



CA LCC Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Cosumnes River Preserve

January 7th and 8th, 2015

Attendees

Steering Committee Members

Ellie Cohen – Chair, Point Blue Conservation Science

Michelle Selmon – Vice Chair, CA Dept. of Water Resources

Whitney Albright – CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Ken Berg – US Fish & Wildlife Service

Diana Craig – US Forest Service

Mike Dunphy – Central Valley Joint Venture

Angie Evenden – National Park Service

Chrissy Howell – US Forest Service

Beth Huning – San Francisco Bay Joint Venture

Rodd Kelsey – The Nature Conservancy

Mark Kramer – The Nature Conservancy

Robert Mesta – Sonoran Joint Venture

Keith Miles – US Geological Survey

Nadine Peterson – CA State Coastal Conservancy

Wayne Spencer – Conservation Biology Institute

Polly Wheeler – US Fish & Wildlife Service

Other Attendees

Erin Chappell – CA Dept. of Water Resources

Denise Louie – National Park Service

Miriam Morrill – Bureau of Land Management

Ruth Ostroff – Central Valley Joint Venture

Matt Reiter – Point Blue Conservation Science

Chuck Striplen – San Francisco Estuary Institute

CA LCC Staff

Debra Schlafmann – Coordinator

Rebecca Fris – Science Coordinator

Karen Thorne – Science Advisor, USGS

Andrea Graffis – Communication Coordinator

Deanne DiPietro – Data Manager

Meeting Objectives

- Celebrate 2014!!!
- Approve 2015 Implementation Plan
- Identify Support for Key 2015 Activities

Welcome

- Harry McQuillen from BLM provided a short presentation on the Consumnes River Preserve.
 - Have you observed any climate change related management issues?
 - **Harry:** Flooding and events with low water are occurring that he didn't notice before. There are issues with water flows on the undammed Consumnes and salmon migration making it through. Sea-level rise is an uncertainty for them in their wetlands and rice fields.

2014 Accomplishments

- Celebration of 2014!!!
 - Reviewed 2014 Accomplishments
 - Discussed TEK and Climate-smart Conservation training. TEK training in particular was a great example of working in partnership with DWR to pull off a very valuable and successful event. Other SC members are encouraged to get engaged in helping with a workshop that also meets his/her organization goals.
- Annual Report
 - Discussed 2013 Annual Report format and whether we needed a report or not, how it would be used and what it should contain.
 - Instead of a longer annual report, we need to think of what our key messages are for 2015.
- **Action Items**
 - CA LCC staff will send Climate Commons link on TEK references to Steering Committee.
 - SC recommended a 2014 update be placed on the website to help SC members in their ability to outreach/in-reach in their organizations.
 - Determine the audience and tailor a short version of accomplishments more for the purpose for fund raising or informing Congress. Develop a few key messages for 2015 that SC members can use.

Ecosystem Processes Projects for 2015

- Background and Recommendations
 - Ecosystem process projects will meet Objective 2 of the Science-Management Framework. The Science-Management Framework describes an ecosystem process project as one that will be interdisciplinary and promote cross-sectorial understanding of ecosystem processes.
 - There will be roughly \$300 – 400 K to support 1-2 projects in 2015.

