

MEETING NOTES

Pacific Northwest Coast Landscape Conservation Design In-Person Workshop

A multi-partner initiative to conserve natural and cultural resources in the face of key regional stressors

November 22, 2016, 10am – 3pm

David Evans and Associates, 2100 SW River Parkway, Portland, Oregon 97201

Lisa DeBruyckere: [Meeting goals](#)

- Share the status of key elements of the LCD initiative, including the latest iteration of the project plan, outcomes from the Funding Committee, outcomes from the Bi-State Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Workgroup, the social network mapping initiative, the framework being developed to identify key stressors and threats and corresponding coarse and fine filter indicators within the geographic scope of the LCD.
- Achieve consensus on elements of a communications and outreach plan for the LCD.
- Discuss key next steps to implement the LCD and accomplish high priority action items through 2018.

John Mankowski, **NPLCC Overview**: Bringing all expertise together in the large landscape

- Progress of partnership - Chuck Houghton expressed need to make changes to how refuges are looking at landscapes, find out what the conservation priorities are for the entire landscape, can the LCC help convene partners & can we get to the point of a climate resilient blueprint for the future. What does this landscape mean? What priorities are out there? We are coming together to share priorities and come out with a tool or series of tools that will help us achieve what our organizations expect and broad conservation expectations.
- Reminder of vision. Reminder of 4 goals. Often will hear from one partner, then another partner, all on common questions - makes sense to answer them together and leverage funding. We are about creating a useable blueprint for the region
- We started a year ago, we've made a lot of progress: Convened group, hired facilitator, crafted a detailed project framework, taken steps in 5 different areas to make progress - partners' conservation targets, social network mapping, small group to think about funding, habitat connectivity workshop, communication plan
- Today we'll address if there are gaps in progress, talk about governance

Tom USFWS/NPLCC & Khem USFWS - [Draft Project framework](#)

Khem:

- We are here to identify valued resources as a collaborative group, assessing impacts of stressors, create a conservation blueprint

- Geographic scope - coastal watersheds from Cape Flattery to Cape Blanco, in the north area is still up for discussion, eastern boundary to Bonneville dam, excluded Willamette valley, we're including near shore areas, hatched area on map is area we are considering for connectivity, we recognize connectivity isn't limited to watershed boundaries.
- Creating the framework: We have had 3 in-person Core Team Meetings, 2 Technical teams, 2 polls, literature review, other LCD efforts = our draft project framework...
 - 4 key elements: convene stakeholders, assess future conditions, spatial design (blueprint of priorities), strategy design leading to implementation
- General approach - build version 1.0, build from and augment existing landscape scale efforts, balance science with convening.

Tom:

- Project Plan, spent a fair amount of time thinking through products.
 - Convening - Making sure we have representation from all around, going out and talking to people, symposium
 - Assessing Current and future conditions - take a pulse of the landscape, where do we need to focus and priorities
 - Ecosystem services, socio-economic aspects, map future threats on the landscape
 - Develop Spatial Design - identify core areas, map connectivity zones, assess resiliency of design to stressors, we don't want a 500 page document that sits on the shelf, ensure this is a living document
 - Collective impact (5 conditions)
 - Plan is meant to change over time, be adaptive, we are using this plan as a guide to things such as the connectivity workshop

Sara Evans-Peters, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture - [Shared Conservation Targets](#)

- Using Open Standards: Adaptive mgmt process that lays out clear steps - based on using common language and terminology. Major umbrella goal is to have shared conservation goals.
- We are looking at climate impacts as contributing to or producing new stress
- Embracing diversity and letting go of minutia - partnership/landscape
- Taking a coarse filter/ fine filter approach
 - Coarse filter targets selection criteria: habitat-based (high level) and ecological processes (include complexity)
 - In draft we have proposed coarse-filter targets: list + connectivity and diversity
 - Fine-filter target selection: representative, of interest, important for species recovery, species of cultural significance, had to meet multiple criteria to become a target
 - This will be available soon (target table)
- Down the road: define key characteristics of targets, identify indicators, viability assessments
- Question - habitat is different for different species so how do you define that? How do you synthesize across species?

- What's keeping us from being successful and moving that needle on specific targets
 - Identify direct threats, identify strategies (this is where we are at)

Questions:

When you're deciding what's most important to conserve - is there data on things like altered species conservation that allows for spatial areas to be identified?

Sara - no. We have to be strategic when we pick KEAs, lots of different ways to address but for this project we need to pick ones that have info on them.

Khem: We may want to look at surrogates

John: Cultural significance - how are culturally significant items identified?

- We've received feedback from tribes on what's significant to them. Very important to recognize the culturally significant resources for coastal.
- We've relied on WA/OR SWAP

Geographic scale? How do you scale?

- Tough to capture, we had to narrow it down to 8 coarse targets, may be some geography based in fine scale
- We need to develop integration principles - how can we use this info at a local scale and integrate across those scales. Series of principles.

Ethan - Strategies, not noted as spatial data but are they mapable?

