

GREAT NORTHERN LCC PROJECT TEMPLATE

Project Title: National Wetlands Inventory for Idaho, FY2010

Project Coordinator:

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Project PI(s):

Kevin Bon will be the contract officer and responsible for project completion.

Partners (name, affiliation, location):

Project Summary:

To develop digital data compliant with NWI protocol for wetlands and riparian habitats in Montana and Idaho.

Need:

The draft management plan for the GHNLC specifically identifies “NWI Geospatial Data Acquisition and Assemblage” as a key need. Currently, the greatest unfunded need is for completion of Idaho NWI coverages, as Western MT (also currently depauperate) will be completed this year by FWS under a different program.

Improved land cover, land use, and habitat inventory data are needed in key landscapes for priority species, especially NWI or similar wetland GIS layers. Large sections of the GNLCC area do not currently have any available NWI data. Additionally, much of the available NWI data across the GNLCC is greater than 20 years old and may not reflect current landscape conditions. Thus, basic inventory of wetland abundance and distribution is generally unavailable, or uninformative, for much of the GNLCC. Consequently, development of effective landscape level conservation plans for wetland dependent wildlife is significantly compromised in this region. Updated and completed NWI data will be needed throughout the GNLCC to adequately inventory potential habitat availability for wetland dependent wildlife across the landscape. Periodic updates of such land cover information will greatly help the GNLCC and its partners assess net landscape change with climatic parameters and would facilitate understanding of how various wetland habitats within the landscapes may change over time in response to altered climatic conditions. This is a cross USFWS Region 1 & 6 proposal, with R6 taking the lead.

Objective:

Existing hard copy maps will be digitized according to standard NWI protocols to provide complete NWI coverage for the state of Idaho. Where hard copy maps are unavailable, habitat will be interpreted and digital data will be completed by contractors/cooperators.

Methods:

All standard NWI protocols will be followed. The USFWS and its partners have contracted the digitization of maps in the past, and this will continue that customary procedure following existing USFWS policies and contracting procedures. All state, federal and tribal agencies will be made aware of the digitization.

Deliverables:

Interpreted, delineated, digital wetland habitat data.

Interpreted, delineated, digital riparian habitat data.
Interpreted, classified, HGM type wetlands data.

Schedule:

Contracts will be let by 1 September 2010.

All digital data will be delivered by 30 September 2011.

Budget (please include in a separate file from the body of the proposal):

FY2010: \$636K, all funds will be in contracts, none in salaries or travel.

We anticipate that FWS Refuges Inventory and Monitoring Program may provide \$200K, and if so, the GNLCC is asked to fund \$436K.