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### **March Contest Results**

Congratulations to John Hudson for being the first to astutely note that willow ptarmigan "aren't normally associated with aquatic habitats". If you're rightly curious, [this link](#) provides further information.

Thanks to Jenn Jenkins for the contest idea.

### **Current Climate Change Science Resources**

*March 2014 Alaska Climate Dispatch: A state-wide seasonal summary and outlook.*

[To download this or past issues](#)

*A Strategy for Improving the Mitigation Policies and Practices of The Department of the Interior*  
[Download a copy](#)

[Click here for more climate change science Resources](#)

# Northwest Boreal LCC

## *Steve Matsuoka on the Advisory Group Experience*

Each Alaska LCC has an FWS Advisory Group (AG), the purpose of which is communication. In AG meetings FWS LCC Steering Committee (SC) representatives and LCC staff inform AG members about LCC priorities, activities, and funding opportunities, and solicit AG input on key LCC decisions. These open meetings are a chance for agency staff to make sure that their interests are brought to the LCCs.

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, the NWB LCC AG met. Representatives from 6 Programs, 6 Refuges, and 3 Field offices were present for an active and productive conversation. After the meeting I had the opportunity to speak with AG member Steve Matsuoka. Steve began participating in NWB LCC AG meetings at the request of Migratory Birds Management, and says the NWB LCC is “taking a great approach to conservation”.

“From my perspective,” Steve says “I do a lot of work on boreal birds that extends beyond Alaska and across boreal Canada. The NWB LCC breaks down borders so we can combine DOI data from across Alaska with data from across Canada.” Steve continues “Through the LCC, I’ve been able to keep pace with what’s going across the boreal, and have a better sense of what useful products are coming on line.”



**Steve Matsuoka**  
Migratory Birds  
Management

The AG “has been useful in asking for data products that will help us better understand and conserve boreal birds. As LCC strategy develops, we’re able to weigh in on the process.” Steve adds LCC staff has “made efforts to be all inclusive; there are many people on calls and in meetings providing their input.” Steve concluded, NWB LCC staff “has done a great job of making their LCC relevant.”

If you are interested in becoming more involved with your Advisory Group, contact your LCC staff.

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### Arctic LCC

*That Sinking Feeling...*



Photo: Michael Gooseff

The term "thermokarst" refers to the process by which characteristic landforms result from the thawing of ice-rich permafrost or the melting of massive ground ice, a main source of landscape disturbance associated with climate warming.

The Arctic LCC teamed with USGS Alaska Science Center to produce an [annotated bibliography](#) on thermokarst, with an emphasis on potential impacts to habitat and wildlife.

[Click here to learn more](#)

**Aleutian & Bering Sea**

### Western Alaska LCC

*Mapping Coastal Vulnerabilities*

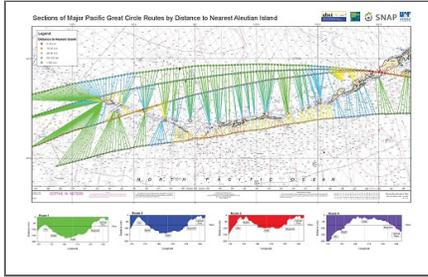


The [Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Survey](#) is working with the [Western Alaska LCC](#) and other partners to develop coastal vulnerability products specific to coastal communities in western Alaska. While the project is focused at coastal communities, the same information may help in modeling vulnerability of our natural resources.

- [Learn more here](#)
- [Download a poster](#) presented at the 2014 Ocean Sciences Meeting, which details these efforts

## Islands LCC

### *Risky Business*

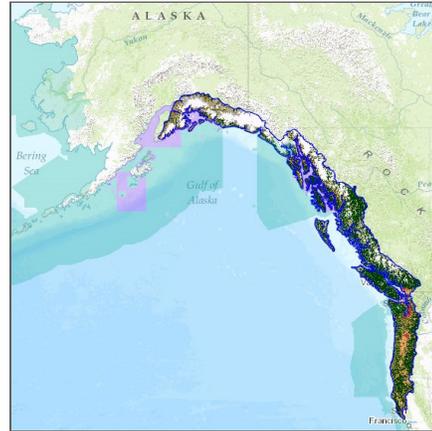


This Aleutian Islands Risk Assessment Team met in Anchorage to evaluate vessel routing recommendations aimed at avoiding impacts to the resources. These leaders from regulatory agencies, industry, and conservation organizations were guided in part by data products provided by the ABSI LCC working in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. Key among them was [a distance analysis for islands along the Aleutian chain](#) relative to 4 heavily used vessel routes.

- [Listen to the webinar](#) on May 14<sup>th</sup> at noon.

## North Pacific LCC

### *NPLCC Launches Conservation Planning Atlas; Seeks your Input*



The North Pacific LCC is pleased to announce the upcoming launch of our Conservation Planning Atlas (CPA). The CPA is a data discovery, visualization, and analytical platform for stakeholders throughout the NPLCC area. We invite you to join our May 15th science-management webinar to learn about the CPA and to provide us feedback on how to make the CPA more useful to you.

[More info and registration here.](#)

## Upcoming Learning Opportunities

### *Webinars*

- **May 7, 2014** -- "[Large scale wave, tide, and surge modeling in sometimes icy waters](#)", presented by Robert Grumbine (NOAA/NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction)

- **May 14, 2014** -- "[How deep are those shoals? Nearshore bathymetric data collection in the vicinity of western Alaska communities](#)", presented by Nicole Kinsman (Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys)
- **May 21, 2014** -- "[Introduction to NHDPlus: Content, Capabilities, Applications](#)", presented by Cindy McKay, Horizon Systems Corp.

### ***Additional Training***

- Addressing Climate-related Uncertainty for Natural Resource Management in Anchorage Alaska (NCTC class ALC3192) [For more information and to register](#)

## **What's New in Alaska Region Science?**

We would like to feature your recent publications and/or datasets here!

If you have something you'd like to bring to a larger audience, please contact me: [brett\\_parks@fws.gov](mailto:brett_parks@fws.gov).

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