

## Alaska Region Office of Science Applications



## News & Announcements

### November

Photo credit: Amanda Robertson, Northwest Boreal LCC

## October Icon contest Results

Congratulations to Terry Fuller who was the first to correctly identify little brown bats! The answer to second part, where they overwinter, is, as many respondents surmised, somewhat more complicated. The answer I was looking for is 'no one knows', though evidence indicates that some overwinter in the interior.

Thank you to Philip Martin for the October contest suggestion.

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

[brett\\_parks@fws.gov](mailto:brett_parks@fws.gov)

# Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

## Northwest Boreal LCC: Cutting edge approaches to landscape conservation

The Northwest Boreal (NWB) LCC is in a unique place to facilitate dialogue proactive conservation, and has the opportunity to shape the future of this region. From the 19th to the 21st of November, the NWB



LCC Steering Committee met in Fairbanks for a training session. At this session, the Steering Committee was presented with cutting-edge approaches to landscape conservation that challenged traditional conservation paradigms. The goal of the session was to take a step back and think about what it means to plan for a functioning, resilient landscape in perpetuity and how the international NWB LCC partnership can support projects leading to a realization of that vision.

Drawing on the knowledge of 6 invited experts, participants learned about and discussed topics in:

- Scientific foundation and approaches to landscape-level conservation.
- Climate change adaptation and scenario planning.
- Boreal conservation and management during environmental, social, and economic change.
- Integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge, cultural values, and ecosystem services into landscape conservation and planning.
- Transparency and engagement in landscape planning and decision-making.
- Lessons from approaches to landscape conservation planning in other LCCs and organizations.

The outcomes of this session will serve as a foundation to support development of a long term strategic plan for the LCC. This strategic plan will guide the LCC in linking priority information needs to identified key science gaps in a landscape conservation plan.

## North Pacific LCC: Notice of Funding Availability

To further develop, coordinate, and disseminate science to inform landscape level conservation and sustainable resource management in the face of a

changing climate and related stressors, the NPLCC just released a new Request for Pre-Proposals. Based on evaluations of the pre-proposals, invitations to submit full proposals will be made to a subset of the project leads who submitted pre-proposals. We are seeking innovative and collaborative pre-proposals to advance 3 categories of actions in the NPLCC Science Strategy. They are:

- Informing management decisions at local regional or scales based on information syntheses at landscape scales
- Incorporating climate change information into habitat conservation, restoration, adaptation, or enhancement actions.
- Assist decision makers with incorporating climate change information into their planning efforts and implementing adaptation actions.

The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Click [here](#) for details on our needs, and how to submit a proposal.

### **...Staff News**

Meghan Kearney joins Team NPLCC to fill the critical role of outreach and communication. In November and December she will devote half of her time to helping us implement the NPLCC [Communication Strategy](#). In addition to



managing the NPLCC web site content, social media, listserv and producing communication products, Meghan will seek new and creative ways to showcase and promote projects and events of NPLCC. Learn more about Meghan [here](#).

### **Western Alaska LCC: Webinars, and Science and Operating Plan Available**

Recordings are now available of two Western Alaska LCC-hosted webinars on projects looking at major drivers of landscape change in the Seward Peninsula and Kotzebue Sound Lowlands - thermokarst lake drainage and permafrost thaw. Each webinar is approximately one hour and can be found on our website, along with recordings of past webinars ([westernalaskalcc.org](http://westernalaskalcc.org)).

Dr. Gruido Grosse - *Lakes and Permafrost in the Western Alaska LCC region*  
Dr. Vladimir Romanovsky - *State of Permafrost in North-Western Alaska*

The LCC's FY2014/2015 Science and Operating Plan is also now available on our website. This summarizes the major activities planned for this and next

fiscal years, along with opportunities for engagement.

### **Arctic LCC: North Slope Landcover Map 2013**

The North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) identified an updated, consistent and accurate land cover data set as a primary base layer requirement for its long-term science and planning activities on the North Slope. The [North Slope Landcover Map](#) is the outcome of a multi-year project to produce a moderate resolution land cover base layer to meet NSSI requirements. New Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) 30 meter resolution landcover maps were produced for the far western arctic, and for the area between the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska (NPRA) and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In the NPRA, an existing land cover map from the 1990's was "crosswalked" to the NSSI land cover map classes, and a large portion of the map was updated using more recently acquired Landsat TM images. The remaining areas of the NSSI land cover map utilized an existing statewide land cover mosaic compiled by the Alaska Natural Heritage Program (AKNHP) that consisted of land cover classes that already matched the NSSI land cover classes and originated primarily from National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife (FWS) land cover maps. Twenty four classes are identified in the map, covering approximately 60 million acres (24.3 million hectares) stretching from the border of Canada to the western arctic coast and from the Arctic Ocean south to the Brooks Range.

For more information: [dfehring@ducks.org](mailto:dfehring@ducks.org)

### **Aleutian Bering Sea Islands LCC: Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Needs Assessment**

The National Wildlife Refuges Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Program conducted a "Needs Assessment" at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge in Homer, Alaska, during the week of November 4, 2013. The Refuge owns just over 50% of the land within the Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands (ABSI) region, and is an important partner in that LCC. In order to learn more about management issues and science needs of the Refuge, ABSI LCC Staff joined Refuges I&M Coordinator Diane Granfors, and Refuge Biologists for the needs assessment. Following an established structure, the needs assessment reviews existing management plans and how they are used to guide Refuge activities. Existing surveys currently entered into the PRIMR database, as well as future surveys and research activities, were prioritized according to a weighted ranking system.

ABSI LCC Science Coordinator Aaron Poe delivered a presentation on Landscape Conservation Design, a key concept on the horizon of Refuge Planning. The group also participated in a webinar on the [Arctic ERMA](#) system, a web-based geospatial data library designed to support oil spill responders in Alaska. For more information about the Refuges I&M Program's needs assessment process, contact [Diane Granfors](#).

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