Great Northern LCC Strategic Framework Decision Briefing

Decision 1: Does the Steering Committee (SC) agree to adopt the proposed framework to guide LCC priorities and metrics in the short- and long-term?
Does the SC agree to move forward with defining flagship priorities within this framework?

Background

1. **Interim Operations Plan** - In 2009, the Great Northern LCC (GNLCC) developed an Interim Operations Plan in response to a request from US FWS. However, there was minimal partner input during this time. Therefore subsequent steps were taken to integrate priorities from partner agencies, starting with State wildlife agencies.

2. **Goals and Priorities for FY10** - In 2010, the GNLCC focused on setting a goal, developing a governance structure, and funding science under three priority themes: a) Habitat Connectivity; b) Water Resources Vulnerability; and c) Data Integration.

3. **State Wildlife Action Plans** – In response to a request from State agencies to consider SWAPs, the GNLCC analyzed State Wildlife Action Plans from Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington for commonalities in ecological communities and species. This analysis can serve as a foundation for priority species and ecological communities for the GNLCC as one step towards identifying flagship priorities.

4. **Preliminary Landscape Initiatives Analysis**—As suggested at the SWAP Coordinator’s Workshop, the Advisory Team also conducted a preliminary analysis of Landscape Initiatives within the GNLCC, combining priorities across five resource areas: a) Landscape Issues/Threats; b) Ecological Communities; c) Species; d) Ecological Processes; and e) Cultural Heritage. This analysis is preliminary and needs to be expanded but provides an excellent start at identifying common regional natural resource priorities.

5. **Long-term Strategy** — In order to develop annual needs within a larger strategic framework that incorporates priorities and values from all partners, the Advisory Team recommends that the GNLCC use the proposed framework to develop a Long-term Strategy. This Strategy would be informed by the above analyses (SWAP & Landscape Initiative Analysis) as well as other landscape scaled assessments and input from Eco-Forums.
   - Once developed, the GNLCC Strategy guides annual workplans.
   - The Advisory Team recommends development of the Strategy is an FY11 priority project.
Convening Eco Forum Briefing

Decision 2: Does the SC support the proposed outline below for convening Eco Forums?

1. Recommend 45 day review period
2. Recommend initiating Eco Forums in FY 11
3. Recommend funding support to start up Eco Forums in FY 11

Background

1. There are numerous existing and functioning landscape-scaled partnerships within the Great Northern Area
2. A wealth of scientific and technical expertise exists within the Great Northern Area
3. The GNLCC wants to take advantage of existing efforts and expertise in developing a collaborative, regional response to landscape change.
4. Eco Forums provide a means for existing expertise and experience to play a driving role in development of conservation information and needs by building on existing teams, committees and effort.
5. Eco Forums provide an interface for ground-level and local management and scientists to interface, inform, and provide feedback into the GNLCC.
Governance Charter Briefing

Decision 3: Does the SC support the Governance Charter as final?

1. Recommend 45 day final comment period after which Governance Charter is final.

Background

1. In April 2010, the Advisory Team drafted a governance charter to reflect discussion at the April 2010 Steering Committee meeting

2. Governance Charter includes:
   o Need
   o Purpose and Goals
   o Organization
   o Operations
   o Communication and Information Exchange

3. There have been two review periods for additional comments (three drafts).

4. Changes have been made to reflect comments and add clarity in roles, responsibilities and communication flow.
FY11 Themes and Funding Process Briefing

Decision 4: Does the SC agree to the proposed themes and process to guide funding and work plan decisions for FY11? (Note: this will be the last year under interim operations until the GNLCC develops a Long-term Strategy to guide annual workplans).

Background

1. In 2010, the Great Northern LCC funded science projects under three priority themes. After reviewing the SWAPs and after a preliminary Landscape Initiative Analysis, the AT recommends that GNLCC focus on five priority themes in FY11 as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Themes for GNLCC funding</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011 (AT recommended)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Habitat Connectivity</td>
<td>a) Habitat Connectivity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Water Resources Vulnerability</td>
<td>b) Aquatic Integrity (including Aquatic Invasive Species)</td>
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<td>c) Data Integration</td>
<td>c) Climate Change</td>
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<td>d) Partnerships</td>
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<td>e) Communication, Education, and Outreach</td>
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2. Process for soliciting proposals:
   - Similar to FY10, existing landscape partnerships will be canvassed to identify priority science/information needs within these themes.
   - For Projects that are on-going within a partnerships—fund existing projects
   - For Projects identified as a new need—potential Request for Proposals unless sole source is evident for jurisdictional or proprietary reasons.

3. Process for Selecting Proposals to Recommend to SC for Approval
   - Similar to FY10, use (or modify) criteria and process for ranking proposals.

4. Recommend continuing funding for Priority FY10 GNLCC Science Projects that meet FY11 Themes

5. Recommend operational funding support for Long-Term Strategy and Eco-Forum development
Supporting Partners Capacity Briefing

Decision 5: Does the SC support the proposed options for providing support to GNLCC partners?

1. Data or other Technical support staff at WGA
2. Range-rider Liaison staff at WGA or WAFWA
3. FY 11 funding to States to offset costs of participation
4. Development of a Capacity Grant Program that can support other partners

Background:

1. In 2010, States and other partners voiced concern about lack of capacity to participate in GNLCC meetings, activities, and coordination
2. Technical capacity that can provide coordination among ongoing and complementary data and decision-support system integration efforts is needed
3. A shared, multi-state LCC liaison may provide additional support to States for participating, coordinating, and responding to LCCs
4. Other agencies such as Tribes, Provinces, and First Nations as well as some non-government conservation organizations may also have needs for capacity to provide meaningful participation in the GNLCC or GNLCC efforts.
5. A grant program could be developed that would allow non-federal partners to apply for funds to support their capacity needs