

Northwest Basin and Range Synthesis

Steering Committee Meeting

January 18, 2017

Lake Interagency Office, Lakeview, OR

Steering Committee Members

Mark Freese (via phone), Western Region Supervising Habitat Biologist, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Jeremy Austin, Hart Sheldon Coordinator, Oregon Natural Desert Association

John Taylor, Rancher, Taylor Ranch

Randy Wiest, Rangeland Manager, CSF Real Property, Oregon Department of State Lands

John Kasbohm, Project Leader, Sheldon Hart NWR Complex, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Todd Forbes, Field Manager, Lakeview Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management

John Morris, Biologist, Applegate, Bureau of Land Management

Could not attend

Cidney Bowman, Wildlife Passage Coordinator, Oregon Department of Transportation

Chad Karges, Malheur NWR, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

E.Lynn Burkett, District Manager (DM), Lakeview, Bureau of Land Management

Backbone Team Members

Aaron Collins, Conservation Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Rick Kearney (via phone), Director, Great Basin LCC

Eric Jensen (via phone), Sage Grouse GIS Technician, Great Basin LCC

Tom Miewald (short presentation via phone), Geographer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Facilitator

Levi Old, NWBR Synthesis Project Coordinator, Great Basin LCC

Video Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMxd_o7xhGc

Important Decisions Made

- Levi Old will make additions to the action plan based off meeting feedback and will post-online an Action Plan or a thinned out version for larger audiences
- Revisit the fact that Harney County is not included in our project work – touch base internally with USFWS, and BLM Lakeview will touch base with BLM Burns
- Need to continue to better clarify long-term vision and outcomes (started this process at meeting)
- Ok to explore and move forward with grant opportunities this spring
- Need to try and incorporate a few more people into the Steering Committee (2-3)
 - USDA Extension Service office, N NV counties rep, scientific community rep, OR. counties rep, more from agricultural and ranching community, Nature Conservancy, Tribal

- Need a clear messaging device – project one-pager and clear concise outreach to regional partners
- Input provided on which experts we should contact about wildfire resiliency – Levi will include this in resource for scenario planning facilitator

Meeting Purpose and Goals

Purpose: To finalize our project path for the next year and to get input on the longer term project outlook

Meeting Goals

- Review and finalize the first round of our project Action Plan. Go through each part of the plan and get input
 - Scenario-planning, Resilience proposal, Web-front, etc.
- Present an example of where this project can go in 3-5 years - SE Atlantic Conservation Blueprint
- Update on the spatial condition assessment of science synthesis targets
- Other Updates: Symposium etc.
- 5 Year Vision: What is the vision of where this project is going? Investment level?

Participant Meeting Objectives

- Clear understanding of project objectives
- Touch base on the Synthesis of science
- Overview of relationship between all players
- Deliverables
- Absorb and understand the initiative better
- Expectation of agencies
- Looking at what this project could be - what is the potential?

Action Plan Review

Feedback on Action Plan Vision and Mission:

- Facilitate Communication with who? Levi will clarify in Action Plan
- Prioritize with regional stakeholders

Feedback on Action Plan Priorities:

- Emphasize non-regulatory products, all willing partners, nothing is directive from this synthesis
 - LO: descriptive products and deliverables for first phase of synthesis- partners can use prescriptively if they choose
 - Augment which plans? (E.g., could be an additive resource for an RMP)
 - Need to be upfront with purpose. Put non-regulatory intent early on in priorities— does not need to be negative in wording, but needs to be clear
- Perhaps add what the project is not meant to accomplish

Feedback on Objective 1.1 Symposium Facilitated Session:

- Don't have group identify actions for a particular office, agency, group, or person
- Success will depend on who participates. Look at registration and see if we have the right people in attendance, manage expectations
- Could be messy with too many people at any table. LO - try and get 8-10 people.
- What alternatives are there for interactive discussion? Large room discussion, break out rooms and conduct a discussion etc.
- Have people report out at meeting. LO - should have enough facilitation support to get summary from session to participants before close of symposium or shortly thereafter
- Also have maps with geographic place names to mark where people are doing projects, or would like to, or priorities on the landscape
- Perhaps have a list of already approved actions from various plans for table groups to assess and evaluate

