

Alaska Region Office of Science Applications



News & Announcements December

Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands LCC Region
Photo credit: Patrick Lemons, Marine Mammals Management Office

November Icon contest Results

Congratulations to Jimmy Fox who was the first to correctly identify the extraordinary burbot photo. Actually, Jimmy identified the 'tittaaliq', and translated from the Inupiaq to English 'burbot', scoring an imaginary bonus point.

Thank you Laurel Devaney for the image and contest idea.

If you have a good idea for an icon contest, send it my way:

brett_parks@fws.gov

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

LCC National Council: Appointments have been made

[Click here](#) to see the list of Council member appointments. The first meeting is scheduled for early February. For more information, visit:

<http://lccnetwork.org/NationalCouncil/Meetings>

Western Alaska LCC: Invasive Plant Identification App and other project updates

The Western Alaska LCC Steering Committee met earlier this month to review and select proposals submitted in the recent Request for Proposals. The LCC is now working to set up agreements with partners to develop an Invasive Plant Identification App for iPhones and Androids, and an outreach document synthesis of coastal project activities now occurring in western Alaska.

Additionally, the Steering Committee selected the Kodiak Archipelago and the Bristol Bay regions of the Western Alaska LCC to develop implementation strategies to launch a Voluntary Participation Water Temperature Monitoring Network in those geographies.

The Western Alaska LCC will soon discuss and select proposals submitted under the "Impacts of freshwater temperature change on priority resources/processes" topic, and developing data collection/analyses standards

Northwest Boreal LCC: Landscape Conservation Assessment

To fill information gaps identified by a survey of more than 200 organizations in Alaska and Western Canada, NWB LCC has partnered with the University of Alaska Anchorage and the Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS, www.arlis.org) to create a literature review of peer-reviewed articles and grey literature reports. Over a two year period, ending in August 2015, ARLIS will collect and categorize bibliographic references and abstracts responding to 19 prioritized information needs summarized by NWB LCC. The 19 information gaps are organized in five categories: Baseline data; Monitoring; Understanding Relationships; Projecting Future System States; and Adaptation Planning and Best Management Practices. The focus will be on literature published in the past ten years.



The literature review is intended for landscape and resource managers, whose information needs go beyond the second page of a Google Search. The

goal is to provide access to a searchable map-based online bibliography in which

relevant literature is featured and in which articles and reports may be retrieved by location as well as by the more familiar keyword, title word, and author searches.

This literature review fits within a three-part synthesis effort supported by the NWB LCC: 1) State of the Northwest Boreal LCC is an overview of the region, including natural setting (past, present and future), institutional setting, and identified shared information needs; 2) Literature review (described herein); and 3) a synthesis of the Drivers of Landscape Change in the Northwest Boreal Region of North America: impacts on natural resources, ecosystems and communities that will be published in book format.

For more information about the project, or to suggest references for the literature review, contact Steve Johnson at ARLIS, Steven_johnson@fws.gov, (907)786-7661.

Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands LCC: Notice of Funding Availability

On December 6, the ABSI LCC Steering Committee agreed to issue a targeted Request for Proposals (RFP). In FY2013, we directed funding to two projects that address Climate Variability and Change, and Marine Vessel Traffic. This year, we intend to solicit proposals that address Invasive and Introduced Species, and Contaminants and Pollutants. Together, these four landscape-scale stressors have been identified as our science focus in the coming years. Once we have products for each of these stressors, we intend to convene a workshop to develop an integrated vulnerability assessment that will inform our continued investments in applied science. For more information please visit absilcc.org.

Arctic LCC: NOAA's 2013 Arctic Report Card

NOAA's 2013 report card was issued on Dec. 12, 2013 and can be found here: <http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/reportcard/>. It contains 18 peer-reviewed essays describing the current state of the Arctic environment. Essays that may be of particular interest to Arctic LCC partners are the essays concerning the record low snow extent in May 2013 and the increasing "greenness" of the arctic tundra.

North Pacific LCC: New informational brochure and map

[New Informational Brochure on NPLCC](#) -- **Check it out and use it to talk to others** -- NPLCC staff, working with USGS, completed an great brochure that provides an overview of the NPLCC. It includes a description of our mission,

goals, organizational structure, key strategies, great pics and more.

Also, the NPLCC recently completed a map showing the general locations of Tribes/First Nations NPLCC area. Click [here](#) to see the latest version.

Free, Training Workshop

Are you finding that the digital hydrological datalayer for your area is not accurate? Are you making changes in GIS to improve the data? If so, you may be interested in attending a free, training workshop in Anchorage February 3-5, 2014 to learn how to make those changes permanent in the National Hydrography Dataset. There will also be a brief **1.5 hour** session geared towards both managers and editors - this will be available both in-person and via the Internet.

If you are interested in this training please contact Becci Anderson at rdanderson@usgs.gov.

What's New in Alaska Region Science

Publication

After 10 years of vigorous scientific research studying frogs and toads across the country, the results are in, and they are encouraging! On average, less than two percent of frogs and toads had physical abnormalities –indicating that the severe malformations such as missing or extra limbs first reported in the media during the mid-1990s were actually very rare on national wildlife refuges of the United States. There were, however, some abnormality “hotspots” in the Mississippi River Valley, California, and Alaska that warrant more research.

Learn more at <http://www.fws.gov/contaminants/Issues/Amphibians.cfm>

