

## **Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative**

Steering Committee Meeting

August 21, 2013; 10 am MDT

### **Attending:**

Yvette Converse GNLCC FWS

Tom Olliff GNLCC NPS

Sean Finn GNLCC FWS

Tasha Sargent CWS Intermountain Joint Venture

Michelle Windsor BLM WLCI

Carrie Hessman Bureau of Reclamation

Blair Hammond CWS

Carl Scheeler Confederated Umatilla Tribes

Gregg Servheen Idaho Fish and Game

Andrea Ray NOAA

Greg Watson FWS R6 Science Applications

Noreen Walsh FWS R6 Director

David Patte FWS R1 Climate Coord

John Shannon US Forest Service for R1/R3

Frank D'Erchia USGS Central Region

Steve Waste USGS Columbia River Lab

Geneva Chong USGS Northern Rockies Science Center and NC CSC

Dave Brittell WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife and IGBC

Ifan Thomas Waterton National Park, Parks Canada

Laura Ferris EPA

Clayton Matt Confederated Salish and Kootenai

Tom Schmidt USFS R1 Deputy Regional Forester

Kate Kitchell BLM Deputy MT State Director

Jason Gildea EPA Helena MT

Gus Bisbal NW Climate Science Center USGS

Chris Smith Wildlife Management Inst.

### **AGENDA**

#### **1. Updates from the National LCC Office**

Tom provided the following updates:

- Doug Austin has resigned as the National LCC Coordinator, and Dr. Elsa Haubold starts at the end of August (see: <http://lccnetwork.org/News#leadership> for more information about Dr Haubold). The National LCC website is now up (<http://lccnetwork.org/>) and has some good resources for LCCs; for example, it is a good way to find projects sponsored by other LCCs.
- A National LCC Council is being formed and there is a formal membership application process, based on representation of different LCC constituency groups. People from the GNLCC who are interested in serving are encouraged to apply. Tom and Yvette are

available to help facilitate and endorse your candidacy. The deadlines are approaching soon (though may be extended, so check the website). For more information, go to: <http://lccnetwork.org/NationalCouncil>

## **2. Letter to GNLCC from National Fish Wildlife and Plant Climate Adaptation Strategy Management Team**

The NFWP CAS is now finalized, after years of work. The NFPCAS management team is asking us to identify implementation and alignment opportunities to advance the strategy. The NFPCAS will help align LCCs nationally toward a national framework and set of agreed-upon outcomes.

The GNLCC staff suggests that the Advisory Team do a crosswalk between the strategy (<http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/>) and the GNLCC strategic conservation framework

([http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc\\_framework\\_final\\_small.pdf](http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_framework_final_small.pdf))

Tom described how the crosswalk exercise would be designed (similar to South Atlantic LCC), and that there is good alignment between the documents. Tom asked the steering committee to review the strategy and we will come to the next SC meeting prepared to discuss how GNLCC and partners are aligning as per the CAS. September 10 is the next GNLCC Advisory Team meeting when this will be discussed.

### Discussion:

- How will this be implemented in a cross-boundary context? *Comments from Canada are welcome and voluntary. If there is a similar document/strategy in Canada, we could add that to the crosswalk exercise. There appear to be good opportunities for collaboration, and how the LCC can be a model for cross-border collaboration.*

## **3. Update on GNLCC Science Plan**

Sean Finn provided an overview of progress to date on the GNLCC Science Plan. This Plan is the next step in completing the GNLCC foundational documents (Governance, Strategic Conservation Framework, and Science Plan) along with supporting documents (Outreach Plan, annual work plans, and Funding Guidance). The Science Plan will also drive priorities for future funding and provide the nexus between broad landscape-scale planning and on-the-ground management actions and effectiveness.

Sean described the process used in developing the Science Plan, the conservation targets we will focus on initially as a proof of concept, and the roles of the various groups within the GNLCC and how they are engaged in or lead those steps.

### Discussion:

- Can we get a copy of the presentation to share? *Yes, a link to it on the website will be provided. The presentation will also be shared in different forums to encourage more discussion and participation to develop and refine it.*

- This presentation will be good to use for discussion/orientation with partner forums; especially with the Columbia Basin Partner Forum as it gets started. Sean is already starting to present this to the partner forums and engage them in discussion.

#### **4. Special Project**

Steve provided a brief description of a proposal being developed by several GNLCC SC members to explore a “proof of concept” for the GNLCC business model and how GNLCC planning can facilitate progress and support shared science toward shared landscape-scale on-the-ground outcomes. The timing of the Science Plan is opportune to have the steering committee engage in a collaborative and relevant way in landscape-scale common goals. Two examples will be described in a proposal that connect the conservation targets with stressors, and how partners’ collective action can address these issues.

*Example 1: Connectivity and land use change for aquatic and terrestrial systems.* There is a lot of relevant information that exists already. How can the steering committee support existing efforts and enhance them at the scale of the GNLCC to achieve common outcomes? What are the common outcomes?

*Example 2: Aquatic integrity and climate change (temperature, hydrologic regimes) and maintaining cold-water species.* There are less basic management structures in place for this example. The idea is to work through this among the various agency partners of the GNLCC to determine how to address this issue together and identify common outcomes.

A draft of the proposal will be circulated to the advisory team for discussion next month, then more discussion will happen at the steering committee meeting in October.

#### **5. Logistics for GNLCC Steering Committee meeting Oct 9-10 in Waterton National Park, Alberta, CAN**

Ifan provided an invitation to join the meeting hosted by Parks Canada. The setting will be quiet and lovely at that time of the year. See more information below for logistics. Ron Bjorge, Province of Executive Director of Policy Division for Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development sent his invitation (via Yvette) on behalf of the province and looks forward to seeing everyone there.

#### **GNLCC Steering Committee meeting: Waterton National Park, Waterton, Alberta**

Please make your travel plans for the fall GNLCC SC meeting in Waterton, AB now! See info below or at this link: <http://greatnorthernlcc.org/event/417>

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#### **GNLCC Steering Committee Meeting #8 LOGISTICS:**

**Date:** Oct 9-10, 2013

#### **Meeting Times**

Tentatively, the meeting will run from 12 pm on Oct 9 through 3pm on Oct 10

## **Location**

The meeting will be held at the [Waterton Lakes Lodge Resort](#) in Waterton Alberta.

## **Travel**

Travel to Waterton will require some planning on your part, but we think it will be worth it!

The closest airports are in Calgary, Lethbridge, Kalispell, and Great Falls. [An excellent overview of air travel to Waterton can be found here](#), from the Tourism Authority of Waterton.

Note that this webpage also includes links to both rental cars and airport shuttles.

## **Lodging**

Lodging is available at the Waterton Lakes Lodge Resort in Waterton Alberta, the same location as the meeting. The Lakes Resort is currently holding 32 standard rooms and 9 King rooms, both at \$90CA/night (9% tax will be added to both prices). For reservations call [\(403\) 859-2150](#) or toll free [\(888\) 985-6343](#) and ask for the GNLCC block of rooms. A first night reservation deposit will be required upon reservation. PLEASE NOTE: Rooms will be released on Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>. Rooms will be 100% refundable up until 48 hours before the meeting (October 6). Given no risk, we urge you to book now.

## **Food**

Meeting attendees will be on their own for all food. The hotel does include a restaurant, which they describe this way:

***Vimy's Lounge & Grill** is an amazing restaurant in the heart of the Waterton Lakes National Park. Enjoy fine cuisine and casual fare in an absolutely stunning room...*