

Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project
DRAFT Meeting Notes – Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Call Participants

- Mary Basballe, Puyallup Tribe
- Margaret Corvi, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
- Michael Cox, EPA Region 10
- Michelle Davis, EPA Region 10
- Kathy Ferge, Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Eliza Ghitis, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- George Hart, Navy Region Northwest
- Samantha Chisholm Hatfield, Northwest Climate Science Center
- Elizabeth Henry, Fraser Basin Council
- James Holt, Nez Perce Tribe
- Carolyn Kelly, Quinault Indian Nation
- Kathy Lynn, University of Oregon
- Christopher Moreno, HDR Inc.
- Don Motanic, Intertribal Timber Council
- Nikos Pastos, Center for Water Advocacy
- Melissa Poe, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center, and Washington Sea Grant, University of Washington
- Dean Polchies, National Congress of American Indians
- Kirsten Vinyeta, University of Oregon
- Carl Wasillie, Yup'iaq Biologist
- Mary Mahaffy, North Pacific LCC

Table of Contents

Discussion Topics 2

White House Tribal Nations Conference 2

Youth Appellants’ Federal Climate Change Case Gains Broad-Base Support 2

Consideration for traditional ecological knowledge in climate change initiatives 2

EPA Region 10 Draft Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plan 3

Funding Opportunities 3

North Pacific LCC Notice of Funding Availability 3

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities 4

Funding Opportunity: Indoor Air and Climate Change 4

General Updates 4

Climate Change in the Northwest: Implications for Our Landscapes, Waters and Communities 4

NPLCC Tidings Newsletter 4

Disaster Declaration for Western Alaskan Native Communities 4

2014 - 2015 ITEP trainings and webinar series 5

New Tribal Profiles 5

NOAA Tribal Consultation Handbook 5

The National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center Annual Report for 2012 5

Energy Department Invests Over \$7 Million to Deploy Tribal Clean Energy Projects 5

Special Issue of ESA *Frontiers* Assesses the Impacts of Climate Change on People and Ecosystems ... 6

Upcoming Webinars 6

Webinar, Interagency Woody Biomass Utilization Group Forest Management & Carbon Implications 6

National Adaptation Forum Webinar Series 6

Webinar: Forecasting Bull Trout suitable habitat in a changing world 6

Upcoming PNW Tribal Climate Change Network Conference Call Dates

- January 15, 2014
 - February 19, 2014
 - March 19, 2014
 - April 16, 2014
 - May 21, 2014
 - June 18, 2014
 - July 16, 2014
 - August 20, 2014
 - September 17, 2014
 - October 15, 2014
 - November 19, 2014
- Call Time: 10:00 am Pacific**

Discussion Topics

White House Tribal Nations Conference

On November 13, 2013, President Obama hosted the 5th White House Tribal Nations Conference. Dean Polchies with the NCAI explains that climate change and renewable energy seemed to be at the center of many of the Conference's discussions, a fact that was highlighted in the following article:

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2013/11/17/feds-reach-out-natives-climate-change-tribal-nations-conference-152290>. To view the agenda that was covered during the conference, and to view some of the recorded sessions of the conference, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/11/12/president-obama-host-2013-white-house-tribal-nations-conference>

Youth Appellants' Federal Climate Change Case Gains Broad-Base Support

An amicus curare in support of young people suing the federal government for not acting to reverse climate change was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on November 12, 2013. The amici emphasizes the drastic effects climate change has in Native communities, particularly Alaska, and “[t]hese communities contribute little, if at all, to the problem of climate change, and, yet, bear a disproportionately large adverse impact from climate change given their unique vulnerability.” The brief states that “climate change ravages Native Nations, and the federal government, which includes the defendants-appellees in this case, has a responsibility to assist these Nations by rapidly reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change.” The federal government has trust responsibility to tribes to lower greenhouse gas emissions and act in the best interest of tribes. The lawsuit was filed with the help of Our Children’s Trust, an Oregon-based non-profit orchestrating a game-changing, youth-driven legal campaign in the United States and across the globe. For more information on the amicus brief,

visit: <http://ourchildrenstrust.org/sites/default/files/General%20Amicus%20PR%20Final.pdf>

Consideration for traditional ecological knowledge in climate change initiatives

The DOI Climate Change Advisory Committee recently established a tribal engagement task group. One issue identified during a recent meeting was the need to provide guidance to Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) and Climate Science Centers (CSC) that will help these institutions understand the appropriate role of TEK. With this identified need, a small group of people involved with the DOI climate change advisory committee and the national tribal climate change policy group that formed after the National Adaptation Forum in April 2014, are working to develop a document that outlines a set of guidelines/principles for both tribes, and federal agencies and organizations, seeking to incorporate TEK into climate change initiatives. In order to ethically, responsibly, and effectively incorporate TEK into climate change initiatives, agency managers must have a clear understanding of the nature TEK, the value of it in resource management, its possible contributions to climate change initiatives, and most importantly, the measures that are necessary to avoid the misappropriation and exploitation of this sensitive knowledge system. Just as important is the need for tribes seeking to incorporate their TEK into climate change initiatives to understand the benefits and risks involved when sharing or applying TEK, and to develop strategies that help protect TEK in these contexts.