- The Science-Management Team developed a recommendation to focus the projects on hydrologic and/or fire regimes. This is narrowed from a list of seven ecosystem processes in the Science-Management Framework.
- Ideas for focusing an Ecosystem Process Project RFP
 - Project could potentially just analyze existing data and how it can be applied at specific sites/locations.
 - Even if we identify one process to focus on it should also mean we include how other processes interact with it.
 - What are important management questions related to effects of changing hydrologic regimes or fire regimes on ecosystems?
 - Hydrologic regimes are very integrated with sediment on coastal systems. A project looking at the connections between different processes would be helpful to management.
 - From USFS perspective we are struggling with hydrologic regimes more so than understanding fire regimes. Items include understanding of snow pack, flow regimes, wetlands responses to changes, and upland sediment regimes.
 - What aspect of hydrologic regimes would be most useful to focus on?
 - Meadow restoration management to ensure resiliency through time/change. Also, vegetation management strategies that can retain water in systems and also help with resiliency of the ecosystem.
 - Meadow restoration and carbon storage is a focus for DFW.
 - Future sediment budgets are unknown for SF Bay. Planning around this is needed, especially considering dams effects and decreased hydrologic mining.
 - Do we want to focus on fire, hydrology, or both?
 - Fire
 - Consider looking at different ecoregions independently with respect to fire (i.e. Sierra Nevada vs SoCal Chaparral).
 - There is a lot going on with fire already.
 - Also development of management connection might be more needed with water.
 - Interagency Joint Fire Science Program can be looked at for leveraging.
 - Fire is well addressed in Sierra, but not in SoCal.
 - Hydrology
 - Hydrologic work might be useful b/c of implementation support available from cap and trade.
 - Waters influence on other processes is not understood.
 - The Nature Conservancy is looking at interplay between water and fire in forest habitats.
 - A review team member noted that past CA LCC proposals from SoCal haven't been as competitive which is in part why we haven't had as many projects down there. Some areas

may not have the network capacity for collaboration as much as other locations?

- Workshops/trainings could focus on building this capacity and network in SoCal.

- Vote on Ecosystem Process Project Focus
 - **Approved: Hydrologic Processes as primary focus: 7 votes**
 - Fire as primary focus: 0
 - Both as primary focus: 4 votes
- Suggested Criteria and Requirements for Ecosystem Process Project RFP
 - Integrative with other ecosystem processes
 - Can be salt or fresh water.
 - Provide examples of other projects in hydrology that are similar to what we are looking for.
 - Co-submission from scientists and managers (possibly multiple of each)
 - Connection to management is still key
 - Clearly articulated management application and management recommendations as an outcome
 - Collaborative/partnership building
 - Ask for them to be clear on the roles of the managers and it is necessary for them to be active in development of project, not just users of the products.
 - Refer to Science-Management Framework and parts the project will meet.
 - Define in RFP what we mean by landscape-scale and distinguish these from place-based projects
 - Leveraging
 - Better define what we mean by leveraging. What it is and isn't.
 - Bold last sentence from last year's RFP that defines leveraging.
 - Can put cap on how far back in time a proposal can count leverages or in-kind. 2-years is one recommended limit. Not everyone was comfortable with an artificial timeframe
 - Provide examples of projects we will not fund.
 - Ask to provide links to projects previously funded that explains how this builds off past research or management actions.
 - For overall project selection, have a longer list of recommendations and try to find other funding to fund more projects
 - Recommended to have a pre-RFP webinar like last year that explains what we are looking for in a project.
- **Action Items**
 - Rebecca will work with Science-Management Team to draft a focused RFP to go out in mid-February.
 - SC will need to approve projects in late May/early June.

Lessons Learned from Science Delivery - Karen Thorne (USGS) and Matt Reiter (Point Blue)

- Karen Thorne Presentation “Lessons Learned from Science Delivery: Sea-level rise impacts on tidal marsh ecosystems along the Pacific coast”
 - Workshops were useful to disseminate information. In general people were willing (and even happy) to participate.
 - Workshops were useful to identify other science priorities for climate change adaptation planning.
 - Planning may be best considered in two periods: short-term (10-50 years) and long-term (50-100 years).
 - Not every place was ready for developing adaptation strategies.
 - In contrast some areas were ready for implementation and/or testing of strategies.
 - Managers in modified estuaries (aka most of CA) were very forward thinking and ready to plan and implement climate change adaptation strategies.
- Matt Reiter Presentation “Application of a Broad-Scale, Multi-Species Monitoring Program to Assess Wintering Shorebird Population Trends in Response to Future Land Use and Climate Change”
 - PFSS provides data to facilitate landscape/regional level coordinated management and conservation planning.
 - PFSS provides multi-scale context for existing monitoring programs.
 - PFSS provides ongoing shorebird and habitat monitoring for many wetlands that do not have an existing program in place.
 - Habitat data collected as part of surveys are important too.
 - Workshops prioritized future improvements to the PFSS and the data summary applications that support it.
- **Action Items**
 - Continue to refer to past projects to develop and share lessons learned.

