



**GREAT BASIN LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION
COOPERATIVE (GBLCC)**

Steering Committee Meeting Summary

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Organization/Agency	Member
The Nature Conservancy	Bob Unnasch, chair
Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit	Maureen McCarthy, vice-chair
U.S. Geological Survey	Sue Phillips, past-chair
Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation	Heather Ray
Intermountain Bird Observatory	Jay Carlisle
Friends of Nevada Wilderness	Larry Dwyer
Trout Unlimited	Helen Neville
PacifiCorp	Mark Tallman
U.S. Forest Service	Bill Dunkelberger
Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition	Julie Thompson
California Department of Fish and Game	Whitney Albright
Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation	Leanna Ballard

GBLCC STAFF AND FACILITATION TEAM

Rick Kearney, coordinator
 Todd Hopkins, science coordinator
 Matt Germino, research ecologist
 Max Taylor, spatial analyst
 Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues
 Liz Mack, EnviroIssues
 Bridger Wineman, EnviroIssues

WELCOME AND AGENDA OVERVIEW

Rick Kearney, coordinator, welcomed everyone, introduced new Great Basin LCC staff member Max Taylor and reviewed the agenda.

Bob Unnasch, steering committee chair, thanked everyone for joining the meeting and provided an overview of a few recent accomplishments including the completion of the Central Great Basin and Range Rapid Ecological Assessment Challenges and Opportunities Report.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

Larry Dwyer provided an overview of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, an organization that exists to protect and preserve Nevada's wilderness. He walked through their focus areas which include: education and outreach, wilderness stewardship, advocating for wilderness, barbed wire fence removal and identifying lands with wilderness characteristics. He also introduced several of their 12-15 full time staff, some of whom have been with the organization since its founding. Larry then highlighted a few of the organization's recent efforts to reach across boundaries to work with a wide variety of stakeholders and preserve wilderness. By being involved in the Great Basin LCC, Larry hopes to get more land protected as wilderness and to better connect with federal partners.

FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues, provided an overview of the strategic planning process and introduced the members of the strategic planning working group (Maureen McCarthy, Sue Phillips, Bob Unnasch, Larry Dwyer and Ted Koch). She introduced the new vision proposed by the working group as well as a revised mission statement. The Steering Committee had no suggested changes.

Next, Penny explained the difference between goals and objectives and described their purpose in the strategic plan. She outlined how the working group has reviewed the goals and objectives and presented the proposed revisions to Goal 3, 4 and 5. The Steering Committee provided the following input:

Goal 3: Enhance collaboration among Great Basin science and management partners particularly as related to climate change and other landscape scale change agents.

- The goal should be edited to be more inclusive of the tribes

Goal 4: Support the exchange of western and traditional science to further basin conservation priorities and directly benefit tribal issues and circumstances.

- Developing models for engagement (second objective) would not be readily understood by tribes
- Need to determine what models for engagement means, does this include the tribal engagement proposal that was discussed at the last meeting
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge can be a confusing term for many tribal members, it can be better explained in terms of hunting and gathering food sources

Goal 5: Promote communication and education about the science and management of natural resources in the context of changing environmental conditions.

- Should also include cultural resources

The working group also discussed combining Goal 1 and 2 and sought input from the Steering Committee. One member pointed out that although the first part of each goal is distinct, the

end parts are very similar. Another noted that these goals are very similar to the vision; combining them and editing them could make one more focused and distinct goal. The rest of the committee agreed.

Penny explained that the working group suggested removing the objective: Monitor landscape scale indicators, test scientific assumptions, and evaluate effectiveness of conservation actions to inform adaptive management. The Steering Committee agreed that this is outside the scope of the LCC's work, although one member noted it would be worthy to include an objective about supporting partners who do monitoring.

Penny pointed out that the objectives are currently included in the Charter (a foundational document) and asked if the committee would prefer to move them to the strategic plan (a five-year document). The committee agreed and one member suggested moving over the goals as well.

As a next step, Penny will send out the proposed revisions for further comment and ask the Steering Committee to provide feedback on which objectives they view as a top priority.

SCIENCE AND TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE STRATEGY

Todd Hopkins, science coordinator, provided an overview of the final draft of the Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Strategy (S-TEK). The goals of this effort were to create a cohesive strategy to guide the LCC's science approach, to provide greater transparency to its partners and enhance coordination and collaboration. The document has three main sections: priority topics, potential activities and implementation.

The working group identified two interrelated priority topics which center around understanding and adapting to complex and interconnected changes on a landscape scale. The working group also put considerable thought into the challenges facing the unique ecosystems within the Great Basin. These are captured in the strategy as second-order priorities.

There was a question about the first priority topic: Changes in precipitation, temperature, climate variability and extreme climatic events. The steering committee member wanted to know if this would include desiccation and surface water studies. Todd acknowledged that this did not come to the forefront during discussions, but agreed that it is a pressing issue. After some discussion, the group decided that the priority should be adjusted to "Impacts of changes in water availability, temperature, climate variability and extreme climatic events".

There are five categories of LCC activities that will support the priorities: knowledge discovery, information synthesis, conservation planning, program implementation and network building. Todd walked through each category and explained the accompanying actions.

One member raised the question of where data management and stewardship falls in this plan. After some discussion, the Steering Committee decided to change the second category to

information synthesis *and stewardship*. Todd further clarified that the LCC will not be a warehouse of data, instead the LCC will provide a link to other existing data portals.

Todd walked through the annual implementation schedule and explained that the LCC will define a set of supporting focal topics to pursue through activities and projects each year. This allows for flexibility and responsiveness. The S-TEK working group will evaluate and report on the performance of the activities undertaken through the strategy using criteria that reflect the LCC goals. Todd asked that anyone who has experience with evaluation metrics to please let him know.

The Steering Committee signed off on the general concept of the document, asking the working group to incorporate these changes into the document and send it out for final comment.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH PLAN UPDATE

Rick explained that the Communication and Outreach Plan was last updated in October 2012 and it is time to revisit the document and see if any changes are necessary. The plan has three goals: increase awareness of the LCC, promote the exchange of information and generate internal and external support. Each goal has accompanying objectives with identified tools, target audiences and evaluation measures. Rick showed the monthly website analytics report as an example of an evaluation measure.

Rick then requested that the Steering Committee:

- Provide recommendations for a communication working group
- Highlight the LCC contributions in their own internal communications
- Inform elected officials on the value of the partnership
- Spread the word in their community

SECRETARIAL ORDER ON RANGELAND AND FIRE PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION

Rick provided an overview of the Secretarial Order on Rangeland and Fire Prevention, Management and Restoration, an intergovernmental effort to get a cohesive approach to rangeland management. Federal agencies manage almost 75% of the land in the Great Basin and need a coordinated strategy for managing the threat of fire. That strategy includes a Coordinated Science Action Plan which assigns the LCC as a lead or co-lead on seven different priority action items including: developing an online science delivery system with the Great Basin Fire Science Exchange, conducting research and demonstration projects for control of cheatgrass, identifying science needs for the Great Basin and identifying funding needs for new research. Rick invited the committee to contact him to nominate individuals to be on the team to discuss the online science delivery system

ACTION ITEMS

- **EnviroIssues** will send out the revised vision, mission, goals and objectives and ask for comments and priority objectives
- **Strategic Planning Working Group** will check with the tribal representatives to make sure the goals and objectives language is inclusive and understandable
- **Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge working group** will make the edits discussed today and send out the strategy for finalization
- **Steering Committee members** will send Rick any thoughts or comments on the communication plan
- **Steering Committee members** will send any nomination to Rick for the online science delivery system working group