Dean stated that this is a critical issue that the NCAI is very interested in. Don and Dean both suggested that the NCAI's "Walk Softly, Listen Carefully" publication may serve as a useful reference for the development of TEK guidelines. "Walk Softly, Listen Carefully" can be found at the following link: http://www.ncai.org/attachments/PolicyPaper_SpMCHTcjxRRjMEjDnPmesENPzjHTwhOIOWxIWOIWdSrykJuQggG_NCAI-WalkSoftly.pdf

Nikos described the ways in which some Alaska Native Elders refer to TEK as a subset of traditional knowledge. Carl highlighted the difficulty associated with bringing TEK into western documents, while

also emphasizing that seizing these opportunities to bring indigenous ways of knowing to the national forefront is critical. Carl also described the need to frame the sharing of TEK as an activity that requires the wisdom of indigenous communities, including indigenous elders and youth. Indigenous peoples need to be a part of the management and decision-making in order for wisdom to guide the appropriate sharing and application TEK.

Kathy will continue to update the Network about the development of these principles. If you are interested in contributing or reviewing the document, please email Kathy at kathy@uoregon.edu.

EPA Region 10 Draft Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plan

In June 2011, EPA issued its first policy statement on climate change adaptation. The policy statement recognized that climate change can pose significant challenges to EPA's ability to fulfill its mission. It calls for the Agency to anticipate and plan for future changes in climate and incorporate considerations of climate change into its activities. The policy statement calls for the development of an agency-wide Climate Change Adaptation Plan including every EPA Program and Regional Office. In February 2013, EPA completed an agency-wide Climate Adaptation Plan. In early November 2013, EPA released 17 Program and Regional Draft Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plans for a 60 day public comment period. All of the EPA Program and Regional Adaptation Plans, including the EPA Region 10 Plan, can be viewed at: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/fed-programs/EPA-impl-plans.html>.

The public is invited to review and provide comment on the Draft Adaptation Plans through the public docket at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!searchResults;rpp=25;po=0;s=EPA-HQ-OA-2013-0568;fp=true;ns=true> (Docket Number EPA-HQ-OA-2013-0568). If you are providing comments through the public docket, it is important to identify which of the 17 Plans your comments refer to. If you have any questions you can contact Michael Cox at [206-553-1597](tel:206-553-1597) (cox.michael@epa.gov).

National Landscape Conservation Cooperative Council

Don Motanic reported the 2 of 3 tribal liaison positions for the National LCC Council have been identified representing the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. The LCC National Council will serve the LCC network by learning from them and helping to identify the ecological and institutional challenges faced by the LCCs that should be addressed at the national scale. Serving as the national voice for the LCC network, the Council will seek to support changes that can be made at the national level to facilitate the work of the LCCs. The Council will provide a platform for highlighting LCC successes and challenges. Sustained funding is needed for the LCC network, and the Council will work to ensure that local and regional partnership efforts are supported at the highest levels. <http://lccnetwork.org/NationalCouncil>

Funding Opportunities

***More funding opportunities are available online at: <http://envs.uoregon.edu/tribal-climate/>.*

North Pacific LCC Notice of Funding Availability

The NPLCC just released its [Notice of Funding Availability](#) in accordance with direction and decisions made by the Steering Committee regarding projects we will fund in FY14. The NPLCC is seeking innovative and collaborative pre-proposals to advance 3 categories of actions in the NPLCC Science Strategy. They are:

- Informing management decisions at local regional or scales based on information syntheses at landscape scales
- Incorporating climate change information into habitat conservation, restoration, adaptation, or enhancement actions.
- Assist decision makers with incorporating climate change information into their planning efforts and implementing adaptation actions.

The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is December 19th, 2013. The link to that announcement can be found [here](#).

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities

Smart Growth America and Global Green USA are soliciting applications for technical assistance, which is available under grants EPA awarded to these two organizations through the Office of Sustainable Communities' [Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities](#) grant program. (Listen to the [November 6 webinar](#) about both offerings.) Global Green USA's technical assistance is based on the LEED for Neighborhood Development standard, which provides a nationally recognized method for creating neighborhoods that are walkable, bikeable, resource-efficient, and equitable. At the conclusion of the assistance, the team will provide recommendations for both physical and policy changes that can enhance neighborhood sustainability. [View the application.](#)

Applications are due to Global Green by Friday December 20, 2013, 6 PM PST.