California-wide Landscape Conservation Workshop

- Reviewed goals, purpose, and format for workshop
- Ideas for sessions, speakers, focus of workshop:
 - Nadine volunteered for chairing a session on green infrastructure and the interface between urban and natural environments.
 - How is this workshop different that the CA Adaptation Forum? We will focus more on the ecosystems and the interface between people and the rest of nature. The CAF heavily focused on people and their adaptation and less on nature-based solutions.
 - Terry Root has a book coming out “Biodiversity in a Changing Climate: Linking Science and Management and Conservation”. She might be a good plenary speaker – Professor at Stanford
 - Need a session about strengthening CA LCC structure and using our products/ how to engage with the CA LCC. Also a climate-smart conservation training.
 - Model sessions on connecting science and management.

- Try to pull in non-traditional partners to show relevance to people and people based systems. A plenary speaker should address this topic. Connecting people and the environment.
- Potential speaker - Sally Jewell?
- Parks Science Summit by UCB, NPS, and Nat. Geo to celebrate science in parks in the next century of parks science needs. A book will be developed. This is a national scale event.
- Potential speaker - Jane Lubchenco, Stanford University
- Revisit outcomes for workshop: Inspire action, different thinking, and climate-smart conservation thinking. Need to inspire realization that they can take immediate action.
- Outcomes of working together and taking action should be captured in advertisements and activities of the conference.
- Tools Café = Climate Commons focus with other climate tools – Deanne to lead
- Think about marketing to specific audience of new engagement/ new types of people involved with LCC.
- Mark Schwartz, UC Davis is potential plenary speaker
- Think about bringing in Andy Yuen from Tijuana NWR as a plenary. This will inspire managers more than a scientist or high level policy person. Show how things are working on the ground.
- Present collaborative experiences using CA LCC project examples.
- Need to ensure the attendees are representative from agencies organizations that can learn about the LCC then disseminate info back at to their colleagues.
- Travel issues for federal agencies. If it is called a training it may help with approval to attend. Call it a training/workshop?

Action Items:

- Angie to share the preliminary agenda to Parks Science Summit. We should discuss the connection between CA LCC's event and this one. Send reminders to SC about timeline and session needs.
- Turn in Session Chair and Speaker Worksheet to Rebecca ASAP.
- CA LCC staff Contact potential plenary speakers and session chairs. Look into alternative dates for the workshop in October or November 2015.

Performance Reporting

- SIAS (Science Investment & Accountability Schedule)
 - Ken explained how the FWS is using this as an analysis of how the network is functioning and evolving. FWS is trying to understand context of existing conservation community and partnerships when evaluating each LCC. They are figuring out how to build a robust network across the landscape with the SIAS as one way to measure it.
 - An additional \$1.6 M is left nationally after holding 2014 fund levels for each LCC. This funding will be used to make LCCs work together on the landscape. This will generate common responses to common

themes (i.e. on Sage Grouse or Gulf hypoxia). This will form stronger LCC network.

- Pacific flyway might be a good topic for aligning across LCCs in a way that includes the CA LCC.

Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project

- Introduced the project, process, and products.
- This project is a priority of the FWS for LCCs. We obtained support from the FWS headquarters in 2014 and need to leverage this support.
- Good example of a similar project is the Conservation Lands Network in the SF Bay. It doesn't provide support for implementation, but it does function as a catalyst for action.
- Dorian Fougères from the Center for Collaborative Policy is the facilitator for the project.
- This project should communicate and be used across sectors.
- Vulnerability Assessments versus Scenario Planning
 - Adaptation strategy development should be guided by the scenarios.
 - Scenario planning can be done in different ways. Possible futures versus plugging in adaptation strategies.
 - Is it appropriate to set goals before doing scenario planning? Danger about developing past looking goals versus future looking.
 - Our process of identifying priorities looks at the currently existing species and ecosystems. We should prioritize things that may be here in the future too.
 - We have to reassess the goals throughout the project. The process needs to be iterative and ensure we break down the traditional approach of looking at the current and maintaining it in the future.
 - Scenario planning can be done to choose priority resources.
- “Ecosystem Headlines” for 2050 could be a way to get people to break silos and think about climate change and adaptation practices.
- Project manager for project
 - Is there funding for a person?
 - It is up to Steering Committee on allocation
 - CA LCC has office space, staff support, and computers.
 - Timeframe is a 2-year commitment starting ASAP

Data Management for the CA LCC

- National LCC Network cataloging effort is under way at LCCnetwork.org. This will result in a database that catalogs every project from all 22 LCCs.
- Climate Commons Update
 - Deanne talked about the current state of the Climate Commons and recent updates and improvements
 - Do we want to have more or different types of people using the Commons?
 - Deb does want more people like public, elementary teachers learning, etc. do begin to engage.

