

News and information about Alaska Region Office of Science Applications and LCCs.

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## Alaska Region Office of Science Applications



## News & Resources January 2015

Arctic Ocean near Barrow  
Photo: Stan Wullschlegel

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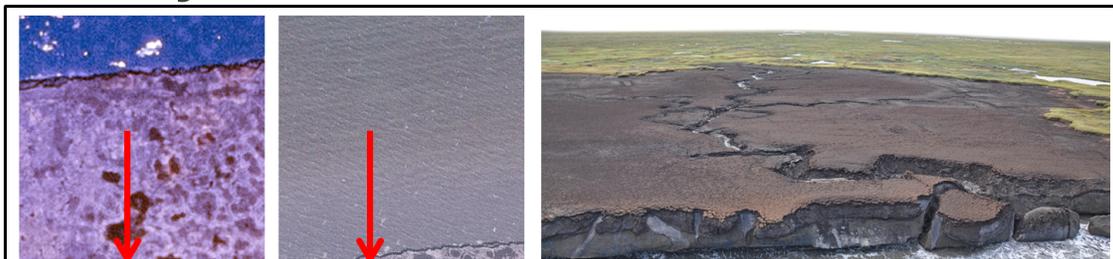
## What's New in Alaska Region Science?

[Publications & datasets involving Service staff](#)

## December Contest Results

Huge congratulations to Torrence Shannon who was the first to correctly answer that the blue whale is the loudest mammal on Earth. These whales top out at 188db and can be heard hundreds of miles away. My uncle only hits around 100db and can be heard pretty well in adjacent rooms. No small congratulations can be offered for the bonus question however. The tiger pistol shrimp is the loudest known animal on earth and can hit 218db by snapping it's claw. I won't get into it here, but [shrimpluminescence](#) makes for related, enlightening reading.

## January Contest



In the first photo, this thaw lake near Drew Point (east of Smith Bay) was over 250 yards from the Beaufort Sea coast. In the second photo, the shoreline had eroded to within several yards of each other. In the final picture (taken in 2012), the lake was not only drained, but a large portion of its footprint was gone. How many years do you estimate elapsed between the first and second photos? The second and third photos?

For a hint, visit [Arctic LCCs Facebook page](#).

E-mail [brett\\_parks@fws.gov](mailto:brett_parks@fws.gov) your answer!

Arctic LCC will soon have a new coordinator -- Dr. David Payer. For the last 14 years, Dave has been the Supervisory Ecologist for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Alaska. Dave leads a team that conducts biophysical monitoring in the Refuge and works with partners to study effects of climate change and development on Arctic wildlife and habitats. Dave has served on the Arctic LCC Steering Committee since 2010, and was a co-author of the 2009 WildREACH report, an important source document for the Arctic LCC Science Plan. Recently Dave has participated in FWS Region 7's selection of priority and surrogate species, and has supported the National Wildlife Refuges Inventory and Monitoring Program.



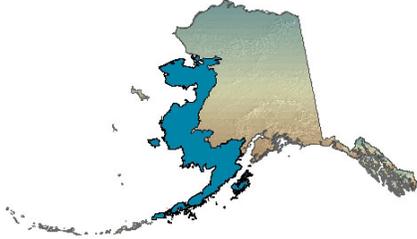
Prior to joining the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2001, Dave worked in the private sector evaluating wildlife use of North Slope oilfields and conducting bird surveys in Interior Alaska. He earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Cornell University in 1986, worked in private veterinary practice, then moved to Alaska to study damages to wildlife from the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. Following that formative experience he shifted his focus to wildlife conservation, earning M.S. (Oregon State University, 1992) and Ph.D. (University of Maine, 1999) degrees in wildlife ecology. His doctoral research focused on effects of forestry practices on the American marten. He has published numerous scientific and popular articles related to the ecology of desert ungulates, forest carnivores, and arctic birds, among others. Most recently, he served as co-author and editor of the Arctic Council's Arctic Biodiversity Assessment, a global evaluation of the status and trends of Arctic biodiversity.