Funding Opportunity: Indoor Air and Climate Change

This RFA seeks to understand the health effects from climate change mediated by indoor environments. A specific interest is the evaluation of adaptation guidelines, such as energy-saving building modifications, from a health perspective. Additional optional goals are 1) the understanding of behavioral adaptations, e. g. time spent outdoors, or use of natural ventilation and 2) extension of building ventilation models to newer energy-efficient buildings and evaluation of existing models against independent data sets.

- **Solicitation Opening Date: October 23, 2013**
- **Solicitation Closing Date: January 23, 2014, 11:59:59 pm Eastern Time**

For more information, please see: http://www.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2014/2014_star_indoor_air.html

General Updates

Climate Change in the Northwest: Implications for Our Landscapes, Waters and Communities

This report serves as an updated resource for scientists, stakeholders, decision makers, students, and community members interested in understanding and preparing for climate change impacts on Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. This more detailed, foundational report is intended to support the key findings presented in the Northwest chapter of the Third National Climate Assessment. See report at the following link: <http://occri.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/ClimateChangeInTheNorthwest.pdf>

NPLCC Tidings Newsletter

The NPLCC now puts out a newsletter titled "Tidings." To sign up for future mailings, visit the NPLCC's website at: <http://www.northpacificlcc.org>

Disaster Declaration for Western Alaskan Native Communities

PNW Tribal CC Network participant Rita Asgeirsson asked that I share information on the recent flooding in Alaska. From an article in the Anchorage Daily News, "Gov. Sean Parnell declared a state of disaster Saturday for Western Alaska communities battered by a series of storms this past week. The declaration comes after floodwaters, ice floes and high winds downed communication lines in Stebbins and destroyed sewer and water lines and forced more than 200 people to evacuate their homes in Kotlik." More information from this article is available at: <http://www.adn.com/2013/11/16/3181052/governor-declares-disaster-for.html#storylink=cpy>. More information on impacts from the storm can be found at: <http://www.adn.com/2013/11/14/3176572/western-alaska-villages-survey.html>.

Nikos and Carl took a moment to describe some of the profound challenges facing Alaska Native communities as a result of this storm. Among the challenges is the fact that some communities have lost their food stores, making them extremely vulnerable to poor food access and malnutrition. There may also

be the need for some communities to relocate. Alaska Native communities need assistance in developing plans and implementation strategies to mitigate, and adapt to, climate change impacts. In the aftermath of this disaster, communication has been poor and fiduciary responsibilities have not been met. There may be some proactive measures that people and indigenous communities outside of Alaska can take to help Alaska Natives in the face of these extreme challenges. Carl and Nikos can forward information about ways in which we can be of assistance to Alaska Native communities.

2014 - 2015 ITEP trainings and webinar series

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) at Northern Arizona University, the University of Oregon Environmental Studies Program, and the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station are collaborating on a series of training sessions and webinars for Pacific Northwest tribes in 2014 and 2015. This collaboration aims to expand tribal capacity for climate change adaptation planning and implementation. The collaborating partners are seeking input from the PNW Tribal Climate Change Network to refine the focus and content of these training sessions and webinars. Initial plans are for the first webinar series to highlight climate change impacts of key concern to Pacific Northwest tribes. The first training session, which will be held in the Puget Sound region, would focus on tribal strategies for climate change adaptation planning. The second training session (location TBD) would build upon the first training and potentially focus on strategies for implementing climate change adaptation plans. The second webinar series would then focus on tribal climate change adaptation strategies. In an effort to ensure that the webinar series and training sessions encompass the types of information and resources that will be most useful to PNW tribes, project collaborators will be seeking input from tribal leaders and staff in the region via an easy online survey that will be made available in the near future. Kathy will notify the Network when this survey becomes available. In the meantime, contact Sue Wotkyns (Susan.Wotkyns@nau.edu) with any questions.

New Tribal Profiles

New profiles are being posted at the following link: <http://tribalclimate.uoregon.edu/tribal-profiles/>. If any network participants have suggestions for future profiles, please get in touch with Kathy (kathy@uoregon.edu).

NOAA Tribal Consultation Handbook

NOAA release their tribal consultation handbook last week, titled *NOAA Procedures for Government-to-Government Consultation with Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations*. The handbook is intended to improve coordination with Indian tribal governments and assist NOAA in conducting effective government-to-government consultations.

<http://www.legislative.noaa.gov/policybriefs/NOAA%20Tribal%20consultation%20handbook%20111213.pdf>. Federal register notice: http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-27415_PI.pdf

The National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center Annual Report for 2012

The National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center (NCCWSC) is pleased to announce that the inaugural edition of the NCCWSC and the Department of the Interior (DOI) Climate Science Centers (CSCs) annual report is now available through the USGS Publications

Warehouse at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1387/>. The FY 12 annual report provides a summary of the people and science leading the NCCWSC and DOI CSCs.