Feedback on Objective 2.3: Convene Stakeholders to Assess Human well-being Targets

- Does human well-being target assessment already exist? LO - identified in summary documents from first meeting and through the Open Standards platform

Feedback on Objective 2.4: Scenario Planning

- Not many experts listed for NV and CA relating to wildfire resiliency scenarios
- Jeanne Chambers (listed - is in Reno), Dr. Robin Tausch, Dr. Rick Miller
- BLM Winnemucca - Mark Williams, D. Mesmer, M. Fetic, Charlie Williams
- Eagle Lake FO BLM - Valda Locke, Josh Huffman, Andrew Mueller
- USFWS ES office in Reno for seed strategy - Sarah Kulpa might be a good contact
- Rural Fire Protection -- No suggestions yet

Conversation about future funding:

- Future funding is uncertain, synthesis group needs to seek other sources of funding
- Effort is priority for BLM and seeking to continue project through GBLCC
- The Resilient Landscapes Funding (RLC), which funded some of the project coordinator position and some of the technical components of the project, may not exist down the road. This makes it important to continue to seek other funding sources

Presentation on the Southeast Atlantic Conservation Blueprint

- Rua and Hillary from the SE Atlantic LCC presented on the SE Conservation Blueprint
- <http://www.southatlanticlcc.org/blueprint/>

Investment Activity -- Needs, Barriers, Deliverables Discussion

1 – very uninvested, 3 – neutral, 5 – very invested

Organization/Agency

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
		III	III	I

Individuals

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
		I	III	I

What are the barriers to success and needs to create more investment in this effort?

Needs/Products

- Create a simple fact sheet that can be shared at state and local offices
- Need a visual product for people to see
- Landowners want to see something well - defined
- Need to reconsider Harney County in this effort
- Harney Co is huge -- bring in wider audience
 - Huge concern with carving out Harney County
 - What will allow for reengagement in Harney?
- Significant overlap in building out Conservation Planning Atlas and GBLCC data
- Clarity on end products and utilities

Barriers to Project Success

- Time and resources of SC members and staff in their agencies
- Harney County out is a major issue. Working directly in Harney Co. needs to be a steering committee decision (not USFWS), and folks in Harney Co need to ask to be involved
- Project is hard to describe to landowners and get them engaged
- Once we create products – there will be more value seen from specific organizations (E.g. NDOW)
- There is a lot of overlap on data being used for a variety of purposes
- Would like to engage more landowners in the effort
- Need to engage USFWS, Ecological Services – OR and NV
- NW B&R is a small piece of the NV landscape, so NDOW will be limited in time and funding. Want to see initial products so more interest can be generated

Discussion – Potential deliverables/end products and other comments

- Fact Sheet needed in near term to clarify the initiative
- Reassess or determine what changes would allow reengaging Harney Co. stakeholders

- Example: Utah Watershed Initiative - project database for everyone to enter projects
 - LO: Klamath Basin Watershed Initiative, and WWF Conservation Registry are similar
- 8-10 Conservation Targets and short write-ups. What are people looking at for conservation targets and what are the targets?
- Resilient Landscapes Collaborative decision support products, and website for support tool
- Tying everyone in Synthesis project to the LCC initiative and funding sources through that program. Directory of everyone working on conservation efforts in the NW B&R area
- Need to include at least Lakeview District portion of Harney County
- It also doesn't look good to exclude Harney County, especially if/when we release public products
- Serve as conduit for data to be housed with other data in clearinghouse locations - LCC is working on such a product with the GBLCC Conservation Planning Atlas
 - Provide links to common shared data
 - Really good and easy to use data interface
 - Establish cycle for improvement or update to information products
- Backbone team should be more representative of other stakeholders besides just USFWS and LCC. Lakeview BLM will engage