

Great Northern LCC Conference Call Notes – August 16, 2010

Roll Call

Present	Absent
State of Idaho	State of Oregon
State of Wyoming	Wildlife Conservation Society
BLM Idaho	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation
BLM Wyoming	Province of Alberta
BLM Montana	Province of British Columbia
USFS Pacific Northwest	NOAA
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	BIA
USFWS Region 1	
USFWS Region 6	
NPS	
USGS Central	
USGS Northwest	
EPA Region 8	
EPA Region 10	
BOR Pacific Northwest	
NRCS Montana	
Columbia Basin Federal Caucus	
Intermountain West Joint Venture	
IGBC	
Heart of the Rockies	
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe	
State of Washington	

Agenda Item 1 - Funding Commitments (Yvette Converse)

Progress FY 10

- Document on GNLC Web site describes process and funding commitments
- Same funding process for all 3 categories – Habitat connectivity, Data Integration, and Water Management.
- \$1.4 million awarded to a range of good projects representing all 3 categories (USGS, NPS, and FWS Reg 1 contributed additional finds)
- Project status will be included on Web site

Questions about funding

- Is State of Wyoming project included on list?
 - Yes, refer to the table at the end of the FY 10 funding document on the Web site.
- Is the 1.4 million only for FY 10?
 - Yes, we started with \$850K from USFWS and there has been other money awarded from USGS, NPS.
- Have the funds been distributed?
 - No, but everything has gone to the contracting office.

GNLCC Capacity

- Job advertised for GNLCC Landscape Ecologist (funded through USGS) to be housed at NOROCK in Bozeman

- GNLCC Coordinator position has closed and the reviews are underway
- A second Science Coordinator, supported jointly by FWS Region 1 and 6 will be based in Boise, to be advertised soon.
- National Park Service has also contributed a position: Co-Coordinator – Tom Olliff in Bozeman, MT
- NPS Intern Position, a part-time student position, to be housed at NOROCK will be advertised soon.
- NOROCK has committed 0.5 FTE to outreach. This time will be split between two existing Information and Education Specialists – Suzanna Carrithers and Leslie Allen.

Questions about staffing

- How will capacity for state's participation be built?
 - The FWS is currently considering the best way to accomplish this and is asking for input from States and other partners. This will be discussed at the Steering Committee meeting in Boise, ID on Oct 21-22.

Agenda Item 2 - Draft Governance Document (Yvette Converse)

- Drafted in May in response to discussion at the April 21 SC Meeting in Bozeman.
- 1st draft was discussed in the June conference call
- This final draft addressed those changes – available on web
- Comments on the final draft should be submitted to Yvette by Sept. 15.
- Comments can be editorial; please use a bulleted list or track changes
- There is a need to distinguish between business rules and operational charter. This will be completed and adopted at the October meeting. The current draft does not separate business rules because this partnership has not evolved to the point of needing extensively detailed business rules. We can discuss this and determine if Business Rules should be developed separately or can remain general and part of the Operational Charter.
- Final draft document will be completed by October for review before the Oct 21-22 meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – SWAP Analysis (Rick Sojda)

- Based on input from state wildlife agencies, the AT agreed to review and assess State Wildlife Action Plans as an initial step to setting foundational priorities.
- The AT will conduct a meeting of SWAP coordinators to accomplish the following:
 - Agree on a convergence of natural resource priorities
 - Identify next steps, e.g. adaptive management, objective process
 - Develop recommendations to steering committee to establish priorities
- Questions remain about the role the SC plays in establishing priorities and the role of the LCC in looking at the SWAPs. SWAPs should be considered one of a set of foundational landscape plans that can be assessed for common priorities.
- A comment was made by BLM WY regarding the 5 goals outlines in the first meeting. There is a request to see partnerships become part of the goals to support science development. It is important for partnerships to become part of the larger framework of the LCC and part of the process.
- Since some plans are not comprehensive it was suggested to let the state's decide which plans or part of the plans to integrate with LCC.

- A question was asked about the kind of info the SC needs
 - SC needs to know what kind of planning efforts already exist and to know what type of possibilities for overlap exist
 - SC needs a list of the type of information available. For example, agency activities, consistencies, data gaps, etc.
 - A possible way to start compiling the information is to ask what has been identified and what is important for a specific geographical region. Then determine if there are other regions with this information.
 - Comment made to be cognizant of private land, as well as public.
- A comment was made by the NPS that tracking who's doing what is a huge challenge. They are working on a basic GIS layer that has this kind of information. He will make these data available to the LCC SC. Tom Olliff will work to follow up on this.
- A comment was made that the C3 climate change consortium is doing similar work. Yvette has met (by phone) with C3 and a number of partners are involved in that. The GNLCC is interested in collaborating with C3 where it makes sense.
- USFS suggested starting with the SWAP as a foundation and figure out where efforts can be integrated and aligned. Sharing information and planning processes is something the USFS can support.
- Another comment was made that for a synthesis of information it would be best to start with the NPS project, the C3 info, I&M efforts and each organizations efforts.
- Summarize coverage and information
- Identify different methodologies and planning efforts – need to look at substance
- A comment was made to recognize difference in scopes and plans.
- A question was asked if there are opportunities to coordinate species of concern.
 - Identifying a common set of species in the LCC should be accomplished

Agenda Item 4 – Outreach Update (Tom Ollif)

- LCC needs standardized communication products
- Outreach team will develop three products:
 - Updated fact sheet
 - Quarterly newsletter
 - 2 pages (front and back)
 - 1st draft in early September; review by AT
 - Public face Web site
 - Several options exist all differing in cost, restrictions, etc.
 - Will develop a range of options in Sept.
- A comment was made that the key direction for outreach should be determined by the audience.
- A question was asked about who is the intended audience.
 - As a start, the audience is: SC and key partners in ecoregional forums; science/management constituents

- A comment was made by NRCS that there still exists lots of confusion about the LCC and what they are – these product will help.
- A comment was made that there needs to be a national LCC coordinating team.

This exists and that team is working on information and ways to link among LCCs.

Agenda Item 5 – AC Meeting (Yvette Converse)

- Follow up on the SWAP analyses and discussion, move to other landscape conservation initiatives and assessments and prepare that info for SC in October
- Set priorities and long-term strategies (rolling out Eco-forums and annual workplan/funding process)
- Develop useful performance metrics and climate change and landscape
- Discuss capacity building
- Discuss governance
- A question was asked about who the AC is made of
 - LCC Staff and other staff who have time to participate and contribute
 - Purpose is to help put together info for SC to streamline decision making
- A comment was made by BLM MT that continuity between SWAP integration should be discussed at the AC meeting and a report given to the SC in October. It was suggested that the SC might want to form an ad hoc group to keep track of data generating efforts.
- USGS suggested that the document regarding climate change efforts and overlap should be posted to the Web site. We would like to see more of the synthesis documents uploaded to the Web site.

Agenda Item 6 – Agenda Items for October Meeting (Yvette Converse)

- Landscape/SWAP Analysis
- Proposal for ecoforums
- Process for long term strategy
- Capacity to support states and other partners
- A discussion about FY 11 funding was suggested. Specifically it would be valuable to talk about what worked and what didn't.
- A question was raised about posting guidance documents on the Web site. What is the timing of release? Yvette will look into this.

Open Forum of Questions

- Steve Potts with EPA R8 asked how R8 fits in with all of this. Zylstra from Region 10 EPA emphasized their involvement in LCCs.
- BLM WY asked if when there is a discussion about states and capacity - will you get at the issue of integration? How are we going to do this? Especially the integration with states.
 - From the AT perspective, the overall goal is for SC to take the initiative