Energy Department Invests Over \$7 Million to Deploy Tribal Clean Energy Projects

As part of the Obama Administration's commitment to strengthening partnerships with Tribal nations and building stronger, more resilient communities that are better prepared for a changing climate, the Energy Department today announced nine tribal clean energy projects to receive more than \$7 million.

Highlighted during the 2013 White House Tribal Nations Conference, these awards will help American Indian and Alaska Native tribes deploy clean energy projects—saving these communities money,

enhancing their energy security, and creating new job and business opportunities. <http://energy.gov/articles/energy-department-invests-over-7-million-deploy-tribal-clean-energy-projects>

Special Issue of ESA *Frontiers* Assesses the Impacts of Climate Change on People and Ecosystems

The November 2013 issue of the Ecological Society of America's journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* is devoted to an assessment of climate change effects on ecosystems, and the consequences for people. "The impacts that climate change has had and will have on people are interwoven with the impacts on ecosystems. I think that we instinctively know that. In this assessment, we try to draw that connection," said guest editor [Nancy Grimm](#), past president of ESA, and a professor and Senior Sustainability Scientist at Arizona State University. For more, please see this link:

<http://www.esa.org/esablog/research/president-issues-executive-order-to-prepare-for-impacts-of-climate-change/>

Upcoming Webinars

Webinar, Interagency Woody Biomass Utilization Group (WBUG) Forest Management and Carbon Implications

Thursday November 21, 2013, 9:00 - 11:45 AM EST

The interagency WBUG is hosting a presentation on forest management and the influence various management regimes have on carbon. The research being presented has integrated carbon life cycle analysis of various forest products and bioenergy options as well as wildfire effects and regional differences. Land managers and policy makers are faced with numerous challenges in managing forests from wildfire to insect epidemics and with the added complexity of climate change. This program will present research findings relevant to managing forest ecosystems in this environment. Speaker: Dr. Elaine Oneil, Research Scientist at the University of Washington, Seattle and Executive Director of the Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials, Where: Dept. of Interior, Rachel Carson Room (Basement Cafeteria of the Main Interior Building, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240). RSVP: To facilitate access to Interior, email your name to wsalvers@blm.gov and you will be added to the list at each entrance.

You can also join us via Webinar by registering here: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/291897560>.

National Adaptation Forum Webinar Series: Creating and Expanding Funding Streams for Adaptation Planning and Implementation

Thursday, November 21, 2013 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EST

Cities and communities are confronted with planning and implementing climate adaptation with very few resources available to help pay for the help they need. Adaptation funding is competing against already limited funding for schools, police, and libraries from scarce local resources. So, while adaptation is a responsible long-term investment for communities, it is usually very difficult to secure adequate funding for planning and implementation. During this webinar we will explore ways to use existing mandates for implementing adaptation, give an example of how adaptation is moving forward in the City of Cleveland, and provide a forum for discussion on challenges and creative ways to move adaptation forward. This webinar is the first of the National Adaptation Webinar Series and is sponsored by EcoAdapt and Georgetown Law Center and hosted by CAKE. To register, visit:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/798461248>.

Webinar: Forecasting Bull Trout suitable habitat in a changing world

Tuesday, November 26, 10-11am (Pacific Time)

WebEx link/login:

<https://mmancusa.webex.com/mmancusa/j.php?ED=228225387&UID=494717212&PW=NODVjNzQ3ZWQ5&RT=MiM0>

Conference call line: [877 952-8012](tel:8779528012)

Passcode: 520083# Recording? Yes: check the C3 YouTube site in a week or so: <http://bit.ly/C3webinars>

Seth Wenger will highlight an analytic approach that makes it possible to calculate a full distribution of possible outcomes for a species, and permits ready graphical display of uncertainty for individual locations and of total habitat. The work is based on a recent journal publication titled, “**Probabilistic accounting of uncertainty in forecasts of species distributions under climate change,**” and a bull trout suitable habitat analysis is used to illustrate methods. Dan Isaak and Jason Dunham will discuss the implications of this work on bull trout populations and conservation needs and considerations to take into account. For example, offsetting management actions can alleviate some climate stressors, as can thermal/stream temperature niches.

Citation: *Wenger, S. J., Som, N. A., Dauwalter, D. C., Isaak, D. J., Neville, H. M., Luce, C. H., Dunham, J. B., Young, M. K., Fausch, K. D. and Rieman, B. E. (2013), Probabilistic accounting of uncertainty in forecasts of species distributions under climate change. Global Change Biology, 19: 3343–3354. doi: [10.1111/gcb.12294](https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.12294)*