

**Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project
DRAFT Meeting Notes – Wednesday, June 27 2012**

Call Participants

- Tiffany Allgood, Couer D’Alene Tribe
- Josh Foster, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute
- Laura Gephart, Columba River Intertribal Fish Commission
- Oliver Grah, Nooksack Tribe
- Scott Hauser, Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation
- Joe Hostler, Yurok Tribe
- Kathy Lynn, University of Oregon
- Mary Mahaffy, North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- John Mankowski, North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- Paul McCollum, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe
- Don Motanic, Intertribal Timber Council
- Claire Schary, EPA Region 10
- Patricia Tillman, National Wildlife Federation
- Carson Viles, University of Oregon
- Garrit Voggesser, National Wildlife Federation
- Paul Williams, Suquamish Tribe

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Upcoming PNW Tribal Climate Change Network Conference Call Dates:

- July 25, 2012
 - August 22, 2012
 - September 26, 2012
 - October 24, 2012
 - November 28, 2012
- Call-in Information:*
Call Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 Pacific
Call-in #: 1-888-858-2144
Pass code: 5064716

North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative - Science and TEK Funded Projects

John Mankowski and Mary Mahaffy provided an update on the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC). John emphasized the NPLCC efforts to establish partnerships with tribes through tribal representation on the NPLCC steering committee, the Tribal/First Nations committee and the Science and TEK sub-committee. John also shared that the NPLCC is setting aside funding to aid tribes in traveling for NPLCC events.

Most recently, the NPLCC issued a request for proposals to support tribes in Integrating TEK into landscape management and “NPLCC priorities” and identifying Tribal and First Nations information needs in conservation and land management. The purpose of this funding opportunity is *“to demonstrate how TEK can be integrated with the work of the NPLCC and to identify un-met information needs of Tribes and First Nations regarding how natural and cultural resources may be affected by climate change.”*¹

The funding for these projects has come from the NPLCC, including funds from Region 1 of the Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the Northwest Climate Science Center. A review team of 10 people from the NPLCC Science and TEK subcommittee reviewed the proposals. Projects were scored in numerous areas, with involvement by tribal parties in each project, and relevance to resource management practices moving forward weighted twice as much as other review criteria. All of the funded projects were directly within NPLCC geographic area. Seven projects for \$300,000 were selected. Individual grants ranged from \$26,000-\$50,000. Below is a list of the projects that were funded:

- Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in the Central Coast of British Columbia: Support for Heiltsuk Participation in the Strategic Landscape Reserve Design Process
- Swinomish Tribe: Indicators in climate forecast to project and maintain tribal health
- Tulalip Tribe: Develop framework for management in collaboration with other tribes
- Yurok Tribe: Two phase study on climate change impacts to Yurok ancestral territory and culturally important species.
- Kasaan Tribe: Establishing gathering practices and understanding climate change impacts
- California Parks and Recreation: Investigate climate change impacts on Tolowa Dunes state park
- Karuk Tribe: Identify institutional and cultural barriers to integrating TEK into management

The NPLCC website will include a summary of the selected grants on their website soon. Mary noted that the NPLCC has made clear that they will not request culturally sensitive information. The NPLCC expressed their desire to share the lessons learned through these projects in a way that allows TEK to be respected and protected, while at the same time sharing applicable information that the tribes are comfortable with. Questions and comments on NPLCC Grants included the following:

- Tiffany asked if there is funding available to do additional projects. Future projects may look more at tribal science needs, but that is contingent on the work of the steering committee and tribal priorities moving forward. John suggested that the NPLCC may currently be the only LCC with an RFP specific to tribal engagement , but they hope to share this model with other LCCs.
- Joe Hostler stated that he appreciated the opportunity for tribal involvement in the grants. Joe suggested that prioritizing tribally-led grants helps to level the playing field for tribes, who , as smaller entities, may have a harder time attracting grant money. Mary noted that 19 of the 21 proposals came from tribal entities.

¹ http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Climatechange/nplcc/pdf/NPLCC_fy12_funding_guidance_final.pdf

- There is a lot of interest in how these projects can be applied to others in the region. One strategy is to write a profile on these projects as a way to show what technical approaches work, and what results there are, as well as to reach a broader audience. The profiles on these grants will both share information and monitor processes and lessons learned.

