

GREAT NORTHERN LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE (GNLCC) STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

*April 21th, 2010
Holiday Inn Bozeman, MT*

The following reports presents a summary and more in depth notes of a meeting held to formulate the Steering Committee for the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative. The report is based on the running notes of Suzanna Carrithers and Molly Webb, along with the flip chart records of meeting facilitator Scott Bischke (scott@emountainworks.com; www.emountainworks.com).



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MEETING SUMMARY

The goal of this meeting was to formulate the Steering Committee (SC) for the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GNLCC). To accomplish this goal the meeting was broken into six agenda topics: background, vision, governance, initial funding priorities, capacity, and next steps.

An Advisory Committee (AC; for names see next section), created in early 2010, created the meeting agenda, which is available at the end of this document. The background topic of the meeting covered the genesis and reasoning for creation of the LCC program, as well as issues and opportunities unique to the Great Northern. For the middle three sections—vision, governance, initial funding priorities—the AC presented a strawman to the SC, then the SC discussed, questioned, modified, appended, and in some cases approved parts of each topic strawman. For areas where there could be no clear decision, the SC set a process for decision regarding issues in the topic strawman.

In the final topic of the day the group discussed capacity needs to get the GNLCC off the ground. The meeting closed with a recap of the decisions made, as well as date scheduling for future meetings. Highlights from each of these areas follow, including a call out of all action items assigned through the day.

[Note that a single PowerPoint presentation was used for the entire meeting. This slide presentation can be found at the meeting website at www.greateryellowstonescience.org/gnlcc_sc.

Background

Greg Watson provided a brief background description of the LCC program, including key points on the roles of LCC:

- Focus on landscape conservation
- Enhance effectiveness and efficiency through existing coalitions and

cooperatives – not to replace – share resources.

- Add value through collective science research, shared science understanding; common conservation goals, and coordinated conservation actions.

as well as on LCC functions:

- Identify information needs to address common landscape goals
- Network for shared science capacity and conservation awareness to support natural resource managers.
- Science information and decision support tools for planning and conservation delivery.
- Support adaptive management and monitoring strategies.
- Access to specialized expertise.

Vision

Tom Olliff provided a first pass vision for the GNLCC¹ as a start to SC discussion:

A Possible GNLCC Goal

Coordinate, facilitate, and promote and add value to large landscape conservation to build resource resilience in the face of climate change and other landscape-level stressors through:

- SCIENCE SUPPORT
- CONSERVATION ACTION
- COORDINATION
- ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

The SC discussed both the goal and its constituent items thoroughly. A fairly rigorous and effective effort was made at group word smith-ing both the overall goal and the descriptions under each of the four bullets

¹ Note that while the group labeled this section Vision, they did not follow a standard Vision (what, long term), Mission (how, shorter term); Goals (measurable) approach.

supporting each goal. The discussion closed with two action items:

1. *Action item:* By the end of the day members of the SC will further mark up a printout of the Vision and hand to the facilitator for inclusion in the AC rewrite of the vision.
2. *Action item:* The AC will rewrite the vision statements based on the input from today and return to the SC by April 30.

Governance

Yvette Converse provided three possible governance models to the Steering Committee: Traditional Two Committee Model, Geopolitical Committee Structure, and Partnership Network. Discussion followed on all three models, moving back and forth between pluses and minuses of each model, comparison with existing similar structures, and questions about what structures other LCCs are considering or have adopted.

A theme developed that all LCCs have unique relationships that may lead to them each having unique governing structure. Within the GNLCC, a unique feature is the large size and diverse landscapes and numerous large landscape partnerships.

It was pointed out that the large landscape leads to a large SC. Several options were posed for decreasing the size of the SC, including having an Executive Committee of the SC, and consolidating federal representation. A question was asked about breaking the LCC in two and the response came that sub-units were possible, but that formally breaking the LCC into two LCCs was not under consideration.