- Example strategy: highlight commons membership and general use/application on newsletter
 - DWR would like a Commons webinar specific for use by their agency.
 - Michelle has internal DWR meetings she gives CA LCC updates at and Highlights CA LCC items useful for those audiences.
- **Action Items**
 - Do some strategic planning in the next few months focused on priorities and audiences/users for the Commons.
 - Think about other agencies or organizations for tailored Climate Commons webinars.
 - Develop a short video on the home pages describing uses of the Commons.
 - Identify places and events Steering Committee members can speak about applying CA LCC resources to their agency or organization
 - Deanne will send questionnaire to each Steering Committee member on tailoring Commons trainings/webinars and include report out of info on who uses the Commons from each SC organizations.

TEK/Tribal Team 2015 Recommendations – Chuck Striplen, San Francisco Estuary Institute

- Reviewed 2014 TEK/Tribal activities of CA LCC.
- 2015 TEK/Tribal Recommendations
 1. Continue TEK/Tribal Team
 - The Team will set goals, statement of purpose, grow membership, and identify a Steering Committee representative.
 2. Tribal Climate Adaptation Workshop
 - Help tribes begin to understand climate change impacts on their resources and culture
 - Great Basin LCC has a great example training coming up in Bishop
 - There is a tribal participant focus on the workshop, but we will not exclude agency/NGO people b/c we want to encourage the interaction.
 - Hold on tribal lands to assist with travel issues
 3. Facilitation person for Team and organizing workshop. In the meantime, Michelle will continue to chair team and look for someone within the Team to take over the role.
 4. TEK/Tribal project support from CA LCC
- We should have a TEK workshop session in the affiliate workshop.
- TEK info will not necessarily be aimed at management actions on tribal lands. They would like to influence actions on aboriginal territories.
- Travel for tribal members to workshops may be supported by BIA funds. CA LCC funds will be for facilities and planning

- Recommendations lack a budget. We need clarity on costs to make a decision.
- Steering Committee voted on continuation of the Tribal/TEK Team and everyone is interested in seeing a workshop proposal from Michelle:
 - Approve: Unanimous
- **Action Items**
 - Michelle will develop a proposal for the workshop to present at next SC call. Will plan with the Team on a possible project to begin next year.
 - Polly will contact the Tribal Wildlife Grant Program at USFWS to discuss integration with the efforts of the CA LCC. Also they have data through Tribal Wildlife Grant Program at USFWS that is not being used.
 - TEK Team will continue to reach out to agency tribal liaisons for integration into our team.

Training/Workshop Road Map for 2015

- Past workshops/trainings were mostly opportunistic. We need Steering Committee input on future training/workshop focus.
- Workshops/trainings can focus on capacity and network building in SoCal.
- **Action Items**
 - Steering Committee member to send input on workshop/training location and focus by filling out worksheet in meeting packet.

Baja Engagement

- The Tri-lateral – in April 2015 in San Diego
 - Not likely to get FWS approval for CA LCC staff to go. Only one FWS representative from each region will be approved.
 - NAFTA negotiations formed this meeting with US, Canada, and Mexico to discuss conservation.
- **Action Items**
 - Robert to look into Commission for Environmental Cooperation – NAFTA event for environmental policy coordination.
 - Robert will look into getting an NGO invited to the tri-lateral. This might be a way to get more CA LCC people there.
 - Robert proposes we include a Steering Committee member from Mexico. He will put a recommendation together.

