



NORTHWEST BOREAL

Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Working Together

Conservation needs in Alaska and Northwest Canada require an unprecedented collaborative effort that links science and conservation information exchange with the combined capacities of many conservation partners. As a diverse international partnership including the perspectives of Alaska Natives and Canadian First Nations People, the Northwest Boreal Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NWB LCC) can work together to gain a better shared understanding of how our ecosystems function and how they may change in the future. Working together, the LCC can encourage research of priority resource information needs within the region and encourage partners to work together on shared objectives rather than duplicate efforts.

Each organization in the NWB partnership has unique strengths and capacities; by working together we can leverage our assets to address landscape conservation challenges at the

scale at which they occur. When working collaboratively, our diversity becomes our biggest advantage. Diverse partnerships such as ours are more resilient in the face of change and can meet multi-faceted and large-scale conservation challenges by bridging diverse perspectives, missions, and institutions. Diverse perspectives are particularly important to include in collective learning and adaptive management of our landscapes. By working together, we can achieve more than we can individually.

Who is the NWB LCC?

The NWB LCC is made up of diverse partner organizations from across more than 330 million acres of boreal forests, alpine habitat, wetlands and rivers, spanning an elevation range from sea level to the highest point in North America. One of the largest LCCs in the LCC Network (lccnetwork.org), the NWB partnership includes the major metropolitan hubs and transportation infrastructure of the region, including the two

NWB LCC Vision: *A dynamic landscape that maintains functioning, resilient boreal ecosystems and associated cultural resources.*

NWB LCC Mission: *To enhance the ability of organizations and communities to understand, manage, and adapt to our changing landscape.*

largest cities in Alaska and the largest city in Yukon. The geographic region of the NWB LCC includes the boreal and boreal transition zones of Alaska, Yukon, northern British Columbia and westernmost Northwest Territories. As a true international collaboration, the NWB LCC is a growing partnership of more than twenty-five U.S. and Canadian federal and provincial/territorial agencies, nongovernmental organizations, Tribes/First Nations, and institutions of higher education.

Landscape-Scale Conservation

Over the last 100 years, recorded air temperature within the NWB LCC region has warmed 1.4 °C (2.52 °F), twice the global average, and the growing season length has increased by 50%. At the same time, global demand for natural resources such as oil and gas, rare-earth minerals, and timber is increasing exponentially. The combination of climate and land-use change will lead to drastic alterations of these largely intact ecosystems in our lifetimes.



The geographic area of the Northwest Boreal LCC is shown in purple. The LCC includes the boreal forests of Alaska, Yukon Territory, Northern British Columbia, and the western mountains of Northwest Territories.

The need for effective, science-based, and targeted conservation at landscape scales to inform management decisions within the NWB LCC region has never been greater. Land and resource managers need decision support tools, coordinated monitoring, and the latest results from climate and ecosystem models. Partners of the Northwest Boreal LCC are embarking on a landscape conservation design process to guide collaboration to achieve its vision in the context of an uncertain future.

In 2012, the NWB LCC partners conducted a comprehensive information needs assessment to determine commonalities in what science and management information is needed, at what scale, and in what format to inform local and landscape-level conservation and sustainable management across the region.

Collaborative conservation that takes a holistic view of ecosystems and society across large landscapes is emerging as a 21st century model. People and nature are not separate; society depends on ecosystem services for economic and cultural wellbeing. In order to achieve sustainable landscapes, it is important to foster resilient economies and fully functional ecosystem services; here the term “cultural resources” encompasses the human components of socio-ecological systems. The challenge before us is to provoke a new way of thinking about conservation, explore the potential of LCCs, and work not only outside our own jurisdictions, but also outside our typical ways of doing business

New Model of Conservation

The NWB LCC has an opportunity to lead the way into this new model of conservation. In doing so, we must be creative, and in some cases, be willing to leave the comfort of our typical practices. Rapid rates of change and high uncertainty require that science and action be coordinated in continuous learning loops. LCCs



are in a unique position to facilitate the co-creation and application of science-based and traditional knowledge towards common conservation and sustainable management goals. The NWB partnership can take an active role in collaboratively building the knowledge base to reach those goals and by identifying scenarios of change and intervention opportunities. To reach their full potential, LCC partnerships must move past the collection and synthesis of information, and must work collaboratively to apply science to sustainability issues. This involves engaging diverse stakeholders, facilitating dialogue among different viewpoints, and informing action. This is a time to be creative and inventive as a

partnership, to talk about and plan for things to come both opportunities and risks, and manage for resilience and adaptation.

Shared Conservation Goals

The mission of the NWB LCC is to enhance the ability of organizations and communities to understand and manage

ecosystems and their processes in our changing landscape. The partnership will do this by identifying, developing, and supporting shared conservation goals that will help us reach our vision, and by promoting coordination, development, and dissemination of science and traditional ecological knowledge to inform and incentivize landscape-level sustainability. By taking a proactive approach to conservation, the LCC will provide the tools and information necessary to work

collectively towards our shared vision in the face of an uncertain future.

Additional information:

For more information on the Northwest Boreal LCC visit <http://nwblcc.org>

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