Several action items resulted from the discussions:

3. *Action item:* Advisory Committee will continue to work together and will work on a proposed draft of governance (meeting set for the next day, April 22). There is more support for the 2 committee model with linkage to geopolitical and partnership networks, which may result in

a hybridized version specific to GNLCC needs. The draft will be completed by the Advisory Committee and brought to the Steering Committee by the end of April.

4. *Action item:* Each person on the Steering Committee will confirm the identity of the primary and secondary contacts for their organization.
5. *Action item:* The SC and AC are to request additional participation on the AC by other groups including additional state, tribal, and NGO representation.
6. *Action item:* The Advisory Committee will describe draft roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee as part of the governance document.
7. *Action item:* Make the LCC a hub or vehicle to “identify and facilitate the development and integration of scientific information needed to inform water, land, and species management decisions in the face of climate change.” (key Science Support statement)

Final SC guidance—The decision process should be made by consensus and not by vote.

Initial Funding Priorities

Jeff Kershner provided the SC a set of proposals which came directly from existing landscape level partnerships. \$900k is available for 2010 funding (USFWS) for research (not capacity) and must be allocated by May 31, 2010. The SC was asked to consider the projects being recommended as a representation of existing landscape work, but the SC stepped back to ask many questions. Concern centered around two areas: selection criteria and potential that some worthy projects were not included.

Instead of considering projects, the SC discussion turned to modifying the process for project review. The SC decided to narrow down the key themes that they wanted the projects to fall under, and then used two votes each to select their top two thematic areas as a method to drive AC review.

The process agreed to by the SC for prioritizing funding for 2010 project funding was that the SC named and then voted on most important thematic areas → SC voted on most important criteria (using those initially proposed by the AC; again 2 votes per SC member) → AC accepts additional proposals (deadline April 30; SC deemed that these proposals be “shelf-ready”) → AC meets after this meeting and applies thematic guidance and criteria developed by the SC to make selection → AC provides recommendations to SC → SC vetoes or approves recommendations during telecom.

The results for SC desired thematic areas for LCC-funded projects follow (votes show in parenthesis; top 3 in red):

- Water resource vulnerability (n=14)
- Data management, sharing, and integration of existing datasets (n=11)
- Habitat connectivity (n=9)
- Monitoring and evaluation (n=4)
- Climate information (n=2)
- Land cover (n=2)

The results for SC desired criteria for judging thematic areas for LCC-funded projects follow (votes show in parenthesis):

- Relevance to on-the-ground conservation delivery (n=17)
- Relevance to climate change and other landscape drivers (n=14)
- Relevance to focal species and or the habitats in the GNLCC (n= 7)
- Partner agreement (n=2)
- Geographic scope of project (n=0)
- Ability to show success in FY2010 (n=0)

8. *Action item:* The AC will select and rank the proposals according to the SC themes and criteria guidance (AC set meeting for the next day, April 22). The ranked proposals will then be sent to the Steering Committee by May 17th. The Steering

Committee will provide feedback (veto or accept) by May 31st.

Capacity

Steve Guertin

Steve presented a review of GNLCC capacity expectations. The following positions have available funding for this year:

- FWS
 - Coordinator
 - Science Coordinator #1
 - Other
- NPS
 - LCC Adaptation Coordinator
 - Other
- USGS
 - Research grade position
 - Post-doc position
 - Geo-spatial analyst – partial FTE from USGS FRESC
 - Science Coordinator #2

Steve asked for input on these positions. He noted that the USGS funding was most likely to be flexible. Many questions were asked about roles of the individuals shown, and much discussion centered on the two “other” positions. The states suggested a single person at each state would be efficient, or in lieu of this perhaps a federal “circuit rider” that travelled to multiple states.

Steve requested team help in the interviews ahead. No volunteers were forthcoming.

9. *Action item:* Steve Guertin (US FWS) will work over the next few weeks to develop a proposal for allocation of GNLCC capacity funds. Possibilities and concerns include a) circuit rider, b) individual state and/or tribal allocation. A proposed allocation will be discussed at the conference call at the end of the month.