Tribal Outreach and Engagement

The Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change project has been exploring a process to bolster outreach and engagement of tribes within the Northwest Climate Science Center and the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives in the region. This exploration as resulted in several areas of focus:

1. **Policy level engagement:** There is a broad need to discuss tribal engagement, to discuss how tribes can and want to work with LCC and CSCs broadly → What does the government-to-government relationship mean in context of LCCs and CSCs? A draft policy paper exploring these issues will be sent out soon.
2. **Immediate connections to climate science and studies:** Given the broad scope of climate change studies, assessment, plans and other initiatives, there is a need to connect tribes with the federal, state, academic and NGO initiatives to study climate change. Kathy will work with the Northwest Climate Science Center, the North Pacific LCC and others to identify current information available about these efforts, and think about strategies to better connect tribes with these climate initiatives. The NPLCC has organized a database of all university researchers related to climate. This effort exemplifies how the NPLCC is trying to better distribute information, and facilitate tribal involvement. Bringing in other LCCs is important. Kathy will also contact the Great Basin and Great Northern LCC coordinators to talk with them about their resources, and invite them to participate in upcoming PNW Tribal Climate Change Network calls.
3. **Understanding Tribal Science and Science-Information Needs.** There is also a need to better understand tribal science and science-information needs. The National Wildlife Federation has been leading a process within the North Pacific LCC with a broad-set of partners, and this may provide a model for tribal engagement in identifying tribal science and information needs.
 - Over the past few months, Kathy and Patricia Tillman with NWF have been working to identify strategies to hold a series of web-based focus groups in the Pacific Northwest to identify these tribal science and science-information needs. Kathy expressed concern that some of the recently funded NPLCC projects may have potential overlap, and wants to be sure to avoid duplication in any of these efforts. Kathy will work with the NPLCC coordinators and grant recipients to ensure that the approach taken leverages resources and makes a contribution to the broader understanding of these issues.
 - Later in the call, Joe Hostler shared his experience attending a workshop held by the NWF, funded by a grant received from the NPLCC, to inform research priorities. He stated that the format seemed really helpful for engaging local communities, and that it was a worthwhile effort and worth looking into emulating. Paul Williams wondered how he and others in the Puget Sound area could move forward with similar meetings. Kathy offered to talk with Patricia from NWF and the NPLCC coordinators to talk about how to move a meeting like this forward, and to be sure it's in the context of the broader NPLCC objectives and connected with relevant Science-TEK grants in the area.

- Joe suggested that tribally-led and regionally-specific discussions of climate issues in a format similar to the NWF focus groups could help meet multiple objectives.
- Additionally, Patricia wanted to let the Network know that a draft synthesis report of findings from the NWF workshops is being written and should be available soon. Kathy will send these to the Network when they are available.

Tiffany noted that it is hard for tribal governments to do outreach and work on climate change issues with very limited capacity. She stated that if tribes could receive longer-term funding for tribal staff focused on climate change, it would be more feasible for tribes to engage in climate change mitigation and adaptation activities. Tiffany also noted that some agencies have come together, for example in solid waste, to coordinate funding to tribes. She suggested that tribes benefit from coordination between funding agencies because it facilitates funds moving more smoothly, and ensure longer-term engagement in the issues. She suggested that multi-year grants are a really important aspect of creating more flexible and accessible funds for tribal communities: climate change gets pushed to the back burner because of understaffing. Additionally, Tiffany expressed a concern that many tribes need a longer period of time to respond to Request for Proposals because of tribal governmental approval processes. Don Motanic reported the Dave Cleaves, the Forest Service Climate Change Advisor recently talked about strategies to coordinate climate change funding from the US Department of Agriculture for Department of Interior initiatives. Kathy suggested that she could include a discussion of the need for long-term funding and consolidated agency support in the policy paper, and also highlight some of these issues in the funding guide (e.g., specifically highlighting funds that may include longer-term support or consolidated and coordinated agency funding.)

National LCC Group

Don Motanic reported that a National LCC group is under development to examine opportunities to coordinate participation in national discussions of climate change. A large part of this is what role tribes will play. They are developing a LCC network at a national level to help work through some of the above and other larger issues of tribal involvement and priorities. The National LCC Group is working to develop uniform processes on engagement with tribes and other issues.

