

Developing a coordinated monitoring system across the Northwest Boreal Region

The Northwest Boreal Landscape Conservation Cooperative is a group of people thinking and working at a **landscape scale** to support **healthy communities and ecosystems**. Our **international partnership** includes more than 30 groups from Canada and Alaska, spanning federal, state, provincial, territorial, First Nation, Alaska Native, and academic participants.

To achieve our collective vision of a dynamic landscape that maintains functioning, resilient boreal ecosystems and associated cultural resources, we strive to monitor a standardized set of terrestrial features. This can be done through a coordinated monitoring system that would specify **minimum standards that will allow cooperators to combine monitoring data to make landscape-scale inferences**.

Objectives

- Detect landscape scale changes
- Climate change or human disturbance
- Leverage limited resources
- Not meant to dictate what any agency or organization monitors
- Develop shared minimum standards
- Allow landscape-scale inference

Process

We held an experts workshop in Whitehorse in October 2016 to develop minimum standards for 10 monitoring attributes. This built upon a February 2016 workshop in Anchorage to establish a foundation for a shared understanding of the boreal system and to identify shared attributes to monitor.

Initial Focus Areas

Physical – Soil Temperature, Permafrost, Stored Carbon, Soil Moisture

Biological – Plant Productivity, Plant Phenology, Vegetative Composition

Change Agents – Fire, Invasive Species, Contaminants



The partnership includes representatives from several disciplines working in northwest Canada and Alaska.



The vision for the coordinated monitoring program is track change by monitoring key biological and social indicators.



The NWB LCC area spans more than 330 million acres across the boreal forest of Canada and Alaska.

Next Steps

- Implement coordinated monitoring system for initial 10 terrestrial features
- Expand an existing stream temperature monitoring system
- Identify a common data repository
- Consider other monitoring attributes (e.g., social indicators)
- Broaden the coordinated monitoring collaboration

Contact:

www.nwblcc.org

Mike Spindler
Co-chair, Northwest Boreal LCC
mikespindlerak@gmail.com
907-371-3023

Leanna Heffner
Partnership Director
leanna@nwblcc.org
401-575-2220