Strategic Framework and objectives (as per SC meeting Boise Oct 21-22) (5 min)

- First a question on fall meeting timing; currently Oct 5/6 in Whitefish but could also be week of Crown Roundtable (22/23 in Polson), Sep 21/22 Wed/Thu; overlap 1 day would allow some of SC to go to both meetings; thoughts??
  - Tom and Yvette will send out information and request which dates work better for most SC members.
  - Post script: Yvette sent email out on Feb. 16 including info on April SC meeting in Pendleton and request for best dates for fall meeting at Glacier National Park. **Please respond to Yvette's email so we can set the fall dates.**

- Tom and Yvette recommend paying a partner to develop Strategic Framework; they have been talking to Nina Chambers of the Sonoran Institute who has assembled a team including herself, Craig Groves of The Nature Conservancy and Gary Tabor of the Center for Large Landscape Connectivity. This team is proposing a nested approach, realistic conservative targets.
- The SC has a brief discussion and generally agreed to move forward with a more fully developed proposal from this team led by Sonoran Institute. SI will provide a final draft to the AT for review and the AT will make a final recommendation to the SC for the next conference call.

### **5) Update on Demonstration Collaboration Project (10 min)**

- Tom described the Demo Project and some background as well as an update on progress
  - 99% agreement on the agreement begin developed among the Demo project partners (BLM, USFS, ID, MT, NPS, FWS, Heart of the Rockies)
  - Sharing information and process with Western Governors Association about DSS Pilots
  - See GNLCC Demo Project web page for info: [www.nrmssc.usgs.gov/gnlcc/DemoProj](http://www.nrmssc.usgs.gov/gnlcc/DemoProj)
  - Tom will initiate next steps in collaboration with core team.

### **6) Brief update on Climate Science Centers (10 min)**

- At the end of January, two meetings were organized by Northwest and North Central CSCs
- NW CSC includes OSU, UW, UI and others – Funded in FY10; Carol Schuler interim Director
- NC CSC led by CSU, also a consortium of universities – proposed funding for FY11 but unsure with CR in place
- They are forming science advisory teams and Executive Stakeholder Advisory Committees
- Questions about how to link LCCs and CSCs to reduce redundancy in meetings and members as well as create a clear link in process
- NW CSC in process of hiring climate center director

### **7) Brief update on outreach (webinars, FY10 project summary, website proposal) (5 min)**

- First of a series of monthly (roughly) webinars is scheduled for February 23 at noon MST: Drs. Hauer and Muhlfeld: The Flathead Wild - A Riverscape Undergoing Tremendous Change
  - Washington Connected Landscapes Webinar is scheduled for Apr
  - Post script: Daniel Isaak, USFS , will conduct a seminar March 24
  - Others TBA
  - The Webinars are intended to disseminate GNLCC science and information to a larger audience
- Website: Working on proposal for new website and will bring that to the SC in upcoming months.
- Working on GNLCC logo—present to AT then to SC