Future Meeting Schedule

AC meeting

To be held April 22, third floor USGS building Bozeman, to address action items developed during this meeting. An open invitation was provided to all SC partners to send new members to this AC meeting.

SC Telecons

(all telecons convened by Greg Watson)

- Monday, May 17th, 3 PM Mountain time; main topics 1) review of AC

recommended proposals following filter by SC thematic areas and criteria; 2) Steve Guertin proposal for allocation of GNLCC capacity funds

- Monday June 21st, 3 PM Mountain
- Monday August 16th, 3 PM Mountain

SC Fall meeting

- Thursday/Friday October 21/22 from noon to noon in Boise, ID. Co-hosted by BLM and FWS.

ATTENDEES

A spreadsheet that follows lists who attended the Steering Committee, as well as whether each individual is a member of the SC, or perhaps acting as a 1st or 2nd proxy for their organization. The spreadsheet is available as an Excel file from the facilitator. A list of members of the audiences not explicitly noted in spreadsheet follows the spreadsheet.

	GNLCC Position	First Name	Last Name	acted as lead at this meeting yes = 1 no = 0	TITLE	AGENCY / ORGANIZATION
1	Steering Committee	Phil	Anderson		Director	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
2	Steering Committee	Ron	Bjorge		Director of Wildlife	Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
3	Steering Committee	Leslie	Dierauf		Northwest Area Regional Executive	US Geological Survey
4	Steering Committee	Peter	Ditton		Idaho Acting State Director	Bureau of Land Management
5	Steering Committee	Roy	Elicker		Director	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
6	Steering Committee	Steve	Ferrell		Director	Wyoming Game and Fish
7	Steering Committee	Harv	Forsgren		Intermountain Regional Director	US Forest Service
8	Steering Committee	Mary	GibsonScott		Intermountain Acting Regional Director	National Park Service
9	Steering Committee	Cal	Groen	1	Director	Idaho Fish and Game
10	Steering Committee	Steve	Guertin	1	Mountain-Prairie Regional Director	US Fish and Wildlife Service
11	Steering Committee	Ann	Kinsinger		Western Regional Director	US Geological Survey
12	Steering Committee	Kaaren	Lewis		Director of Ecosystems Branch	Ministry of Environment
13	Steering Committee	Alexander (Sandy)	MacDonald		Deputy Assistant Administrator, NOAA Research	NOAA
14	Steering Committee	Joe	Maurier	1	FWP Director	Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
15	Steering Committee	Rick	Mogren	1	Coordinator	Columbia Basin Federal Caucus
16	Steering Committee	Ernest 'Bud'	Moran		Chairman Tribal Council	Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes
17	Steering Committee	Stan	Ponce	1	Central Regional Director	US Geological Survey
18	Steering Committee	Carol	Schuler		Science Applications ARD	US Fish and Wildlife Service
19	Steering Committee	Don	Simpson		Wyoming State Director	Bureau of Land Management

