

## **CA LCC Steering Committee Meeting 3/22/13 Discussion of Implications for Implementing the Strategic Plan**

This summary includes notes from the Steering Committee's brainstorming session and observations from the individual presentations earlier in the day.

### **1) BRAINSTORMING SYNTHESIS:**

The final session of the meeting was designed to turn the corner from the strategic plan adoption and consideration of member organizations' relevant activities *to* identifying opportunities for the partners to collaborate in implementing the plan and best uses of the LCC resources in supporting such collaborations. Because of the relatively short period available for discussion, however, the group brainstormed for only about 30 minutes about potential implementation opportunities.

Although the group came up with many good ideas, the discussion seemed to "just scratch the surface". Ideas surfaced during the brainstorming session included the following:

- **Develop a project on water.**  
A water project could be either place-based or organized as a crosscutting topical project. Water integrates issues related to societal adaptation and to adaptation for conservation. Water also is consistent with the intent of policy issued by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and with the purposes of the LCCs and the Conservation Science Centers.
- **Develop a soil health project.**  
The condition of soils will have big impacts on the condition and resilience of agricultural lands, forests, and rangelands under climate change.
- **Develop a project on connectivity and mapping.**  
The CA LCC is an area where different geographies, biotas, and interests converge. There is a need to protect transition areas and diverse habitats. Collecting baseline information for the region about habitat types and land uses could broadly support such efforts. The CA LCC could take a lead role also in developing metrics for variables such as habitat types and condition that could be translated into report cards for specific regions or geographies. A related idea that arose was to develop a map overlay of all existing conservation cooperatives and to use this as a tool for identifying needs. The National Park Service has done this kind of mapping, including for marine systems.
- **Consider developing project(s) with Mexican partners**  
It might be possible to bring in multiple partners from Mexico for a project focuses on the South Coast.

- **Integrate and leverage the Coastal Conservancy and USGS coastal and storm projects in Southern CA.**

The CA LCC could provide a venue for linking and leveraging these efforts that are already underway. Ventura is a place where it would make sense to explore questions about how to enhance the resilience of coastal ecosystems within a context of societal adaptation. The Science/Manager Committee has been talking about possibly identifying the South Coast as a priority for the first year.

- **Clarify priority needs for each ecoregion.**

Identify the top 5-10 management questions in each ecoregion and address them, including through appropriate communication efforts. One approach might be to choose the ecoregions first (perhaps the South Coast and Sierra Nevada), and then identify the key science gaps. Those could then be translated into a science strategy. Additional points raised during the discussion about ecoregions included that different audiences require different communication approaches and that the LCC Network provides a venue for identifying priority questions and rolling them up across the system.

- **Add economic expertise.**

Economic analysis is an important science gap in many places. It's essential to help assess the cost effectiveness of different management options.

## **2) SYNTHESIS OF THE INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Overall, presenters seemed to provide more information about the strengths their organization could offer in implementing the SP than about the benefits their organization would derive from the plan's implementation.

The categories of organizational strengths identified by participants generally included:

- Science capacities in research, informatics, & decision support;
- Outreach, education, and training capacities;
- Stewardship capacities;
- Alignment of organizational mission and goals with those of the LCC;
- Conservation delivery through geographically-based projects and conservation facilitation expertise;
- International partnerships;
- Connections across sectors, between conservation interests and interests related to water infrastructure, agriculture, the timber industry, and other businesses;
- Data resources and ecosystem baseline information;

- Potential for project co-funding with the CA LCC;
- Expanded access to audiences & users for climate change science & applications.
- Access to conservation sites for conducting research;
- Links to academic researchers; and
- Access to research funding.

The types of anticipated benefits of the CA LCC Strategic Plan implementation identified by the participants generally included:

- Improved opportunities for partnerships;
- Alignment of organizational missions, goals and strategic plans;
- Improved access to data sets, tools, & methodologies;
- Access to scientific information that improves conservation delivery;
- Improved relationships with scientists.
- Potential participation in collaborative conservation planning, restoration projects, research, & monitoring;
- Access to broader set of users and audiences for research findings