



Steering Committee Meeting Notes

March 22, 2013

Attendees:

Diana Craig – Chair, USFS
Ellie Cohen – Vice Chair, PRBO Conservation Science
Nadine Peterson – CA Coastal Conservancy
Whitney Albright – CDFW
Michelle Selmon – DWR
Bob Shaffer – Joint Ventures in CA LCC
Patrick Rutten – NOAA
Sarah Allen – NPS
Robert Mesta – Sonoran Joint Venture
Christy Plumer – TNC
Mark Kramer – TNC
Todd Hopkins – USFWS
Michelle Denning – USBR
Tom Suchanek – USGS
Tom Kimball – USGS
Elizabeth Chornesky – Independent Consultant
Debra Schlafmann, Coordinator
Rebecca Fris, Science Coordinator
Karen Thorne, Science Advisor
Deanne DiPietro, Data Manager
Andrea Graffis, Graduate Student

Meeting Objectives:

1. Adopt Strategic Plan
2. Collaborate on implementation of Strategic Plan.
3. Identify 3-5 areas of emphasis for this next year.

Strategic Plan Summary:

- Elizabeth Chornesky presented Strategic Plan Summary (PDF available on Website).
- Diana Craig called vote to approve the Strategic Plan.
 - Strategic Plan was approved.
 - Comments: There is now a need to develop more specific timelines.

Partner Engagement Presentations:

- Each member of the Steering Committee presented current projects from his/her specific organization, their major partners, and how their organization will benefit and contribute to the implementation of the CA LCC Strategic Plan.

1. Whitney Albright, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

- Current Projects:
 - State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) revision, CDFW Climate College, CA Climate Readiness Strategy
- Benefits from and contributions to CA LCC:
 - Need info exchange and science delivery, partner coordination
 - Bring adaptation actions on the ground, data support, conservation vision

2. Ellie Cohen, PRBO Conservation Science

- Current Projects:
 - Re-water CA's rangelands, mountain meadow monitoring and restoration, Our Coast Our Future user interface.
- Benefits from and contributions to CA LCC:
 - Reducing negative impacts, climate smart conservation, biodiversity, acknowledging climate change is already present, and much more.

3. Wayne Spencer, Conservation Biology Institute (not at meeting)

- Current Projects:
 - Climate change and CA carnivores, DRECP (Desert renewable energy conservation plan, and Projected US Carbon stocks with land use. All three projects are cloud based spatial decision support tools.
- Benefits from and contributions to CA LCC:
 - Need access to datasets, tools, methodologies, and expanded partnerships.
 - Bring Databasin, ecological modeling, advisory processes, communicating science, spatial analysis, and building conservation plans.

4. Bob Shaffer, Central Valley Joint Venture and SF Bay Joint Venture

- Mission: regionally based partnerships for bird habitat conservation
- Current Central Valley Projects:
 - Conservation delivery, wetland water availability, and CVJV monitoring and evaluation plans
- Current SF Bay projects:
 - Habitat restoration and monitoring, bird population conservation, and planning for climate change in wetlands.
- Benefits from CA LCC:
 - Modeling of climate change impacts on water supply, coordinate info exchange between scientists and managers, and habitat planning and focal species identification.

5. Robert Mesta, Sonoran Joint Venture

- Current Projects:
 - Bi-national (US and Mexico) Brant conservation project and carrying capacity of habitat in Southern California lagoons for birds.
- Benefits from and contributions to CA LCC:
 - Need all three objectives of strategic plan.
 - Bring networking with Mexico.

6. Michelle Selmon, Department of Water Resources

- Current Projects:
 - Sustainability and environmental stewardship policies being implemented into all DWR actions.
 - DWR climate team formation to deliver climate literacy courses, climate data inventory, tree-ring paleoclimate study, GHG emission reduction plan, and vulnerability assessments.
- Benefits from and contributions to CA LCC:
 - Need to connect with build environment (OPR), managers and scientists.
 - Bring climate change into planning and the build environment and make climate change education available to employees and the public.

7. Pat Rutten, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

- Current Projects:
 - Atmospheric research, weather service, marine fisheries, resilient coastal communities and economics, and habitat blueprint framework
- Benefits from and contributions to CA LCC:
 - Need data for water resource management, land use planning, conservation and restoration planning and priority selection.
 - Bring climate observation, models, and assessments, education, flooding forecasting, drought research, climate change science, resource leveraging.