20	Steering Committee	Joyce	Swartzendruber	1	Montana State Conservationist	NRCS
21	Steering Committee	Gene	Terland	1	Montana State Director	Bureau of Land Management
22	Steering Committee	Robyn	Thorson	1	Pacific Regional Director	US Fish and Wildlife Service
23	Steering Committee	Leslie	Weldon		Northern Region Regional Forester	US Forest Service
24	Steering Committee	Rory	Westberg		Pacific West Acting Regional Director	National Park Service
25	Steering Committee	Michael	Whitfield	1	Coordinator	Heart of the Rockies Initiative
26	Advisory Team	Yvette	Converse	1	Interim Coordinator	US Fish and Wildlife Service
27	Advisory Team	Jim	Morrison		Northern Forest Regional Climate Coordinator	US Forest Service
28	Advisory Team	Tom	Olliff	1	NPS LCC Coordinator	National Park Service
29	Advisory Team	Rick	Sojda	1	Science Coordinator	US Geological Survey
30	Advisory Team	Greg	Watson	1	Chief of Landscape Conservation	US Fish and Wildlife Service
31	Advisory Team	David	Wood	1	Conservation Biologist	Bureau of Land Management
32	Advisory Team	Stephen	Zylstra	1	GNLCC Liaison	US Fish and Wildlife Service
33	Admin for WY	Sheridan	Voycheske		Administrative Assistant	Wyoming Game and Fish
34	Admin for USGS Central	Tammy	Sharp		Secretary to the Regional Director	US Geological Survey
35	Admin for USFS Intermountain	Paula J	Bailey		Intermountain Executive Assistant	US Forest Service
36	Admin for NW RE USGS	Angela	Freeman		Administrative Executive	US Geological Survey
37	Admin for NPS Intermountain	Donna	Emmons		Administrative Executive	National Park Service
38	Admin for CTSK	Sharon	Silberman		Secretary	Confederated Tribes of the Salish-Kootenai
39	Admin for BLM MT	Barb	Riveland		State Director's Staff Assistant	Bureau of Land Management
40	2nd Proxy	Mary	Erickson		Superintendent - Gallatin NF R1	US Forest Service
41	2nd Proxy	Jon	Foster	1	Chief, Idaho Resources and Science	Bureau of Land Management
42	1st Proxy for WA and IGBC	Dave	Brittell	1	Assistant Director of Wildlife	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
43	1st Proxy for IWJV	Larry	Kruckenburg	1		Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
44	1st Proxy	Tyler	Abbott	1	Wildlife Biologist and Ecoregional Assessment Lead	Bureau of Land Management
45	1st Proxy	Dale	Becker	1	Natural Resources	Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes
46	1st Proxy	Jane	Cottrell		Northern Region Deputy Regional Forester	US Forest Service

47	1st Proxy	John	Emmerich	1	Deputy Director	Wyoming Game and Fish
48	1st Proxy	Jeff	Foss		Idaho Deputy State Director for Resources and Minerals	Bureau of Land Management
49	1st Proxy	Charles	Gordon			NRCS
50	1st Proxy	Jay	Hestbeck			US Geological Survey
51	1st Proxy	Lee	Jacobson		Intermountain T&E Species Program Manager	US Forest Service
52	1st Proxy	Eric	Johnston	1	Deputy Staff Director	US Forest Service
53	1st Proxy	Sharon	Kiefer			
54	1st Proxy	Nancy	Lee	1	Northwest Area Deputy Regional Executive	US Geological Survey
55	1st Proxy	Howard	Lem			Bureau of Land Management--MT
56	1st Proxy	Holly	Michael	1	Conservation Policy Coordinator	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
57	1st Proxy	Mike	Pellant			Bureau of Land Management
58	1st Proxy	Andrea	Ray	1	Climate Researcher	NOAA
59	1st Proxy	Dave	Risley		FWS Deputy Director	Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
60	1st Proxy	Ray	Sauvajot	1	Chief of Natural Resource Programs	National Park Service
61	1st Proxy	Gregg	Servheen		Wildlife	Idaho Fish and Game
62	1st Proxy	Noreen	Walsh		Mountain-Prairie Deputy RD	US Fish and Wildlife Service
63	1st Proxy	Laura	Joss		Deputy Regional Director	National Park Service
			total	26		

In addition to those listed above, the following individuals were also in attendance at the meeting (a scanned signup sheet that includes contact information for the individuals below can be obtained from the facilitator):

- Rick Muldron: Columbia Basin Federal Caucus
- Dave Risley: Deputy Director, MT FWP
- Stephen Zylstra: GNLCC Liaison, Pacific Region US FWS
- Greg Hughes: Pacific Region US FWS
- Mary Erickson: Director, Gallatin and Custer Forest, USFS
- Dave Woodson: Western Fish Center, USGS
- Kelly Hogan: Plains & Prairie Pothole LCC
- Matt McKinney: University of Montana – Environmental Policy Center
- Gary Tabor: UM – Center for Large Landscape Conservation
- Steve Hostettler: USGS
- Jeff Kershner: Director, USGS – NOROCK
- Scott Bischke: Facilitator, MountainWorks
- Suzanna Carrithers: Outreach, USGS-NOROCK
- Molly Web: Bozeman Fish Technology Center, US FWS

