GNLCC AT Meeting
November 7, 2011

Attending:
Tom Olliff NPS GNLCC, Yvette Converse FWS GNLCC, Sean Finn FWS GNLCC, Rick Sojda USGS GNLCC, Gary Tabor Center for Landscape Connectivity, Nina Chambers, John Carlson BLM, Frank D’Erchia USGS, Madeline Maley British Columbia FLNRO GNLCC, Brad Shepard WCS, Geneva Chong USGS NC CSC (for Jeff Morissette), Patrick Bixler CSU, John Haber USFS R1, Bill Dolan Alberta Parks and Tourism, Rich Torquemada Missoula BLM, Bryce Bohn Idaho BLM, Dana Perkins Idaho BLM, Nicole Decrappeo NW CSC (Gus Bisbal)

Funding Guidance
Draft funding guidance is out for review. Yvette provided some background and introduction, and Sean walked through the key points of the guidance. Once the advisory team reviews and makes a recommendation to the steering committee, the committee will review the guidance at the next call on November 27th, and approve by the end of December. January we will be able to release the RFP and solicit proposals with submittals due in mid- to late-February. About $1 million will be available for science, and additional funds will be available for capacity and operations.

This is the first year that the GNLCC has been able to use the approved strategic conservation framework to guide funding priorities. As the partner forums are starting up, there is an opportunity for the forums to respond to the RFP and continue their work. Yvette requested that the advisory team review the RFP and return comments to her by November 20th.

Discussion:
• Why are bull trout in the wetlands component of the Columbia Basin? There is no connection specifically between the ecosystems and species as they appear. We will revise the format for how these are presented to avoid confusion.
• Under “leveraging,” it is also important to amplify or spread the benefit of learning and information to a larger community of partners. Yvette encouraged everyone to review the criteria—general for initial screening, and specific criteria by which reviewers rank proposals. Comments are welcome how to refine these criteria and rework language to be most effective.

Headwaters Economics Proposal
Tom provided background on the work the GNLCC has been doing to understand the socioeconomic issues in the region. A proposal is in development to create a visualization tool that looks at climate change impacts on socioeconomic issues and conservation in the region. This includes downscaled climate data and county-level socioeconomic data (for the U.S. only). Information can be scaled to look at data at the county level, any groups of counties or subregions, or the whole GNLCC region. December 12th will be a webinar to describe the potential tool, and a half-day design charrette will be held in January to refine the data and functionality that will be used in the tool.

Please review the proposal, think about how the tool could be used, and provide comments to Tom by the end of the month.

Discussion:
• It would be great to combine this charrette discussion with the climate adaptation discussion being led by the Rocky Mountain Forum. Coordination on this issue would be beneficial.
• Another beneficial application may be in sage-steppe areas, so perhaps a discussion through the Sage Steppe Forum can also provide comments on the kind of data that would be useful for those issues.
• Because the data stops at the U.S.-Canadian border, perhaps there can be a partnership with the Miistakis Institute to collaborate with Headwaters on this tool, or create something complementary for the Canadian portion of the GNLCC?
• Rick pointed out the benefits of thinking through the questions that this tool should answer before diving into the design of the tool.

**Webinar Presentation: Understanding the Social Dynamics of Large Landscape Conservation**
Patrick Bixler at Colorado State University provided a presentation on his work on social networks and connections among people and institutions engaged in large landscape conservation initiatives. As part of his dissertation work, he looked at the GNLCC and created network maps. View presentation (PDF): Social dimensions of large landscape conservation: Assessing strategic goals.

December 5 is another webinar on social network analysis as an aid to landscape-scale conservation by Graham McDowell from the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford.

**Other Updates:**
• Middle Rockies REA Update—data layers are being collected, and the BLM is getting ready to step it down to make it useful to land managers.
• Yvette pointed out where on the GNLCC web site you can find other project updates; please check it out if you are interested.
• Planning for another face-to-face meeting is starting for late winter, early spring. The next Steering Committee meeting will be in May in Washington State (not sure yet where).
• There is a national LCC coordination meeting next week that Sean and others will be attending.
• The next call will be December 12th at 9:30 am MST.