Dave and his wife, Angela, live on a ski hill north of Fairbanks with a kennel of huskies. They enjoy many of the outdoor activities Alaska has to offer, including skiing, mushing, canoeing, hiking and camping. He will assume duties with the Arctic LCC in late February, and is looking forward to working with other LCC staff and partners, both regionally and nationally.

Reflecting on his new position, Dave noted: "As I join the Arctic LCC, I look forward to working with diverse partners in Alaska and Canada to further our shared conservation goals. I am particularly excited to work in a multidisciplinary setting to support information needs for landscape-scale management planning. I will also seek opportunities for the LCC to support the United States' chairmanship of the Arctic Council (2015-2017) and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (2017-2019), including identifying impacts of and raising awareness about climate

change in the Arctic.”

### *Western Alaska LCC*



*Participate on WALCC's  
Organizing Team!*

The Western Alaska LCC received many great suggestions for issues to address in its upcoming program on “Informing decision makers about climate change effects on terrestrial habitat features and their impact on important resources/services”, such as changing plant communities, melting permafrost and thermokarst formation, and changing invertebrate distributions.

Help WA LCC refine these into specific activity areas the LCC could focus on to best help your program's adaptation planning and decision making - participate in the WA LCC Organizing Team! Nominations for participation are due by January 30, 2015 and should be submitted to [LCC staff](#) or to your [Steering Committee representative](#).

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### **North Pacific LCC**

*NPLCC-funded Stream  
Temperature Project*

### **Aleutian & Bering Sea Islands LCC**

*Two Presentations and a  
Workshop at the AMSS*



ABSI delivered two presentations and cohosted a workshop at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS) between January 19 and 23. ABSI Science Coordinator Aaron Poe presented “Addressing Climate Change Vulnerabilities in the Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands”; and Martin Robards, an ABSI partner with the Wildlife Conservation Society, presented on “Marine Vessel Traffic and Shoreline Vulnerability in the Aleutian Archipelago”.

[Abstracts for both presentations can be found here](#). For more information on the ABSI cohosted "Conservation Application of the Vessel Traffic Automatic Identification System" workshop contact [Douglas\\_Burn@fws.gov](mailto:Douglas_Burn@fws.gov).

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### **Northwest Boreal LCC**

*FWS Conservation Planning  
Assistance Team Members Work  
With NWB LCC and BEACONs  
Team*

## Demonstrations Template for Climate Science



The NPLCC is hosting an upcoming science-management webinar with Dan Isaak of the U.S. Forest Service. The webinar will focus on the NorWeST Stream Temperature database currently hosting data from northern California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and western parts of Montana and Wyoming. Though this specific approach is not possible in Alaska streams, the LCC Network is working to make the [National Stream Internet Project](#) (which provided analytical tools for the NorWeST database) available nationally. If you are interested in learning more about this project, process and what similar efforts are ongoing or could be put forth in Alaska, please join us for this presentation on Weds, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 9-10am(Alaska Time). [More info & Registration here](#). If you are interested in learning more or viewing a recording of the webinar please contact [meghan\\_kearney@fws.gov](mailto:meghan_kearney@fws.gov).



Megan Boldenow and Charleen Veach from the Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office's Conservation Planning Assistance (CPA) program are working with the Northwest Boreal LCC and its partners with the Boreal Ecosystems Analysis for Conservation Networks (BEACONS) project to facilitate communication between species experts and the [BEACONS](#) team. Funded by the NWB LCC, Megan and Charleen are contacting and identifying experts on both Alaskan and Canadian sides of the LCC to fill out species information in a database. Megan said "We're essentially trying to figure out why our focal species exist in their current locations (what we know and don't know about their habitat requirements and conservation threats), and what data sets exist and where." With the CPA team, Megan primarily works on avian issues but has also reviewed projects for their potential impact to polar bears, Pacific walrus, and anadromous fish and their habitats. Megan credits her supervisor, NWB LCC Steering Committee member, Jewel Bennett for giving staff new opportunities, such as this project, so they have exposure

to a wide range of issues, resources and contacts. In a recent email, Megan indicated that Jewel's approach "keeps us interested in our work, builds our knowledge base, and helps us to do our 'regular' jobs better!"

