



Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative

designing for resilience

Leadership Team Meeting Summary

March 18, 2021

Welcome, Introductions, News and Updates

John opened the meeting with introductions and an agenda review. He noted the amount of work done by the small group of staff at CCLC, and the need for active engagement from the Leadership Team, engagement and capacity funding moving forward to keep the talent driving the CCLC.

On March 29th the Environmental and Energy Study Institute is holding a congressional briefing on landscape conservation, which is part of the series, “Agencies in Action: Federal Programs That Deliver Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Benefits Every Day”. It is free and open to the public. Use this link to register if you’re interested: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/032922fed>

John shared about the “Future of Conservation” event hosted by FWS, the Association of FWS agencies, and the Network for Landscape Conservation. The group discussed how the country should be organized to support landscape collaboratives long term, and what is needed to do that. He participated in the governance group that discussed how federal, state, and local agencies could become better aligned with, and can support landscape collaborative’s work. John will share the final report from the summit when it is available.

Tools and Communications Updates:

Coastal NW Mapper Conservation Program Explorer (Alan Yanahan)

Alan presented the progress on the Coastal Northwest Mapper tool and connectivity data. The Washington Connectivity Working Group is developing maps and data about species across Washington State that will be integrated into the Coastal Northwest Landscape Mapper tool. Oregon is also creating connectivity maps for over 50 species that will be integrated to the mapper in the coming months. Thanks to Luke Rogers at the WSU Extension, small forest landowner data will be included in the mapper tool shortly. This will show us changing trends in ownership and how we can use our tools to target the necessary help to protect those working landowners.

Tools and Communications Updates: Conservation Program Explorer (CPE) and Analytics (Rachel Santa Olalla)

Rachel provided an overview of the Conservation Program Explorer tool's expansion across Washington, as well as landowner engagement opportunities. She shared plans for the Oregon expansion and mentioned some groups to partner with, and members to add to the Oregon CPE Advisory Committee. There will also be a FWS intern to support the phase 3 build out in Oregon this summer. If there is funding and interest like there was in Washington, then there may be a phase 4 buildout of the Conservation Program Explorer tool to eastern Oregon.

Rachel also shared website analytics and reviewed the use of the CCLC website, as well as the Conservation Program Explorer tool. There has been global use, and hotspots of national use with an emphasis on use in major cities of Washington state, as well as Washington D.C. There are visibly positive results from product development. A discussion opened with the leadership team about what analytics the CCLC wants to know. Ann suggested that the Leadership Team ought to come up with categories to analyze. For example, knowing which incentive type is selected the most (tracking search criteria). She added that we want to know who the audience is that's using the tool, and who the excited audience is.

Tools and Communications Updates: Communications (Kaitlyn Landfield)

Kaitlyn explained the Washington D.C. hotspot in the analytics data is from office exposure to the CCLC and its tools. She announced the CCLC page on the USFWS website: <https://www.fws.gov/story/2021-11/cascades-coast-landscape-collaborative>. There is currently a public-facing article by the USFWS about the CCLC being written that will be posted on Medium.com. She touched on the quarterly newsletter that will be a continued effort throughout the year and moving forward.

Kaitlyn also shared about the USFWS Science Apps DFP Intern for the summer. Interviews have been completed and the FWS is in the selection process. This intern will help with the phase 3 Oregon expansion of the Conservation Program Explorer tool and any landowner outreach opportunities. The intern will also assist with CCLC communications like newsletters or any other tangible marketing materials/communications.

Leadership Team Updates:

Rachel is adding new Leadership Team members (photos and bios) to the Leadership Team page on the website.

Jen Watkins shared that DNR Forest Resiliency District Managers are currently being selected. They manage the service forestry program and will be most prominent in our current regions (Southwestern and Olympic). The District Managers will help landowners with technical assistance, and the DNR is setting up a cost-share program for the work at the DM's discretion.

Jen partners with Cascadia Partnership as well, who has a very similar mapper tool that can overlap with the CCLC Coastal Northwest Landscape Mapper tool. She suggested collaborative efforts with Cascadia's mapper, "TerrAdapt". <https://terradapt.org/regions/cascadia/> This mapper gives a time lapse of human change on the land overtime that has been useful. Jen mentions the usefulness of their "office hours"

where the users can get a one-on-one session with tool managers and learn how to use the tool for their specific needs.

Paula Swedeen's co-worker, Brian Stewart, is part of the Land Committee on the Chehalis basin planning process. They received funding to hire an external consultant for creative, larger scale ideas on how to approach flooding in the Chehalis basin. The Chehalis basin board has many reasons to not choose a dam. One of the alternatives they are considering is potentially raising I-5 to protect Chehalis and Centralia from flooding. This would also affect connectivity. Some things to consider with this option are: what would the investment in floodplain restoration be like for construction, and areas that already needed to be restored? And what would connectivity look like with raised portions of I-5?

Paula also shared about large private entities interested in acquiring landscape scale amounts of forest for carbon sequestration. In response to this interest, Brian and Paula are beginning to use the Coastal Northwest Mapper Tool in the Southwestern Washington area. They are analyzing the overlap between Forest Practices Board's Spotted Owl connectivity data, naturalness connectivity data, concentrations of private landowners, and landscape level chunks of forest for carbon sequestration in Southwestern Washington.