General Updates

Suquamish Tribe Ocean Acidification Project

Paul Williams with the Suquamish Tribe reported that he is working with the University of Washington and NOAA to assess ocean acidification impacts on marine species. Paul noted that outreach and education are a priority in this project. With that in mind, Paul is putting together a video of tribal youth interviewing tribal members during summer. Paul is looking for a simple questionnaire to assess what knowledge about this issue is floating around community, as well as to create tabling materials. Kathy will send Paul information on the Ocean Awareness and Literacy Action Coordination Team (<http://www.westcoastoceans.org/index.cfm?content.display&pageID=83>), and the NASA-funded program “Where Words Touch the Earth” which features videos of tribal perspectives on climate change (<http://www.teachersdomain.org/special/nasawords/>). Don Motanic will share contact information for a graduate student at Portland State University working with Native communities and environmental science, as well as a link to the Wisdom of Elders project addressing climate change (<http://wisdomoftheelders.org/series-four/>).

Tribal Climate Change Funding Guide

Currently, Kathy and Michelle Davis with EPA Region 10 are trying to streamline the guide by making it searchable and more accessible. If anyone is interested in working on a beta test of an online, searchable version of the guide, please contact Kathy. Strengthening format and creating an accessible structure moving forward is a major priority. Additionally, any suggestions on content and information are really appreciated.

- Tiffany noted that multi-year grants could be highlighted in the guide, as they are particularly valuable for tribes.

Recap from the Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change Conference

The conference, which featured a keynote address from Larry Mercurieff and Daniel Wildcat, was a great success. You can download a podcast interview that Larry and Daniel did with Jefferson Public Radio at: http://hw.libsyn.com/p/4/5/c/45c9fb339b0b8039/The_Jefferson_Exchange_5_21_2012_Hour_2.mp3?id=0ac91054578fe29a3eee8b510fd7c453&l_sid=31985&l_eid=&l_mid=3016152&expiration=1338323419&hwt=063562e7981b7b7f5920960906b73108. The broadcast of the interview starts at about 6 minutes into the podcast.

The second day of the conference included oral and poster presentations from students in the University of Oregon Honors College class on Indigenous Communities, Climate Change and Environmental Knowledge, as well as three visiting students – Lehua Ka’uhane from the Environmental Law Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Mary Kennedy from the Craig Tribal Association in Alaska, and Forrest Callaghan at Northwest Indian College. Many thanks to PNW Tribal Climate Change Network participants Cindy Spiry, Laura Gephart, Kate Sloan and Joe Hostler for attending. The video of the keynote address is available at: <http://media.uoregon.edu/channel/2012/06/12/indigenous-peoples-and-climate-change-conference-keynote-address/>

Following is a selected list of climate change events that may be of specific interest to the PNW region. For a more comprehensive list of recent articles, resources and upcoming events, subscribe to the ITEP Tribes and Climate Change Newsletter. Contact Sue Wotkyns at: Susan.Wotkyns@nau.edu or visit <http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/takeaction.asp>.

First Stewards Symposium - July 17-20, 2012 in Washington, D.C.

The First Stewards Symposium will be held at the National Museum of the American Indian. The symposium will be hosted by the four Coastal Treaty Tribes (Hoh, Makah, Quileute, and Quinalt) in conjunction with the US Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian and the Nature Conservancy. The symposium will bring together four regional panels; one each for the West Coast states; Alaska; the U.S. Pacific states and territories; and the Great Lakes, Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, and Gulf of Mexico states. www.firststewards.org/

Traditional Knowledge and Healthy Ecosystems Summit - August 29th-31, 2012 at Skamania Lodge

This summit is designed to inspire tribal staff, consultants, administrators and their community to look to indigenous traditional knowledge to guide our decisions as we protect, enhance and restore our lands. The conference will be held in one of the most diverse ecosystems in our region at the crossroads of forest, sea, river, mountain and prairie, in a place which tribes from throughout the region have come together each summer for millennium. Join three days of learning and sharing for this conference targeting tribal communities from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia and Alaska. Speakers include Dr. Daniel Wildcat, Larry Mercurieff, and Dr. Rudolph Ryser. Hosted by the Snoqualmie

Tribe with support from Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network (TSWAN) with funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For more info go to: <http://www.Snoqualmieksummit2012.wordpress.com> and to register: <http://www.Snoqualmieksummit2012.eventbrite.com>.

