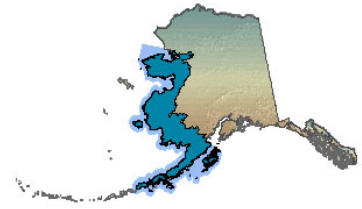


## REQUEST FOR COOPERATIVE PROJECT PROPOSALS



The Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) is seeking project ideas for potential funding in 2011. Available funding is **highly uncertain** at this time, however, the Cooperative may have up to \$1 Million dollars to distribute for projects in 2011 and decisions will need to be made by early May to distribute funds. Due to time constraints, all projects should be cooperative projects allowing for funding mechanisms through interagency agreements, cooperative agreements, a USGS Cooperative Research Unit agreement, or Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Agreements.

The Mission of the Western Alaska LCC is to promote coordination, dissemination, and development of applied science to inform landscape level conservation, including terrestrial-marine linkages, in the face of a changing climate and related stressors.

The Western Alaska LCC is currently developing its 5-year Science Plan. Until that plan is completed, the LCC will not consider projects that require any commitment of future funds from the LCC. Projects can take up to five years to complete, but full funding must be requested in FY2011. Projects that address science information needs for multiple entities are preferred, and projects which leverage funds from other sources are encouraged. Projects at funding levels between \$5,000.00 and \$200,000.00 are more likely to be funded.

The Science Plan for the Western Alaska LCC is under development with important steps scheduled for late April that will help identify priority information needs. However we do know that projects including some of the following characteristics would be useful to the LCC:

- Data compilation, recovery or synthesis
- Providing information fundamental to understanding climate change effects on habitats and ecosystems of western Alaska
- Providing vulnerability assessments of habitats or ecosystems (note: single-species vulnerability assessments will not be considered until the Science Plan is completed).
- Incorporating a Traditional Ecological Knowledge component in the project (e.g. data collection, analysis, synthesis).
- Improving availability of, and analytical interfaces to, geospatial and baseline data fundamental to understanding climate change effects on habitats and ecosystems of western Alaska
- Providing tools and training to land and resource managers for strategic decision making or long-term planning

All projects must address one or more components of the following conservation goals:

- Support coordination and collaboration among partners to improve efficiencies in their common science and information activities,
- Identify and support research, and data collection, analysis, and sharing that address common information needs,
- Enable synthesis of information at landscape and eco-regional spatial scales,
- Promote communications to enhance understanding regarding effects of climate change in Western Alaska
- Enhance resource management through applied science and technology transfer
- Identify opportunities for coordinated management strategies for natural and cultural resources

All project proposals should include an outreach/communication component describing how project findings and information will be distributed to non-scientific audiences in western Alaska.

The LCC assumes that information generated with support from the LCC will be made widely available in an easy to interpret manner and that the LCC will receive data collected/associated with any LCC-funded project (in a format and at a time mutually agreed upon by the LCC and the PI). However, we recognize that some data have restrictions associated with its distribution. The proposal template requests that you disclose any limitations that you may have on sharing data. Proposals will not be penalized for restrictions in data sharing created by policies or regulations outside of the Principal Investigator's control.

Proposals selected for funding will be required to provide a detailed budget, scope-of-work, and clearly articulate a communication strategy to disseminate resulting information. The LCC will work with successful Principal Investigators to complete the cooperative agreement and determine a funding schedule. The final payment, of 15% of the total proposal amount, will not be made until all products and data are delivered as defined in the agreement.

#### **PROPOSAL SELECTION PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The Western Alaska LCC Steering Committee will evaluate FY2011 cooperative project proposals using a tiered evaluation approach. Proposals will be scored first with respect to five criteria focused on scientific contribution, application to conservation and adaptation decision making, and partnership building and leveraging. Scores will be summed across criteria. Proposals with total scores in the moderate to high range will then be evaluated with respect to additional criteria, including: project spatial scale and transferability of data/knowledge throughout the Western Alaska LCC, experience in Alaska, and the productivity of the principal investigators (Curriculum Vitae or Resumes are requested with the project proposal).

The Steering Committee will select a suite of proposals for funding in consideration of both the individual project evaluation and the ability of the final suite of selections to provide the best foundation for the LCC to meet its conservation goals (given above).

### **Evaluation Criteria for FY2011 Cooperative Project Proposals**

The criteria (#1 - 5) will be equally weighted. The requirements under each criterion illustrate the rating levels.

#### **1. Establish or contribute to landscape scale baseline information for key ecosystem components and/or services.**

High – Product(s) contributes to improving a fundamental data layer for western Alaska that will be utilized in many climate change studies but is currently either unavailable or only available at too coarse a spatial resolution or at too poor quality for robust analyses.

Medium – Product(s) contributes fundamental data for several taxa or ecosystem components but without current direct application to studies of projected climate change effects at landscape or larger spatial scales.

Low – Product(s) contributes data on single taxa or from a single discipline but without current direct application to studies of projected climate change effects at landscape or larger spatial scales.

#### **2. Ecological or Ecosystem Response to System/Climate Change**

High -- Will improve understanding or help address crucial sources of uncertainty about how species, ecosystems, habitats, and/or landscapes respond to alternative scenarios for system change / climate change.