8. Sarah Allen, National Parks

- Current Projects:
 - Communication with visitors, parks as labs and baselines, inventory and monitoring programs.
- Benefits from and contributions to CA LCC:
 - Need climate change response program and increased collaboration.
 - Bring spatial database for identifying partners around National Parks lands, climate friendly parks.

9. Nadine Peterson, State Coastal Conservancy

- Current Projects:
 - Climate change grant round for GHG reduction and adaptation projects, user interface for coastal storm model sea level rise scenarios along most of CA coast.
- Benefits from and contributions to CA LCC:

- All CA LCC objectives are consistent with their needs. Scientific collaboration, technical input, and developing user interfaces.
- Bring expertise and help funding projects with CA LCC.

10. Tom Hedt, NRCS

- Current Projects:
 - Have climate change specialist, conservation innovation grants for GHG's, Comet-Farm, an online tools showing how different farms and management practices influence GHG's.
- Benefits from and contributions to CA LCC:
 - Need data related to agricultural, rangeland, and forestland soil health, nutrient, and carbon management and resiliency. Refine planning and assessment tools.
 - Bringing climate change projections transferred to tangible tools and practice standards.

11. Tom Suchanek, USGS and Southwest Climate Science Center

- Benefits from and contributions to CA LCC:
 - Need collaboration about natural resource management, identification and application of best practices for climate change adaptation.
 - Bring research, films for the public (fire, desert tortoise, salt ponds restoration), collaboration between 5 LCC's, and an increased level of grant proposal reviewers.

12. Mark Kramer, The Nature Conservancy

- Benefits from and contributions to CA LCC:
 - Need more landscape scale data and research, sea level rise and climate change in coastal areas data, and help sharing their research with other agencies and using their research in other locations.
 - Bring AB 32 implementation for nature based solution, increased corridors, sustainable harvests, and design and planning for conservation lands.

13. Diane Craig, USFS

- Current Projects:
 - Forest Plan revision, bioregional and forest assessments, and climate change integration.
- Benefits from and contributions to CA LCC:
 - Need science delivery, climate integration, and restoration projects: design and implementation.
 - Bring forest plan revision through bioregional assessments, restoration, webinars, vulnerability assessments, multi-use organization managing land throughout the LCC, and outreach.

14. Michelle, Bureau of Reclamation

- Current Projects:

- Ground water versus climate change research (www.usbr.gov/watersmart), developing adaptation strategies and identifying areas for feasibility studies for future water supply.
- Needs collaboration.

15. Todd Hopkins, USFWS

- Benefits from and contributions to CA LCC:
 - Needs tools, data, decision support mechanisms, and partnerships.
 - Bring climate adaptation in coastal refuges, CV waterfowl management, and native fish restoration.

Brain Storming for identifying 3-5 areas of emphasis this next year:

1. Water focused project because it connects across large landscapes.
2. Integrate people and the human habitat in to the natural environment.
3. Soil health and resilience across landscapes: agricultural, rangelands, and forest.
4. Assess connectivity between habitats and analyze where gaps are between.
5. Transitional habitat alteration analysis (i.e. boreal and high risk habitats).
6. Habitat types baseline in CA LCC map and projected changes.
7. Define metrics that we want to track and project over time and have report cards for.
8. Develop bi-national project with Mexico to focus on Baja California and biotic interchange between countries.
9. CA coastal storm projects. Integrate with LCC, USGS, and NOAA.
10. Ventura county coastal project, from The Nature Conservancy, needs resilience questions answered.
11. South Coast (including Channel Islands) and Sierra Nevada ecoregions as a focus for the year.
12. Map showing existing conservation collaboratives to see where focus is and where gaps are located.
13. List of ecoregions and top management questions in each region and plan for executing management.
14. Identify natural resource management gaps in ecoregions that are being focused on for the year.
15. Communicate with those who will implement management strategies developed.
16. Communication plan to address creation of material for informing people with different interests and goals.
17. Goal of creating interest in people who are otherwise disinterested.
18. Need economic expertise.
19. Need networking process.
20. Science application network for climate science from Rick.
21. We need to focus more on the impact on humans of climate change. There needs to be a social science component to projects.
22. Convince House of Representatives that climate change is a pressing issue.