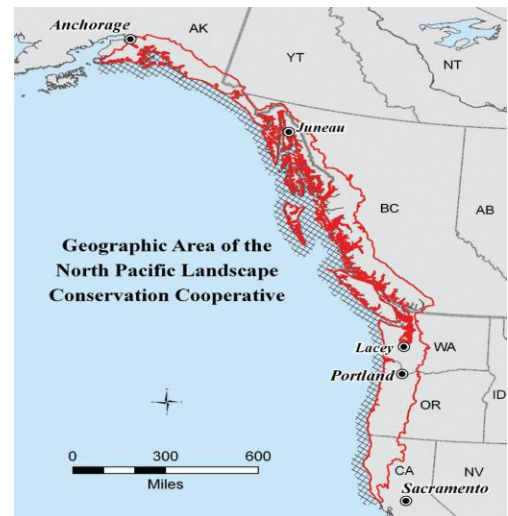


North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative



Draft Proposal For Purpose and Organization Of the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Background:

To advance our common concerns in natural resource science planning and coordination, particularly in the face of changing climatic and environmental conditions, in 2009 the Secretary of the Interior identified Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) throughout North America. Their purpose is to foster partnerships that produce and disseminate applied science that informs landscape-scale natural resource management. Partners in LCCs include federal, state, local and tribal governments; America's neighbors to the north and south; and non-governmental organizations dedicated to natural resource conservation.

The North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC) spans the Pacific Northwest from Southern Alaska to Northern California (including British Columbia) and includes landscapes west of the Sierras, Cascades and Brooks ranges to the coastal zone.

The following mission statement, goals, guiding principles, and organization and operating procedures were developed by an interim planning team (IPT) established to assist in the creation of the NPLCC to include the creation of a steering committee. The IPT was created following a series of meetings with potential NPLCC partners.

Proposed Mission Statement:

The North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative promotes development, coordination and dissemination of science to inform landscape level conservation in the face of a changing climate and related stressors.

Proposed Goals:

- Identify opportunities for coordinated adaptation strategies for natural and cultural resource managers.
- Promote information sharing among partners by improving data management, integration, and dissemination.
- Identify priorities for applied science that informs conservation and adaptive management through collection and synthesis of existing data, identifying gaps, and promoting research.
- Advance science that informs and improves understanding of the relationship between climate change and ecosystem responses.
- Support increased awareness of the effects of climate change on natural and cultural resources by making LCC findings widely available.
- Better understand the impacts of climate change on all resource users, including those who rely on subsistence resources.

Proposed Guiding Principles:

1. Work to improve effectiveness of each organization's large scale landscape conservation programs and efforts.
2. Conduct open and frequent communications within the NPLCC network, between related climate change and landscape programs, and among the expanded climate change and landscape conservation community.
3. Consider and respect each participating organization's unique mandates, jurisdiction and traditions.
4. Coordinate with other committees, workgroups or organizations that add mutual value, maximize capacity, avoid redundancies, and leverage resources.
5. Focus on solving biological, physical, and sociological issues to promote scientifically sound, outcome based adaptive management.
6. Respect social, political and legal limitation while promoting solutions to landscape-level stressors (climate and others) that benefit the greater NPLCC conservation community.
7. Be transparent in operations and ensure equal and open access to the NPLCC process.

NPLCC Steering Committee:Function of Steering Committee:

Borrowing from the Great Northern LCC Charter, the IPT acknowledged the following functions as appropriate for the NPLCC Steering Committee:

- Set vision, goals and priorities for the LCC
- Provide direction to the LCC coordinator and other staff
- Approve long-term strategy and operational by-laws
- Approve LCC capacity needs (staff and funding)
- Approve funding for annual work plan including priority setting process
- Disseminate information about LCC-relevant organizations, programs and initiatives

Key Criteria for Steering Committee Membership:

- **Size:** Which entities are represented on the Committee is more important than size but Committee membership exceeding thirty would be unwieldy.
- **Balanced Representation:** The IPT recommended that representation be balanced to ensure that federal agencies or branches of federal agencies are not over-represented, that membership is balanced across the geographic range of the NPLCC, and that the committee be balanced with scientists and resource managers.
- **Authority:** The IPT also recommended that Committee members carry appropriate decision authority from the organizations they represent.
- **Shared Vision:** The IPT agreed that Committee members must be capable of embracing a shared vision of conservation within the NPLCC.
- **Conflict of Interest:** The IPT recommended that Committee members must strive to avoid (or disclose) any potential conflicts of interest.

Additional Items to Consider Regarding Steering Committee Structure, Governance and Membership¹

Structure The Steering Committee would adopt an organizational charter that establishes the overall structure of the LCC to include sub-committees and geographic sub-divisions based on applicable criteria. Sub-divisions could be based on issues (example invasive species), biophysical features, regional landscapes, species (or species groups such as migratory birds or marine aquatic species) or habitat types endemic to sub-regions. For example, Alaska recommends two subunits with a Southern Subunit and a Northern Subunit. At minimum, the Steering Committee will be expected to establish a science advisory body to identify and recommend priorities for the LCC.

Governance In adopting a charter, the Steering Committee would also adopt operating procedures to include the method by which decisions will be made. The NPLCC Steering Committee would develop broad conservation goals and prioritize

¹ A number of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives are already organized and operating and their charters will be shared with the NPLCC as models.

research projects recommended by its technical committees and/or LCC partners. It would identify, coordinate and leverage funding for projects that span the entire NPLCC. If the Steering Committee establishes sub-committees or sub- divisions, it would delegate appropriate decision-making to them.

Membership

The NPLCC Steering Committee would include representatives who meet the criteria outlined above (See *NPLCC Steering Committee*) from key federal agencies, and state agencies designated “lead agency(s) by the Governor of each state. The sovereign tribes may participate on the Steering Committee and sub-groups as they desire but will be encouraged to share representation when it serves them. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participation would be determined by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee would determine the method and criteria for appointing members of sub-committees, work groups or technical bodies from all interested stakeholder groups.

Next Steps:

1. This proposal is shared with potential LCC partners for review and recommendations for consideration by a Steering Committee. (April, 2011)
2. A Steering Committee consisting of government agencies and tribes will be convened to adopt a charter and address issues such as NGO participation and the creation of subdivisions and subgroups. (May, 2011)
3. NPLCC staff, working with an ad hoc science advisory team, will identify landscape management issues and related science needs to be considered by the Steering Committee. (May – Nov. 2011)
4. Steering Committee adopts science and other priorities for the LCC and assigns funding and other resources accordingly. (November, 2011).

Comments or questions about this document or other inquiries about the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative should be directed to:

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