

Potential Options for Mission Statement and Governance Models for the Great Northern LCC

Draft Potential GNLCC Mission Statement for Consideration by Steering Committee

Coordinate and facilitate responses to landscape-level threats, such as climate change and others that affect natural resources, by developing and delivering focused science and cooperative management action across the Great Northern geographic area.

Goal:

- Support and promote conservation actions that build ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change and other landscape-level stressors through a variety of science support, including provision of decision support tools, and enhanced awareness of ongoing efforts leading to increased leveraging of our collective conservation results,

Three Possible Operating Structures for Consideration:

A. In the GNLCC Partnership Model (#1): A collection of landscape or broad-ranging species, habitat or issue-driven conservation partnerships (The Partnership Network) forms a foundation for landscape-level conservation. This could operate in several ways. Here is one:

A core committee includes 5-7 existing and established landscape level partnerships (e.g IGBC, IMJV, CMP, WHCWG, Columbia Basin Federal Caucus, GYCC, and others) representing the range of conservation issues across the Great Northern. An additional 5-7 partnerships represent a second tier of issues and may be intermittently involved. Through their ongoing activities, the Partnership Network identifies and prioritizes conservation or science needs that would benefit from regionally-scaled landscape-level coordination and delivery of science information, tools, and applications and conservation actions. They communicate those needs to the Steering Committee. The Partnership Network also uses and applies tools and science developed through the collective science capacity of the GNLCC, and they provides feedback on applicability, usefulness and future needs through a process of adaptive management.

The Partnership(s) would:

- 1) Identify and recommend (to the Steering Committee) specific science and information needs, science products and vehicles for delivery and application that could be funded and supported through GNLCC.
- 2) Provide follow through on GNLCC project coordination (working with GNLCC coordinators)
- 3) Continue to provide conservation delivery as informed by GNLCC science applications and products.

B. In the IWJV Model (#2): This model is similar except that geo-political (such as State) committees serve the same function as Partnership Network described above.

C. Traditional Two Committee Model (#3): The Traditional Two Committee Model is governed by a Steering Committee administratively, and logistically supported by a Technical Committee that is appointed by the Steering Committee. The Technical Committee may establish *ad hoc* Subcommittees to assist with specific issues to facilitate decision making by the Steering Committee. A concept for each component of the governance structure is discussed below.

Steering Committee

Membership and Organization Steering Committee is intended to include senior leadership from Federal, State and Provincial agencies, Tribes, and Non-Government Organizations with large-scale resource management activities and who can represent the highest level of their organization

Responsibilities

1. Serve as the executive body for LCC decision making, providing LCC guidance on direction and actively engaging in development of the future operational and strategic plans.
2. Promote cooperation, coordination, consolidation of information, and collaboration among partner organizations to support the goals and objectives of the LCC.
3. Prioritize funding and activities recommended by the Technical Committee.

Technical Committee

Membership and Organization

Technical Committee is appointed by Steering Committee (one from each organization). Members should be sufficiently knowledgeable about landscape-scale conservation and climate change to make informed recommendations on priority projects and activities for the Steering Committee's consideration.

Responsibilities

1. The Technical Committee will serve to facilitate a peer review process and rank proposals for Steering Committee decisions.
2. Provide recommendations to the Steering Committee on coordination, planning, staffing and science activities that the LCC should undertake.
3. Establish *ad-hoc* Subcommittees as necessary to carry out the purpose and function of the LCC.

For any of the above 3 options, other possible structures could include:

Science Communications Committee: A committee that coordinates and focuses on science communications and outreach needs to meet GNLCC. This subcommittee recommends specific strategy to ensure science developed through the GNLCC is made available, is applicable and useable in response to field needs and in response to various user groups (executives, managers, scientists and the public).

GNLCC Think Tank: The community of scientists and managers in the GNLCC can provide a loosely modeled think tank to serve in various advisory roles to the GNLCC Steering Committee. In particular, this could be useful in cutting across disciplines such as arrays of natural resources management expertise. The Think Tank can also serve as a process to inject innovation and new ideas or to challenge the assumptions and hypotheses of our common landscape goals. This provides another useful way to

directly connect the wealth of scientific expertise within the Great Northern area with management expertise and objectives. A Think Tank would also promote innovation and cross-pollination of management oriented solutions.