Climate Change Adaptation Planning course, Sept 11-13, 2012 in Missoula, MT

This course, offered by the Institute for Tribal Environment Professionals (ITEP), will have a regional focus on the Plains and northern Rockies. ITEP encourages tribal environmental and natural resource professionals from those regions to register. Registration forms are available at: <http://www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange/>.

North American Climate Change Adaptation Planning Forum, Sept 18-20, 2012 in Akwesasne, Canada

The conference will have a focus on food security and traditional plant use. This is being planned by the Centre for Indigenous Environment Resources (CIER) and others. See email below and link [invitation and application](#) for more info. (<http://www.cier.ca/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=2146>)

3rd annual Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference

The third annual Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference will be held in Boise, Idaho on 1-2 October 2012. The Call for Abstracts can be found at: <http://pnwclimateconference.org/call-for-abstracts.html> and http://pnwclimateconference.org/docs/PNWCS_Call-for-Abstracts_2012.pdf. The deadline for abstracts is Friday, 20 July 2012.

Model Forest Policy Program: Climate Solutions University

This program helps communities to plan for climate change adaptation by offering support and technical assistance in developing adaptation plans. Each year they fund trainings to help communities develop strong responses to climate risks. For 2013, they have funding for 8 communities to do planning process, and 8 to do implementation process. If your tribe is actively looking for a way to create an assessment/adaptation plan this is a great resource. However, it does not provide funds for tribal communities to hire someone to create this plan, instead acts as a consultation. For more information, please contact Jeff Morris, Community Coordinator at jeff@mfpp.org, or (530) 355-9880. Visit: <http://www.mfpp.org/>

Other Items

National Climate Assessment

Joe asked for any updates on NCA tribal chapter. A draft was turned in June 1st. There have been small items requested of the author team since then. The complicated part of draft is that NCA chapters are 6-8 pages; for the tribal chapter authors received input from 150+ information sources. They had to synthesize that down to only a few pages, and unfortunately it may be cut even more, there is still editing being done. There is also a public and agency review sometime later this year. It should be up for publication summer of 2013.

North Pacific LCC Science/Management Webinar: Using soils to predict forest cover responses to climate change in the NPLCC

Date: July 11th, 2012; Time: 10:00 – 11:00 PDT

Please join my meeting -- <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/join/340370870>

Join the conference call: Dial 1 877 568 4106; Access Code: 340-370-870;

Audio PIN: Shown after joining the meeting

Meeting ID: 340-370-870

How can managers and scientists use soils information to predict forest cover responses (particularly tree die-off) to climate change? The North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC) recently funded a project to answer this question. The NPLCC is hosting this edition of our monthly webinar series where the principle investigators will present a status report and a look at some early results related to the Pacific Temperate Forest Region ranging from Alaska to Northern California.

Wendy Peterman is a soil scientist at Conservation Biology Institute, a nonprofit NGO in Corvallis, Oregon. Her research focuses on developing soil datasets to predict where forest cover is likely to change in response to changes in temperature and precipitation. In an upcoming article in *Ecohydrology* (Peterman et al., 2012), she shows how soil maps can be used to identify matching patterns in soil characteristics, water availability and tree mortality. She hopes to develop products that improve climate change impact models by furthering the predictability of future disturbance events such as insect outbreaks or fires. Her project in the North Pacific LCC looks at what relationships between soils and forest cover change can emerge from the available data, and how these relationships can be included in vegetation models to project changes in tree vigor in the Pacific Northwest.

In the July 11th webinar, she will present the soils data that have been compiled for the North Pacific LCC study region and explore their strengths and weaknesses. She will introduce some of the readily observable related patterns in soils and forest mortality since 1997 and review results from three climate/vegetation models predicting future tree species distributions.

Links to related background documents:

North Pacific LCC data on Data Basin:

<http://app.databasin.org/app/pages/galleryPage.jsp?id=33a551e59b824cf7ab908644fb420880>

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