- We are holding off on strategies, they would come after spatial data set
- Tom: We have the same question in southern OR project, we want to map what people are doing on the landscape
- A geography this large, more of a narrative strategy than geography-specific strategy

How much have you dug into action plans beyond just species plans?

- Very detailed and we are struggling with how much that detail is relevant on a geography like this, the OR/WA strategies

Andrea: Are species representative of entire geo scop or more tied to coastal?

- Trying to do whole geography scope

What definition you're using for coastal forest?

- Actual is coastal forests - generic term, happy to change definition
- Often static approach in these plans - Is there a plan to integrate process or dynamic element, or look at everything to start
- Spatial aspect they are planning on addressing that.
- Tom: Ken and Sara have done synthesis of plans and literature, next thing we need to do is take this on the road and get feedback from people around the geography. Important part of getting buy in.

Ken Vance-Borland - [Social Network Mapping](#)

Offered visual example: Map on the geography, dots represent people or orgs, lines represent collaborations.

- Social network analysis - began in sociology/anthropology, expanded to business mgmt, there are now courses and professional society.

- Assumptions = relationships matter, actors in social network are interdependent, ties and relationships between orgs are channels of resources, structure of networks provide opportunities for or constraints on action
- Project goals - we want to look at snapshot of collaborations, identify steering committee members, look at gaps in current patterns of collabs, link social collaboration implications into spatial prioritization, monitoring and evaluation over time of social conditions in the region.
- Examples: snapshot of collaborations, lincoln county on OR coast, 47 people that answered survey, second map done w/ PNW Research Station of scientists and managers, third - ID potential steering committee members.

Lisa: Can reach be done in variety of ways, what is reach?

- Ken - Yes any kind of contact, most effective would be p2p contact

- Gap analysis
- Looking at social structure in spatial structure - example looking at solomon islands, showed good places to try to invest in partnership building
- Monitoring and evaluation - learning to collaborate took effort: changing mindsets, building capacity, shared funding, planning, communicating
- SNA Project timeline -
 - OMB approval, started process, about 9 months to go
 - Advisory group
 - Next summer possibly we will do survey
 - Network mapping analysis from survey
 - Incorporating network structure into spatial prioritization
 - Bridge gaps we find
 - Re-survey

Questions:

Becky - Geographic location of where people are might be an element, will you include in analysis? How will that contribute to building this?

- Yes this is a determinant, we definitely will be asking questions in survey that identify subgroupings in the network
- *Do you weigh the collaboration?*
 - It's possible to do that but we have to be careful because it imposes a burden on respondent
 - John - There will be many benefits to this analysis, Gives us as a group means to identify gaps and will give more structured approach to engage process, this is also a way to measure impact, lots of value.

How do you see this informing the planning part of it? See linkage to communications plan, but how will it help inform targets and threats?

- The questions we will ask will address threats, most valuable biological components, from that we can pull out sub-networks showing people involved with that and convene those people. It could strategically identify people who have identified specific priorities and we can convene them.

- *Lincoln County example - weakness of network shows there needs to be investment in capacity, it seems like a critically valuable tool*
- Mary - One key point for success in this project is opportunity to make sure the right people are connected, so today we will ask you all to make sure we are on target.

Will this questionnaire go out to fishing/timber industry?

- Yes, we want to survey industrial partners

John - Strive for 80-90% survey response?

- Yes

So if members of this team want to join who should they contact?

- Mary or Tom, we want this to be geographically and sectorally diverse, we welcome anyone interested

Lisa - How do you dissect someone who wears many hats?

- We will be identifying orgs, businesses, county govts, and will find knowledgeable people in those networks on behalf of the orgs, focusing more on what agency does rather than individual people

Funding -

- Small group of people who began 5 or 6 months ago, got together to think about what are some high priority actions, low hanging fruit we could go after to compile resources. Group is open to anyone who wants to participate.
- Update - to date UFSWS & NPLCC have contributed funding - development, facilitation, webinars, initiate the SNA, pacific birds work
- Submitted proposal for Conserving Nature's Stage, Ecotrust stepped up to be fiscal sponsor for this. This will compile GIS data and convene regional partners. Proposal was submitted about a week ago.
- Fund half time project coordinator for project
 - Chuck: For project manager position we have enough funding for half FTE, between LCC and FWS we should be able to fund that. Longer term we will look for additional funding partners. We are open to ideas of partners, in-kind services, but need further mechanisms for funding. We are in good shape near-term and optimistic to keep up momentum
- This group has been brainstorming grants opps, reaching out to private foundations, everyone is working together to leverage any existing funds, go after new funds, and achieve the goals of this project. All about the partners - i.e. how SWAPs have contributed (example of no-cost, in-kind). Stay positive for 2017, encourage anyone who would like to be a part of funding committee.

Questions:

Where does NPLCC get funding?

- USFWS, money comes to us and we decide where to put it, this project has been a priority. We have money to start things, we are off to good start but we certainly need more resources.
- Mary: Also staff time via FWS, USGS, BIA.