MEETING AGENDA

Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative Steering Committee Agenda

April 21, 2010

Holiday Inn, Bozeman, MT

Time	Presenters	Item
8:00 AM	<p>Steve Guertin USFWS</p> <p>Mary Gibson Scott NPS</p> <p>Robyn Thorson USFWS</p> <p>Scott Bischke, facilitator</p>	<p>Welcome and view of the GNLCC from a regional perspective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve (5 min) • Mary (5 min) • Robyn (5 min) <p>Scott (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Day's Objective—to formulate the GNLCC Steering Committee (SC) • Desired Day's Outcome—discussion and preliminary agreement of SC four areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the SC's collective vision and objectives for the GNLCC? 2. How will the group govern itself? 3. What are the SC initial priorities for 2010 project funding? 4. How will the SC create capacity to fulfill the demands of those initial priorities (and beyond)? <p>Scott (20 min)</p> <p>Self introductions by all SC members describing how the LCC could add value and/or leverage to the respective agency's/organization's landscape conservation and climate adaptation efforts.</p>
8:50	<p>Greg Watson USFWS</p>	<p>BACKGROUND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background and History of the LCCs • Relationship to Strategic Habitat Conservation • Unique challenges and opportunities within the GNLCC
9:00	<p>Tom Olliff NPS</p> <p>(Scott)</p>	<p>VISION - What is the SC's collective vision and objectives for the GNLCC?</p> <p><u>Presentation (15 min)</u></p> <p>Proposed purpose for the LCC as envisioned by the Advisory Subcommittee.</p> <p><u>Facilitated discussion (60 min)</u></p> <p>Goal is to seek loose consensus on GNLCC vision, including how to go about development of commonly held (shared) goals and objectives – (how do we define and measure success?, what needs to be accomplished to get there?) with objections and concerns noted for potential future discussion.</p>
10:15	<p>Break</p>	

Time	Presenters	Item
10:30	Yvette Converse USFWS (Scott)	GOVERNANCE - How will the group govern itself? <u>Presentation (15 min)</u> Consideration of alternative methods of governance as proposed by the Advisory Subcommittee and built around conceptual models and/or extant charters. <u>Facilitated discussion (60 min)</u> Goal is to seek loose consensus on governance structure, decision making processes, and prospective subcommittee structures (including future role of advisory committee) with objections and concerns noted for potential future discussion.
1145	Working lunch	<i>Break & lunch served 1145-1215.</i> <i>Next presentation begins at 12:15 while lunch is on-going</i>
12:15	Jeff Kershner USGS (Scott)	INITIAL PRIORITIES - What are the SC initial priorities for 2010 project funding? <u>Presentation (30 min)</u> Review of proposed science projects including method and logic for project selection. Including review of templates and responses to questions for specific project recommendations. <u>Facilitated discussion (60 min)</u> Goal is to seek loose consensus or process on prioritization and initial funding allocation for GNLCC projects, with objections and concerns noted for potential future discussion.
1:45	Break	
2:15	Steve Guertin USFWS (Scott)	CAPACITY - How will the SC create capacity to fulfill the demands of those initial priorities (and beyond)? <u>Presentation (10 min)</u> Review of capacity needs to support the GNLCC. <u>Facilitated discussion (50 min)</u> Goal is to seek loose consensus on capacity needs, plus potential hosting and funding mechanism(s) for those resources to support the GNLCC, with objections and concerns noted for potential future discussion.
3:15	Scott	Wrap up Enumerate action items Set future meeting dates : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teleconferences 2nd week of Jun (___) and Aug (___) • Full meeting this fall (date ___ ; location ___; host ___)
3:30 PM	Adjourn	