Approve 2015 Implementation Plan

- Nadine moves for approval of Implementation Plan given recommended alterations
 - Approved unanimously

- **Action Items**

- CA LCC staff will adjust the 2015 timeline and send out after adjustment for approval. Most likely this will be in February.

Brainstorm Likes and Dislikes of How the Meeting Went

- Likes format of information received and packets were well done.
- Pace was good and organization was well done.
- Not too long nor too short
- Liked flexibility of agenda.
- Liked website with material and having available ahead.
- Thumbs up!
- Presentations were varied and were on point. Robust but not too many. It showed the full picture of CA LCC activities. Picture painted well.
- Likes location, but the room maybe was too small.
- Wants more outdoor/hiking time.
- Was impressed with expertise, engagement, leadership, group management, and commitment
- Social time was good to get to know each other
- Get a room that is round next time without fish fans
- Next year we will schedule this for mid-December.
- Recommendation to go to SoCal next year. A few members agreed.
 - Tejon Ranch maybe?

One Word Thoughts about the CA LCC from Steering Committee members

Inspirational, exciting, useful, effective, busy, desirable, overwhelming, forward, cutting edge, hopeful, relieving, momentum, re-invigorating, celebratory, cultural, collaborative, ambitious, aspirational.

1st meeting of CV Landscape Conservation Project Leadership Team

- Dorian Fougeres from the Center for Collaborative Policy introduced as facilitator.
- Reviewed Leadership Team member representation for project
 - From CVJV board missing today: Catherine Hickey, John Carlon, Jeff McCreary, and Sandy Matsumoto.
 - From CA LCC Steering Committee missing today: Kevin Shaffer, Tom Hedt, and Pat Rutten.
 - What about Tribes?
 - Time commitment for leadership team will not be extensive. Workshops and workload is done by staff and other teams. Leadership Team will be asked to approve steps of the process and ensuring applicability to their organization.
- Leadership Team scope of work

- Phrase deliverables as project deliverables approved along the way, not leadership teams scope or work.
- Add emphasis on field experience to requirements
- Last sentence is a bit harsh. Move =to roles and responsibilities section.
- Clarify outreach required by Team. Make requirements measurable.
- Project Manager
 - We need to a person to keep us on target, organize meetings, and make connections with partners.
 - UC Davis staff that worked on San Joaquin Valley Greenprint?
 - Cinnamon Vance has been helping with CVJV planning.
- Project Charter
 - Add “to be more resilient to environmental change” to project goal. The goal is not explicit enough about climate change and associated stressors.
 - Change “climate-smart” to “climate-smart conservation” throughout
 - Charter seems written for refuge manager audience. Think about a broader audience than wildlife managers. Expand to natural resource managers, planners and those that will be implementing climate change response actions.
 - Example: Identification of priority resources (say natural resources instead).
 - Charter never makes statement about who will use products and how those types of people are involved in the project and teams.
 - “Conservation community” seems exclusive, not inclusive.
 - Statement about resilient connected landscape doesn’t speak to recovery of ecosystems.
 - Insert text that we are doing this to help the economy and integration of people with nature to achieve sustainability. We are doing it for the benefit of wildlife, people, infrastructure, etc.
 - This is about conservation though. Care needs to be taken not to make the scope too large for the capacity we have.
 - Develop the communication plan
 - Messaging, transparency, timing, etc.
 - Add language about reassessing the charter periodically.
 - Change “decision making authority” to “speak on behalf of their organization” in Steering Committee section.
 - Staff should add detail/clarify Charter description of Leadership Team member roles and responsibilities.
- Scenario planning
 - Begin workshop series with scenario planning to set forward thinking mindset.
 - Nat Seavy Sam Veloz at Point Blue are people to discuss scenario planning with.
 - March 3rd workshop needs to be rethought to consider the potential for scenario planning.

- **Action Items**

- Deb will ask CVLCP Leadership Team members to identify an alternate.
- Mike and Ruth will follow up with CVJV board people for CVLCP Leadership Team membership.
- Michelle will look into another DWR person for CVLCP Leadership Team (Ted Frink or Kamyar Guivetchi).
- Define the type of tribal engagement we need for the project
- CA LCC Staff will contact Tom Gardali at Point Blue to discuss CVLCP Project Manager position.