Jeff Azerrad shared about a movement to get connectivity data working on the ground at a local level in Washington, primarily in Western Washington. Between 2024 and 2027 all counties will be updating their Growth Management Policy and many of them are using priority habitat and species resources to satisfy requirements regarding the best available science statute they must follow within GMA. Jeff is part of a group that is putting together a technical advisory team with local biologists to help figure out how to present connectivity information to local governments in a way that is easily understandable, using the FWS web platform, that can also be easily put into the PHS database. The next step will be finding counties that are willing or interested in doing a case study to see how this data could be integrated into some local land-use plans as a model ordinance. Jeff projects there will be a more flushed out plan by the next Leadership Team meeting.

Connectivity Events (John Mankowski)

Connectivity Webinar:

The intended audience for this CCCL-hosted webinar are people who have not been introduced to connectivity, the datasets, and the tools. They will learn about the Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity working group, the science they produced and how to use it.

This webinar is proposed for June, as part of the overall CCLC workplan and would be hosted by the CCLC. John predicts about 6 weeks of planning. He reviewed a draft agenda and invited feedback from the leadership team. This webinar would share: 1. The role of connectivity in conservation planning; 2. The science: tool development in science and public sharing; and 3. How these can be used (downloaded, integrated) at local levels. Potential speakers or presenters are: Peter Singleton or Sonia Hall, Jeff Azerrad, Glen Kallis, Brian Stewart, and Meade Krosby.

Jen mentioned the importance of not only sharing data, but also how to use it. Betsy mentioned that case studies on how to use the science can be very helpful. In her experience, end users ask themselves, "How do I use this for what I need to do?" There is a larger scope of work including planning, event development (to find more opportunities) and outreach, requiring more than 6 weeks preparation.

Alan shared that a webinar including Oregon is too much for now and is best to have later. Oregon is taking a different approach to modeling connectivity data than the way Washington did it.

Connectivity Summit:

Paula provided background on the need for this summit. There was a monthly meeting with groups that included tribes, Conservation Northwest, Mount St. Helens efforts, and local initiatives where it occurred to them that there were a lot of simultaneous efforts from the various groups and a lack of awareness about them. Brian Stewart (Conservation Northwest) and Jessica Waltz Schaeffer (Wildlands Network) saw the need to bring these groups together as a team. She reiterated that the target audience is everyone who works on something related to landscape integrity and connectivity on southwest Washington, the western slope of the cascades, and the southern portion of the Olympics. It is a large area that has a lot going on, thus the need for a summit.

The event is proposed for July, and a purpose statement is in the works right now. This would be a two-day event, meeting either physically or virtually, to share CCLC tools and how to use them, relative tools like Cascadia's TerrAdapt, discuss the connectivity data, with a field trip to high priority connectivity sites, and have a portion about small landowners. The goal is to move connectivity data to practitioners, to form partnerships while looking at specific geographies, and finding potential projects that can be moved forward.

The summit would begin to move the mapper tool into implementation. This would kick off hosting meetings individually, or in smaller geographic groups and working with other groups. The Leadership Team feels confident that this is appropriate timing for a summit. This event is also supported by Lewis County CD, wildlands network, Conservation Northwest, and NWF.

Network for Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund:

John introduced the [Network for Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund](#). It helps developing collaboratives create capacity to do their work with small, transformative, projects. The grant has a one- or two-year period to complete work, and awards \$25k. Project ideas include:

- Speeding up the Conservation Program Explorer buildout for Oregon
- Community engagement: getting the Conservation Program Explorer tool in the field with tribes, finding other underserved community to put efforts into, or landowner field meetings with lunches and have a deeper conversation about incentive programs: what is or isn't working
- Oregon expansion efforts (broader than expanding the Conservation Program Explorer tool)
- Case studies on how to use the connectivity data with various local-level user groups
- Making connectivity mapping (Coastal Northwest Landscape Mapper tool) easy for end users
- Future in-person connectivity summit in Oregon.
- What small project would continue with the perception of large-scale transition? Is putting forth a project that helps existing tools transformative? Which tool would be focused on?
- A noteworthy proposal would continue engagement with our existing tools and would use funding to better understand constituencies and building out the tools to make them more relevant to a diversity of users.
- We could target engaging the connectivity data with forest and agricultural lands, which would also give us a chance to loop in the Conservation Program Explorer

Rachel, Alan, John, Bill, and Ann have interest in forming a group to apply to this RFP. Yakama Nation may be the fiscal sponsor to have the funds pass through. Tribal communities west of Yakama nation

could benefit from this. Bill will speak with Yellowash about this and determine if Yakama Nation may act as a funnel for the funding. We need to identify that the work will be done in Washington, rather than Oregon, before having Yakama nation sponsor this grant.

Next Steps and Action Items

- ✓ Organize groups to plan a Connectivity Webinar (in **June**) and Connectivity Summit (**July**)
- ✓ Convene a work group for the Network for Conservation Catalyst Grant
- ✓ Continue expanding Oregon Advisory team and making partners
- ✓ **Our next Leadership Team meeting is April 21st from 2:00 – 3:30.**
- ✓ Topics for next month's call include: Catalyst Fund Grant application status, connectivity events, CPE Status, Oregon expansion, case studies for local level use of connectivity data

Attendees - Leadership Team members, guests, and alternates

Betsy Glenn	Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center
Becky Clow	DFW
Ann Edwards	Resilient Earth Consulting
Jeff Azerrad	WDFW
John Mankowski	Mankowski Environmental, LLC
Jen Watkins	WA DNR
Paula Swedeen	Conservation Northwest
Chad Washington	Greenwood Resources
Alan Yanahan	USFWS
Bill Sharp	Yakama Nation
Kaitlyn Landfield	USFWS
Rachel Santa Olalla	CCLC consultant support
Nick George	USFWS