



June 2013

Office of Science Applications

The Alaska Office of Science Applications is working with an R7 National Wildlife Refuge System, Fisheries and Endangered Species, and Migratory Bird Management team to identify five priority science needs projects to compete for a portion of national funding for Service Science projects in FY14 (four million dollars was available in FY13). They are also beginning to build a more open engagement process for identifying priorities in FY15.

The Office of Science Applications is also working with representatives from the Regional Data Management Team on development of a regional Data Management Policy and associated guidelines. Further information may be

forthcoming soon, pending review by the RDT.

Climate Change

As the culmination of NCTC's 10-month online Climate Academy course, the Alaska Region's climate change coordinator led a [webinar](#) titled "What's Next? Integrating Climate Information into Conservation Planning and Decision Making". This webinar focused on some of the actions that the Alaska Region is taking to enhance its capacity for accessing, interpreting, and using climate information in both short and long-term planning. All of the Climate Academy's webinars are saved in an [archive](#) for those who were unable to attend, and most include [readings](#) that helped prepare course participants for each session.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

[Western Alaska LCC](#) has a new permanent [website](#). Please bookmark the new address and let the LCC staff or Steering Committee members know what you think of its features and interaction. While only a few of Western Alaska's projects are now finished, final reports and some interim publications from a few of the LCC's sponsored projects have been posted in the [Project Documents](#) section. Recent [webinars](#) recordings can also be viewed.

The Bureau of Land Management's Rapid Ecoregional Assessment (REA) program helps improve BLM's understanding of existing landscape conditions on its lands and how those conditions may change in the future. The [Northwest Boreal LCC](#) is actively involved as a partner in the [Yukon/Kuskokwim Lime Hills REA](#) which is scheduled for completion in mid-2014.

In FY2013 the [Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands LCC](#) received approximately \$140K of project funds. The Steering Committee and core staff developed a list of potential projects to address one or more landscape-scale stressors of importance in the Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands region. In April the Steering Committee funded a [suite of projects](#). Combined, these projects are leveraging more than \$550K from a variety of project partners including federal and state agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations.

The [Arctic LCC](#) staff is working towards implementation of their Arctic

Terrestrial Environmental Observing Network (TEON); they are currently working on aspects of data management planning as they also seek partners in implementation of the network. See the [TEON projects page](#) for more information. In addition, there is now a factsheet available explaining the ins and outs of the highly complex and still-under-development [Integrated Ecosystem Model for Alaska and Northwest Canada](#).

The [North Pacific LCC](#) has announced its FY13 selection of “Climate Change Adaptation for Subsistence and Cultural Resources” [projects](#) for funding. One of the three projects will focus on climate vulnerability and adaptation of eulachon populations in the Chilkoot and Chilkat Rivers of Alaska.

Cross-LCC Coordination

Recently, the five LCCs in Alaska have collaborated with the USGS, the Alaska Climate Science Center, the Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships, and the Alaska Hydrography Technical Working Group to develop a proposal to help advance the National Hydrography Dataset for Alaska. While it is not yet known if the proposal was successful, the conversation and collaboration in its development has generated a roadmap for future action.

Upcoming Webinars & Conferences

[Webinar: Climate Change Impact on Tribes](#)

On Tuesday, June 25, 2013 10-11:15 am, join the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals for a webinar that will include an overview of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities of tribes in the United States.

[Pacific Northwest Climate Conference](#)

The 4th annual Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference, a forum for decision-relevant climate science in the Pacific Northwest, will be held September 5-6, 2013 in Portland, Oregon. July 12 is the deadline for [submitting presentation abstracts](#) aligned with conference themes. This year’s conference will feature a keynote address by U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon and other distinguished plenary speakers including Kathy Jacobs of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and Ed Maibach of the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication.

[GYRE](#)

an expedition and exhibition along Alaska’s coastline, with marine debris as material and message, set sail June 7. At their website, you can follow Alaska

SeaLife Center scientists and an international team of artists during their voyages this summer. The project will culminate with an exhibition at the Anchorage Museum February-September, 2014.

What's New in Alaska Region Science

PUBLICATIONS

Species Diversity in the Arctic

Payer, D.C., A. B. Josefson, and J. Fjeldsa. 2013. Species diversity in the Arctic. Pp. 67-77 in H. Meltofte (ed.), Arctic Biodiversity Assessment: status and trends in Arctic biodiversity. Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, Arctic Council, Akureyri, Iceland. <http://www.arcticbiodiversity.is/index.php>.

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