

GREAT NORTHERN LCC PROJECT TEMPLATE (Please limit to 4 pages)

Project Title: GNLCC Multi-dimensional Synthesis

Project Coordinator (contact information): Yvette Converse

Project PI(s) (who is doing the work; contact information):

National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Partners (name, affiliation, location):

USGS, USFS, BLM, Montana State University, Big Sky Institute and others

Project Summary (3 sentence target):

The GNLCC Multi-dimensional Synthesis is a synthesis of existing information in four categories to promote a common understanding of situation, existing information and information gaps, as well as providing an index of programmatic, resource and other climate and landscape related information for GNLCC. The Synthesis is being developed under four main categories:

- Organizational (who is doing what)
- Climate information (what does existing and projected climate info say)
- Ecological response (what is expected ecological effect)
- Inventory and Monitoring (who is monitoring what)

Need:

While it may be useful to include a brief amount of background information in this section, be sure to clearly address the following:

- What is the need within the Great Northern landscape?
There is a need for an over-arching synthesis of existing information to use as a common starting point and to build on as a common source of information and index within the 4 categories for conservation partners within the GNLCC.

- What landscape-level issue is this work related to and how (e.g. climate, habitat fragmentation)

This synthesis is related to climate change, ecological response to climate change, landscape conservation efforts and inventory and monitoring programs

- Why is it important?

It is necessary to have a synthesis and index of existing information in these categories to assist in strategically aligning future efforts in landscape conservation related to climate and other landscape stressors. This initial synthesis of information can be a common launch point for information needs and data gaps that our conservation partners agree upon. This will allow the GNLCC partnership to determine how to best fill information needs and data gaps strategically to support conservation priorities.

- What science products will be provided, problem addressed, or what information or other needs will your project provide?

This project will provide a summary of existing information and an index of who is doing what related to climate and landscape conservation in the GNLCC which addresses a problem of variables levels of understanding about what information we currently have available and what that information tells us.

- What is the science product or direct management application?

This product can be maintained overtime to be useful to all partners as a common source of information for application to agency and organizational responsibilities. This also allows us to identify data and information gaps and determine how to collectively prioritize and fill those gaps. This information set can also be integrated with other similar efforts regionally (C3) and nationally to expand on the national network of LCCs.

- What is the geographic scope?

Throughout the GNLCC

- Is the need identified in other conservation, management, or other plans?

Yes, the need for a synthesis of information was identified through the Strategic Habitat Conservation Northern Rockies Workgroup and was identified by the National Park Service as a need for foundational information to support an climate change I&M workshop which is why NPS has already funded and completed 65% of this project. Other agencies, such as the USFS and BLM have also agreed to the utility of this information for use in their specific agency assessments and as a first steps towards coordination and information sharing.

Objective: What will you accomplish? Define how this project will contribute to provision of one or more of the following elements to support LCC objectives and functions:

- Decision support tools/systems or science applications for focused resource conservation
- Tracking or evaluation of resource management efforts
- Testing assumptions of model projections
- Inventory of resource conditions or trends

This project will contribute a synthesized, foundation set of common conclusions, an index and a source to support climate and landscape science and information needs which would contribute to all of the above. It is necessary to have a common set of information to understand what we know and what we do not know before we can strategically identify information needs. Although the synthesis is based on existing information, it is important to pull that information together and provide these basic tools as fundamental steps towards information sharing.

Methods: How will the objectives be attained? What work activities or tasks will be done? Include specific procedures, methodologies, or protocols. Will there be any key cooperators, and what will their role be (identify any in-kind support provided)?

The Synthesis will be conducted by specific entities tasked with completing the work including: 1) literature and web review of information; 2) review by subject-matter expert; 3) input and review by multi-agency committees over each category and 4) final review by a steering committee of the synthesis group.

The National Park Service contributed \$60K to the Climate and Ecological Response portions of this effort which were completed by NPS staff and an MSU associate professor, Dr. Dave McWethy in cooperation with other subject-matter experts. The organization and I&M portions have been started by multi-agency committee but require a commitment of resources to bring these projects to completion and make them available in an appropriate context and format (e.g. web-based, searchable wiki-type, geo-spatially referenced and/or other similar interactive web tool)

Deliverables: List the final product(s), including the final report, which will result from this project and delivery date(s).

A portion of this project is already available and in use. The project would be completed by October 1, 2010 as final. It may also be requested that the project is maintained annually through the GNLCC staff/capacity.

Schedule: Provide a time line with dates and tasks. Include key project work items and dates for events such as start-up, interim milestones, presentations, deliverables, submittal of final report, and project completion. Identify if project is multiple year and projected outyear schedule.

June 1: Designation of work tasks to staff or contracted service provider

June 15-Aug 15: Development of remaining portions of project under guidance of Synthesis subcommittees

Sept 1: Review by Synthesis Multi-agency Steering Committee

Oct 1: Final product made available to the GNLCC staff and SC.

Budget (please include in a separate file from the body of the proposal): Provide a detailed breakdown of costs (Salaries, contracts, travel, publication costs, equipment, services, etc). Describe in-kind or matching funds for the project if applicable. Describe outyear estimated budget if multi-year project.

Budget:

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| NPS staff writer/ecologist Isabel Ashton | \$30K | COMPLETED |
| MSU Associate Professor – Climate Information | \$30K | COMPLETED |
| USGS Web Development – Technician | \$20K | In-kind from NoRock SC |
| Writer/Researcher/Coordinator Technician | \$20K | Requested from GNLCC |