Medium – Will improve understanding or help address sources of uncertainty, but with less relevance to alternative scenarios for system change/climate change.

Low – Likely only minor improvement or assistance in helping address sources of uncertainty regarding responses of ecosystem processes, species, or habitats alternative scenarios for system change/climate change

#### **3. Breadth of Understanding**

High – Project is integrative. For example, it addresses multi taxa or multi trophic levels; is cross-disciplinary; links physical, biological and/or (as appropriate) traditional ecological data; enables comprehensive understanding; or considers several major climate system components, e.g.: water, carbon sequestration.

Medium – Project has more restricted focus – single taxa, single trophic level, focused on an abiotic or biotic process but not linkages between processes; some involvement of information and methods from more than one discipline but focus is not on cross-disciplinary understanding.

Low – Project focuses on a single species using methods and results from a single discipline.

#### **4. Applicability to conservation and adaptation decisions**

High -- Highly likely to aid conservation and adaptation decisions -- Information is urgently needed to address near-term management needs. Decision makers are clearly asking for support.

Medium – Moderately likely to aid conservation and adaptation decisions -- Information and products are important and but are not associated with immediate near-term management needs. Decision makers clearly struggling but not yet asking for support.

Low – Marginally likely to aid conservation and adaptation decisions -- Decision makers not yet identified.

## **5. Partnerships/Leveraging:**

High -- Multi-partner project that includes scientists, managers, and/or decision makers from multiple organizations (e.g., conservation and other NGOs, Alaska Native groups, local governments, and state and federal agencies). Builds new collaborations and has secured matching funds and/or in-kind support from multiple partners amounting to at least 25% of total cost. Project efficiency is increased by complementing and linking with existing efforts.

Medium – Multi-partner project – builds upon existing collaboration between a diverse, yet limited, number of active partners; includes cost sharing or in-kind contributions. Project leverages funds from sources outside of the LCC.

Low -- Individual organization and no matching funds or in-kind contributions.

## **HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL:**

Proposals **must be submitted online** via the Western Alaska LCC website

(<http://www.arcus.org/western-alaska-lcc>) by close of business **6 April 2011**. The template below identifies the information requested for potential projects. Each proposal should be **no longer than four pages**. Each proposal should be accompanied by the curriculum vitae of each PI. More than one proposal may be submitted per organization or entity.

For questions, please contact Joel Reynolds, Western Alaska LCC Science Coordinator, at 907-786-3914 ([Joel\\_Reynolds@fws.gov](mailto:Joel_Reynolds@fws.gov)) or Karen Murphy, Western Alaska LCC Coordinator, at 907-786-3501 ([Karen\\_Murphy@fws.gov](mailto:Karen_Murphy@fws.gov)).

**COOPERATIVE PROJECT PROPOSAL TEMPLATE**  
**Due April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Project Title:**

**Project Leader or Principal Investigator responsible for completion of project** (*Name, organization, email address, phone*):

**Note:** each proposal must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae for each PI.

**Cooperators/Partners** (*Name, organization, email address, phone*) **and anticipated project contributions:** For 2011, this list must include a Federal or State Agency partner who is willing to be the project administrator, if needed.

**Project Goals:**

**Methods:** Briefly describe the activities and methods proposed to achieve project goals. More detail will be required in developing the Scope of Work statement for the cooperative agreement.

**Geographic Extent:** (*Describe the geographic area for both sampling and ability to extrapolate information – attach shapefile if available*)

**Project Justification:** specify the requested items and explain how they will be addressed by the project.

LCC Conservation Goals Addressed by Project:

Other Existing Priorities Addressed by Project

Priorities outlined in other science plans, such as Alaska Climate Change Strategy (Natural Systems)<sup>1</sup>, Alaska State Wildlife Action Plan<sup>2</sup>, Western Arctic Caribou Herd Management Plan<sup>3</sup>, terrestrial-marine linkage ties to the North Pacific Research Board Integrated Research Programs<sup>4</sup>, National Park Service Arctic<sup>5</sup> or Southwest Alaska Network Inventory and Monitoring Plan<sup>6</sup>, etc.

**Evaluation Criteria:** describe how the project meets each of the five criteria (see list on <http://www.arcus.org/western-alaska-lcc/project-proposals>).

**Timeline of Products and Outcomes:**

**Requested Funding:** Include the major budget items in the general categories of: salary, travel, equipment and overhead. You will need to show a budget breakout that separates these categories into data collection and analysis; report writing; and outreach/communications during the development of the cooperative agreement if your project is selected for funding.

**Disclaimer regarding Data Sharing:** Briefly describe any known restrictions on sharing of the data expected to be generated by this project.

**Links to Guiding Documents**

1. <http://www.climatechange.alaska.gov/aag/aag.htm>
2. <http://www.wildlifeactionplans.org/alaska.html>
3. <http://www.wc.adfg.state.ak.us/index.cfm?adfg=planning.wahplan>
4. <http://www.nprb.org/science/ierp.html>
5. <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/arcn/>
6. [http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/swan/index.cfm?theme=reports\\_pub](http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/swan/index.cfm?theme=reports_pub)