Kelly - Funding is being given to ID conservation targets?

- Tom - That's what Ken and Sara are working on and we want to take that on the road and share
- John - the work Ken and Sara are doing is the beginning, not yet spatially explicit, the next iteration. It's going to be up to this group to agree on the conservation targets so we can go into scenario planning portion.
- Mary - This is initial synthesis, does it look like this is where we need to be? Far away from drawing lines on a map.

Tom - Connectivity draft agenda

- Began connecting with Washington Habitat Connectivity Working Group and are looking to convene people in our geography, to develop a proposal and begin seeking funding. Meeting on Dec. 6th hosted by ODOT.
- Goals: ID who is doing what in the region, lots of connectivity going on, develop shared understanding of science. Meant to be half a day of listening and then half a day of discussion.
 - Speakers: Peter Singelton and Brad McRae, wildlife habitat connectivity
 - Regional efforts - Washington Habitat working group, conservation biology institute Oregon statewide connectivity assessment, Regional PNW Connectivity assessment
 - State of the science - Meade Krosby, Leslie Bliss-Ketchum, Kelly McAllister, Bill Gaines
 - Small group brainstorming, and craft work plan from this.

Kelly - Washington Connectivity Working Group Overview

Connectivity work through a couple methods - what is it that you want to connect?

- Completed Washington statewide summary - coarse scale, 100m squares, 16 focal species that were the basis of mapping connectivity in the state of Washington.
- Also did Landscape Integrity which is a measure of the human footprint and how altered the landscape is. Patches of least altered conditions.
- On top of this was a climate-smart analysis done by Meade Krosby - climate smart corridors go from cool to warmer, species will be more likely to use these corridors.
- Then to a columbia plateau analysis, finer-scale, 30m pixel size. We could do similar work in our geography.

Questions:

On website it says you thought about coastal WA, is that the effort that is stalled?

- Yes, it isn't broken down fine enough, there aren't too many land managers willing to dedicate their land base to connectivity

Is there still interest in potentially revisiting that?

- Yes, that is exactly why I'm interested in this, this includes the entire area we were interested in looking at.
- The Intertwine is another group to connect with. Local but their geographic coverage goes up into Clark County

John: Have you figured out how to tackle marine or freshwater aquatic?

- Short answer is no, we decided to restrict our work to terrestrial

Tom - are there efforts looking at aquatic?

- Fish passage
- Beyond the linear aspect it's the network, certainly people who are doing that kind of work
- John - This was highlighted as a priority in this group - show value of collaborative group in connectivity
- Since DOTs are interested in connectivity, their interest is not solely terrestrial
- Another group doing a lot of work on this is Sky Island Lines - they're dealing with the border wall, have done similar brainstorming approaches and are happy to share. Wildlife Linkages project is cool, climate change relevant.

Andrea - Background on ODFW - SWAP:

- Review completed, stakeholders say lack of statewide connectivity. Looking for people to partner with to do this at statewide level, look at borders with Washington and California. Excited about the energy behind this, looking forward to partnering to create this statewide.

Meghan Kearney – [Outreach & Communication Plan](#)

- Draft Communication Plan is available here, feel free to review and send thoughts or edits to Meghan
- As we move forward we want to strengthen definition of audiences and begin to develop strategies for each
 - Need to add particular focus on reaching folks outside of Portland area
 - If anyone is interested in participating on a Communication Subcommittee (details in plan), please contact Meghan.

Breakout Sessions –

- Meeting participants broke into 2 groups to brainstorm the following questions:
 1. Are there any gaps in the Project Plan that you believe should be added because they reflect the values and priorities of stakeholders or represent the interests of key ecosystems/habitats/species within the LCD?
 2. What is the desired governance structure of the LCD? Are there additional elements we need to consider?
 3. Is there a key priority you believe is missing from the funding strategy within the next two years? What suggestions do you have for potential sources of funding to fund the highest priority tasks through 2018?
 4. How will your organization use the outcomes of the LCD to advance its conservation interests? What management decisions will be made? At what scale? What timing? Is there anything that could be done to make the outcomes of the LCD more useful for your organization?
- [Review results from breakout sessions here](#)

Updates from participants:

- Kelly McAllister - Focus on pollinators. WDOT has been directed to make roadways more attractive to pollinators
- Chris Maguire - People weeding/donating plants on 101 - adopt the highway for pollinators
- Tom Iverson - Great Northern LCC - Columbia Basin Partner Forum to get at supporting climate forum in columbia basin. Helping Yakama Nation with vulnerability assessments. Will approach this by building an encyclopedia of vulnerability assessments for species and habitats - each individual partner can bring that down to their area. Starting at the beginning of the year
- South Puget Sound Prairie Partnership - Restoration work, protection of prairie, includes DOD
- Ken - Acquisition projects - 30 acres of salt marsh
- North Coast Land Conservancy - 3,000 acres for connected corridor, south columbia land trust is partner
- Sara - SLR project will be doing series of workshops, scientists and managers, attendees leave w/ strategy for their own agency