[Article continued here](#)

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## Upcoming Opportunities

**Webinar:** [North Pacific LCC Science-Management: Stream Temperature Database & High-resolution NorWeST Climate Scenarios](#)

North Pacific LCC

Wednesday, January 28th, 9-10am AKT

**Webinar:** [Categorization of Slush-ice Berm Formation](#)

David Atkinson & Laura Eerkes-Medrano, University of Victoria

Wednesday, January 28th, 12pm AKT

**Webinar:** [The Climate Has Changed, Have We? Reflections on 50 years of Fire Management in Alaska](#)

Randi Jandt, Alaska First Science Consortium

Tuesday, February 3; 10-11am AKT

**Presentation:** [Migration Dynamics for Midcontinent Greater White-fronted Geese from Interior and Northwest Alaska](#)

Wade Schock, University of Alaska Anchorage

Friday, January 30, 12-1pm FAIRBANKS ONLY

**Livestream:** [Upcoming U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council](#)

Monday, February, 9; 8:15-9:15am AKT

**Post-doc Opportunity:** [Studying Population Dynamics of Seabirds of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge](#). The Aleutian & Bering Sea Islands LCC and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge are working together to offer this opportunity.

**Funding Opportunity: Aleutian & Bering Sea Islands LCC's 2015 RFP is opening February 4.**

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

Arp, C.D., Whitman, M.S., Jones, B.M., Grosse, G., Gaglioti, B.V., and Heim, K.C. (2015) *Distribution and Biophysical Processes of Beaded Streams in Arctic Permafrost Landscapes*. *Biogeosciences*. 12, 29-47.

<http://www.biogeosciences.net/12/29/2015/bg-12-29-2015.html>

Decker, D. J., A. B. Forstchen, E. F. Pomeranz, C. A. Smith, S. J. Riley, C. A. Jacobson, J. F. Organ, and G. R. Batcheller. 2015. *Stakeholder Engagement in Wildlife Management: Does the Public Trust Doctrine Imply Limits?* *Journal of Wildlife Management* 79(2),174-179.

Krebs, C.J., Bryant, J., Kielland, K., O'Donoghue, M., Doyle, F., Carriere, S., DiFolco, D., Berg, N., Boonstra, R., Kenney, Boutin, S., Kenney, A.J., A.J., Reid, D.G., Bodony, K., Putera, J., Timm, H.K., Burke, T., Maier, J.A.K., and Golden, H. (2014) *What Factors Determine Cyclic Amplitude in the Snowshoe Hare (Lepus Americanus) Cycle?* *Canadian Journal of Zoology*. 92 (12), 1039-1048.  
<http://www.nrcresearchpress.com/doi/abs/10.1139/cjz-2014-0159#.Vld0cvnF-DQ>

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

Continued from: **Northwest Boreal LCC -- FWS Conservation Planning Assistance Team Members Work With NWB LCC and BEACONS Team**

Species-level data collected will be incorporated into comprehensive landscape design in the Northwest Boreal Region. Species data, such as the location of high-quality habitat, minimum viable population estimates, and home range sizes, can inform the location and size of ecological benchmarks and other priority areas for conservation. Conservation planning often relies on coarse-scale measures of biodiversity. Species data also serves as a fine-filter assessment to test whether biodiversity objectives are being satisfied. Further, species data can be used to develop habitat models for use in dynamic landscape simulation modelling, allowing one to assess whether conservation objectives for species are likely to be maintained through time given an active

disturbance regime and/or climate change. And species data can inform the management of human activities and the maintenance of connectivity and migration corridors across the landscape. The results of Megan and Charleen's effort will not only inform the BEACONS project, but will also inform the conservation frameworks for many of Region 7's priority species in the Northwest Boreal region.

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