

Response Summaries from Two Scoping Questions to the Great Northern LCC Steering Committee

Question 1: What landscape conservation programs does your agency/organization currently have underway that could lend themselves to LCC collaboration and/or be leveraged by the LCC?

Question 2: Identify a specific research, science, or information priority for potential funding support in FY10. These research priorities could either enhance ongoing efforts by participating agencies/organizations and/or support larger LCC operations.

Twelve organizations/agencies responded to this questionnaire. A summary of those responses are shown below in like categories for each question. Specific lists of programs currently underway and priority areas for funding are provided below the tables. Summaries represent only information included in responses.

| Q1: Programs Currently Underway | |
|--|-----------|
| Conservation activities | 10 |
| Conservation planning | 13 |
| Connectivity projects | 3 |
| Partnerships or programs | 13 |
| Assessments & data management | 7 |
| Total | 46 |

| Q2: Priority Areas for Funding Support | |
|---|-----------|
| Land Cover/Base spatial data | 3 |
| Climate information | 8 |
| Habitat connectivity | 5 |
| Data/info sharing/mgmt | 5 |
| Species/biological info | 11 |
| Vulnerability Assessments – Water Resources | 8 |
| Total | 40 |

Q1. Programs Currently Underway

Conservation Activities

1. Healthy Landscapes Initiative
2. 21st Century Salmon and Steelhead Initiative
3. Washington Arid Lands Initiative
4. Wyoming Mule deer initiative
5. Wyoming Range Aspen Project
6. Whitebark Pine/Five Needle Pine Restoration Genetics
7. The Great Basin Restoration Initiative
8. Bull trout conservation and recovery
9. ESA salmon and steelhead recovery planning and implementation
10. Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative

Conservation Planning

1. Washington Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
2. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Action Priorities
3. Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Subbasin Plans
4. Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
5. Statewide sage grouse conservation plan
6. Wyoming State Wildlife Action Plan
7. Wyoming Strategic Habitat Conservation Plan
8. Range-wide Aquatic Species Management Plan
9. BLM Sage grouse Conservation Strategy
10. Conservation plans for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the Crown of the Continent/Idaho Panhandle, and the High Divide, connecting to the Salmon-Selway Wilderness. Similar planning in middle and northern Idaho
11. ESA salmon and steelhead recovery planning and implementation
12. Lamprey Conservation
13. Implementation of North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)

Connectivity Projects

1. Western Governor's Association's Wildlife Corridors and Crucial Habitat Initiative
2. Washington Habitat Connectivity Working Group
3. Aggressive conservation easement program (Wyoming)

Partnerships or Programs

1. Tapash Forest Collaborative
2. Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee
3. Mt. West Joint Venture
4. Multi agency/state climate change group (Wyoming)
5. National Fish Habitat Action Plan/Board and Recognized partnerships
6. Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative
7. Agriculture Water Enhancement Program
8. Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program
9. Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group
10. NPS Inventory and Monitoring Networks
11. Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units
12. National Park Service Research Learning Centers
13. BLM Ecoregional Strategy

Assessments and Data Management

1. Assessing the vulnerability of species and ecosystems to projected future climate change in the Pacific Northwest
2. Columbia Basin Instream Atlas
3. USFWS State Wildlife Grant Information Management Tool – Washington Pilot
4. Arid Lands Crucial Wildlife Habitat and Integrated Decision Support System
5. BLM Rapid Ecoregional Assessments
6. Upper Salmon/Lemhi Model Watershed

7. Existing landscape level science projects, including: mapping sage grouse genetic connectivity, understanding climate change effects on inland native trout, information from stream monitoring networks, downscaled climate models, and wildlife species studies that include grizzly bears, large ungulates and birds. In addition, science support data management for Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative

Q2. Priority Areas for Funding Support

Land Cover/Base spatial data

1. Foundational Data - Update the NWI with 2005 and 2009 imagery across the LCC
2. NWI updated, digitized, comprehensive and complete
3. Identified priorities: Land Cover

Climate information

1. Responding to Climate Variability and Change: A Prototype for Trans-boundary Assessment and Services in the Columbia River Basin
2. Develop locally based climate change projections and related adaptation strategies
3. Critical climate information and decision support for Great Northern stakeholders
4. Characterizing Rocky Mountain Climate Change; A Landscape Analysis for the Crown of the Continent; and Predicting the Effects of Climate Change on Aquatic Ecosystems in the Great Northern
5. Characterizing Rocky Mountain Climate Change: Developing biophysically important climate resources of the Great Northern LCC
6. Effect of climate change on vegetative resources and overall habitat quality and capability
7. Identified priorities: Climate Information
8. Improve interagency monitoring efforts relevant to climate change related stresses

Habitat connectivity

1. The Washington Connected Landscapes Project Part 1-Supporting Connectivity Conservation Now and Under Future Climates
2. The Washington Connected Landscapes Project Part 2-Model Validation
3. Support for habitat connectivity work WA, ID and others identified by preliminary process
4. BLM Forest Mortality Assessment
5. Identified priorities: Habitat Connectivity

Data/info sharing/mgmt

1. GIS-based Data Management Platform - need for close coordination
2. Data management / GIS at a national level
3. GNLCC synthesis of scientific information about past and projected changes in climate variables and ecological response
4. Filling species/ habitat data gaps - work with partners to compile information on and/or survey areas with high wind energy development potential
5. Species Adaptation to Climate Change: Baseline Data for Grassland, Sagebrush, and Riparian-associated Landbirds in Bird Conservation Region 10

Species/biological info

1. Ecological Dependence of Amphibians and Reptiles on Burrowing Mammals and Birds
2. Sage Grouse - Wind research
3. Predicting the Distributions of Landbirds in the GNLCC
4. Habitat treatments and wildlife (long term project)
5. White bark pine decline
6. Sage-grouse connectivity
7. Yellowstone, Bonneville and Colorado River Cutthroat (Habitat/Climate Change)
8. Bark beetle management
9. Mule deer productivity
10. Development of a Conservation Delivery Tool for Tri-State Trumpeter Swans
11. Standardization of wildlife and botanical sampling methods

Vulnerability Assessments – Water Resources

1. Aquatic Vulnerability Assessment
2. Watershed restoration
3. Aquatic Invasives Species early detection, invasion mechanisms and information sharing
4. Development of a “watershed template” for monitoring proposed climate change impacts on key indicators of watershed conditions
5. Identified priorities: Water Resources Vulnerability Assessments
6. Effectiveness of mitigation projects
7. Western Governor’s Wildlife Decision Support System - Idaho - helping to define various assessment criteria and process techniques
8. Assess projected changes in stream temperatures and streamflow characteristics due to climate change throughout the GNLCC area