North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative 2012 Funding Announcement

The North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC) is pleased to announce the award of over $300,000 to seven projects that address using Traditional Ecological Knowledge, where appropriate, to help inform natural and cultural resource management. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided funds to the NPLCC for these projects. Two of the projects are co-sponsored by the Northwest Climate Science Center (NW CSC).

All of the projects were submitted in response to a request for proposals in April, 2012. Proposals were evaluated by a review team from the NPLCC's Science-Traditional Ecological Knowledge Subcommittee and were approved for funding by the NPLCC Steering Committee.

The following is a summary of the seven 2012 funded projects:

Project Title: Determine if climate change can affect the gathering calendar and natural resources
Project Lead: Organized Village of Kasaan
Funding: $49,974
Summary: This project will utilize traditional ecological knowledge to establish traditional gathering practices. Interviews will be conducted with "traditional gatherers" (a.k.a. subsistence) over the last two generations to get baseline data. The project will have a direct focus on the four (4) federally recognized Tribes on Prince of Wales Island (Craig, Hydaburg, Kasaan and Klawock).

Project Title: Implementing ecosystem-based management in the central coast of British Columbia: Support for Heiltsuk participation in strategic landscape reserve design process
Project Lead: Heiltsuk Integrated Resource Management Department
Funding: $50,000
Summary: The project incorporates Heiltsuk Traditional Knowledge and Values into ecosystem-based management planning within Strategic Landscape Reserve Design (SLRD) Landscape Units. The SLRD process seeks to identify areas to set aside from logging (harvesting) over short and long term timeframes. Heiltsuk Traditional Use Studies (HTUS) identify harvesting and other types of cultural sites that are important to Heiltsuk well-being. HTUS data has been incorporated into GIS so that it can inform a wide range of spatial analyses. The base-line study, Map Biography, also identifies knowledge holders who will be engaged in identifying management principles.

Project Title: Correlation and climate sensitivity of human health and environmental indicators in the Salish Sea
Project Lead: Swinomish Tribe
Funding: $49,832 (NW CSC and NPLCC are cost sharing this project)

Summary: The overarching goal of the project is to develop overlapping conceptual models of environmental and community health indicators in reference to climate forecasts. The sensitivity of species and habitats to climate will be cross-walked with recently developed Coast Salish community health indicators (e.g. ceremonial use, knowledge exchange, and physiological well-being) in order to demonstrate how Indigenous Knowledge can be used in conjunction with established landscape-level conservation indicators (e.g. shellfish and water-quality) and employed to identify resource management priorities. While results will be unique to study participants, no Indigenous community in the coastal Pacific Northwest is immune to the impending threats of climate change and land-use policies; the methods developed through this proposal will be applicable for other First Nations and Tribes across the region.

Project Title: Gathering Our Thoughts: Tribal recommendations on a traditional knowledge management framework for the NPLCC
Project Lead: Tulalip Tribe
Funding: $43,410
Summary: This project will initiate the first large-scale Tribal government discussions on the relationship of scientific research and traditional knowledge in the activities of the NPLCC. The project will: 1. Review existing approaches and protocols related to scientific research and traditional knowledge in the Pacific Northwest, characterizing different types of traditional knowledge and the contexts in which these are encountered; 2. Initiate discussions among the 21 member Tribes of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (all other Tribes are welcome to join); 3. Report on their views; 4. Propose a framework for the use of TK based on discussions and present it for a possible consensus by all participants; and 5. Outreach with the products to other Tribes.

Project Title: Preserving Tribal Self-Determination and Knowledge Sovereignty While Expanding Use of Tribal Knowledge and Management in Off Reservation Lands in the Face of Climate Change
Project Lead: Karuk Tribe
Funding: $34,386
Summary: For Tribes where significant knowledge of traditional management practices is intact, but where all or part of ancestral lands are managed by other agencies, it is important that the sharing of TEK and implementation of management take place in a manner that promotes rather than hinders Tribal sovereignty and self-determination. This project will identify existing institutional and cultural barriers to the sharing of Tribal TEK and expansion of Tribal management and provide recommendations for their resolution at local, regional and national levels.

Project Title: Utilizing Yurok traditional ecological knowledge to inform climate change priorities
Project Lead: Yurok Tribe
Funding: $47,229 (NW CSC and NPLCC are cost sharing this project)

Summary: The Yurok Tribe will conduct a two phase study on Climate change impacts on Yurok Ancestral and Reservation Lands and resources, specific to impacts on wildlife and habitats that support culturally significant species. The first phase will be the collection and documentation of TEK through community scoping and structured interviews that will be recorded, transcribed, and entered into a GIS (mapped). The second phase will consist of analyzing the data collected in order to identify scientific information needs, data gaps and priority resources of concern specific to Climate change impacts that will be summarized in a final report to inform future funding, management and research efforts.

Project Title: Using TEK to model the effects of cc and SLR on coastal cultural resources at Tolowa Dunes State Park, CA
Project Lead: California Department of Parks and Recreation
Funding: $25,994
Summary: The primary goals of this ongoing project are to obtain information regarding past catastrophic events, such as tsunamis, and TEK through oral history interviews with Tolowa elders regarding the effects of climate change and tsunamis on traditional smelt fishing camps; generate a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) model of coastal inundation due to sea level rise and overlay that with known archaeological and ethnographic resources; and generate a final report with detailed information of past tsunami events, and modeling the potential effects of climate change and sea level rise on archaeological and ethnographic Tolowa sites using TEK and GIS based upon the results of this study.