



Alaska Region Office of Science Applications

News & Announcements

August 2013

Office of Science Applications

[Brett Parks](#) has transferred from the Northwest Boreal LCC, through the Service's student Pathways program, into the Office of Science Applications Outreach Specialist position. Please join us in welcoming Brett into his new job. We wish our former Outreach Specialist, Lisa Matlock, the best in her future as the new Outreach Coordinator with the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council.

New National LCC Coordinator

[Dr. Elsa Haubold](#) has recently been announced as the new [National LCC Coordinator](#). Elsa's past experiences include 12 years working on wildlife diversity and endangered species with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission, as well as non-governmental organization experience coordinating the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network for two years.

Elsa holds a Ph.D. in Experimental Pathology from the University of Texas, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries and Master of Science in Veterinary Anatomy from Texas A&M University. She also holds a Master of Business Administration (University of Houston Clear Lake).

New Landscape Conservation Cooperative Network Website

The Landscape Conservation Cooperative network's new [website](#) is now live. This website is a platform for news about all 22 LCCs and their projects. A Northwest Boreal LCC project and Arctic LCC news are currently highlighted on the splash page.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

[Western Alaska LCC](#)

The [Western Alaska LCC](#) Steering Committee met on August 13th and decided to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) in September that focuses on the following tasks: Topic 1: Develop state wide water temperature data collection standards to support large landscape analysis of climate change effects on freshwater systems. Topic 2: Partners in five sub-regions of the LCC to write Implementation Strategies on how they would facilitate a voluntary participation water temperature monitoring network. Topic 3: a broadly worded request for proposals that increase our understanding on how changes in water temperature are affecting important resources. While the Service is welcome to submit proposals on any of these topics, the water temperature impacts topic (#3) is likely to promote the greatest interest. If you believe that water temperature change is affecting one of our priority species either directly or indirectly (i.e. trophic mismatch scenarios) this could be an opportunity for you. Please start talking with potential partners and look for the announcement in early to mid-September.

A second small RFP will also be issued focused on creating an invasive plan "app" and on helping the Western Alaska LCC engage with partners on Facebook. This second, social media, RFP utilizes pass-through funds from USGS which makes it impossible for the Service to apply directly to do these projects; the Service **is** eligible for the larger RFP related to water temperature changes.

[Arctic LCC](#)

First publication from [Arctic LCC](#) 2011-13 project: ***Precipitation Trends in Alaska*** is now available.

Many studies have examined how precipitation is changing in Alaska. Unfortunately some studies showed increases while others showed decreases. How is it possible that these studies come to such different conclusions? What is it about Alaska's precipitation record that makes it so challenging to detect trends? The first of two publications addressing these questions is now available from the [Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres](#). In this paper readers will not only learn more about the challenges associated with using weather station data to identify precipitation trends, but will also gain insight on how best to use these data.

[North Pacific LCC](#)

The North Pacific LCC (NPLCC) partners with the Alaska Climate Science Center (AKCSC) and the Chilkoot Indian Association to complete a climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan for Eulachon that spawn in the Chilkoot and Chilkat rivers near Haines.



Eulachon, is a highly nutritious fish culturally significant to the Chilkat and Chilkoot peoples of the Tlingit Nation in Southeast Alaska. Tribal members are increasingly concerned about how climate change and related stressors might affect Eulachon. Local perception is that eulachon populations are low; however, there has been little scientific investigation as to the size of the population. Tribal elders have expressed a desire to see better scientific data inform future management of the Eulachon population. This is also true with the ongoing interest of non-

natives in subsistence living, who often lack knowledge of cultural management principals.

This project seeks to advance tribally directed Eulachon population research, analyze this data alongside the highest resolution climate projections available, and initiate a local working group of tribal experts and other stakeholders to identify and rank Eulachon climate vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies, culminating in an effort to energize tribal landscape level conservation and

sustainable resource management.

The project lead is [Brad Ryan](#) - Chilkoot Indian Association. Project partners include the Takshanuk Watershed Council and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

[Northwest Boreal LCC](#)

From August 2-4th, [Northwest Boreal LCC](#) Pathways student, Brett Parks represented the LCCs at the [Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council](#) 9th Biennial summit, in Mayo, Yukon. He built and maintained LCC partnerships, and hosted a workshop about the LCCs. The workshop focused on what LCCs are, how they work, and how Tribal and First Nations entities and LCCs can most effectively partner. Results from the workshop and other valuable communications will help direct future partnership approaches, engagement, and outreach.

[Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands LCC](#)

[ABSILCC](#) is launching a joint venture with the Wildlife Conservation Society and a group of other NGOs (Oceana, Audubon Alaska, and the Alaska Marine Conservation Council) to look at resource and ecosystem vulnerabilities relative to marine vessel traffic in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. We will use a dataset of millions of ship locations collected over the past 3 years to map routes, seasonality, and intensity of traffic that will be compared to distributions of potentially vulnerable species/habitats as well as subsistence harvest and commercial fishing areas.

See more at: <https://absilcc.org/science/SitePages/FY2013-02.aspx>

Upcoming Webinars & Conferences

A Washington, DC-based inaugural [Climate Strategies Forum](#) is scheduled for October 14-17, 2013. The forum will feature prominent leaders from across different sectors focusing on climate and energy, adaptation planning, public-private partnerships, and climate competencies 'bootcamps'.

What's New in Alaska Region Science

PUBLICATIONS

Pacific Walrus

MacCracken, J.G., J. Garlich-Miller, J. Snyder, and R. Meehan. 2013. [Bayesian belief network models for species assessments: an example with the Pacific walrus](#). Wildlife Society Bulletin 37:226-235.

Robards, M., and J. Garlich-Miller. 2013. [Workshop on assessing Pacific walrus population attributes from coastal haul-outs](#). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management, MMM 13-1, Anchorage, AK.

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