



Interim Progress Report for the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative

- 1) Name of Recipient: **EcoAdapt**
- 2) Project Title: **From Awareness to Action: A Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategies for Focal Resources of the Sierra Nevada**
- 3) Agreement Number: **F12AC00583**
- 4) Date of Report: **January 1, 2013**
- 5) Period of Time Covered by the Report: **August-December 2012**

Description of Project Activities and Accomplishments

Convene Science and Stakeholder Committees

1. We invited and convened an expert panel of scientists (Science Advisory Group) to peer review all scientific materials that are produced from this project. Members of this panel have provided input on focal resources, methods for selecting focal resources, and specific global climate models to be used for climate projections. Several members of this panel are providing downscaled climate data for this project and will present information on projections and ecological effects of climate change for the region at the Vulnerability Assessment Workshop. Members of this panel include scientists from USGS, USFS, PRBO, Conservation Biology Institute, The Wilderness Society, UC Merced, and UC Santa Barbara.
2. We invited and convened a Stakeholder Advisory Committee to help guide the project and provide input throughout the process. Members of this committee have provided input on focal resources, methods for selecting focal resources, criteria for evaluating focal resources, and relevant non-climate stressors important to consider as part of the vulnerability assessment. Members of this committee include representatives from CDFG, Conservation Biology Institute, The Wilderness Society, Sierra Forest Legacy, Defenders of Wildlife, Cal Trout, Sierra Nevada Alliance, USFS Region 5, Sierra Club, Cal Fire, Sierra Business Council, USFS Southern Sierra Province, NPS, CDWR, Inyo NF, Trout Unlimited, and Yosemite National Park.

Climate Science Synthesis

We worked with TACCIMO (Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options) to develop a climate science synthesis that includes a review of the relevant model projections and ecological research for the region. This included working with the Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center to obtain 800m downscaled MC1 climate projections for the Sierra Nevada including temperature,

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precipitation, vegetation type, vegetation stability, fire, and carbon sequestration. An initial draft of relevant scientific, peer-reviewed literature for climate model projections and ecological research for the region has been compiled. Elements of this synthesis will be presented during the first workshop and it will be used to inform the climate exposure piece of the vulnerability assessment.

Focal Resources

We developed an initial list of coarse filter-fine filter focal resources that was reviewed by the Stakeholder Advisory Committee and select members of the Science Advisory Group. From these conversations, we revised the focal resource list to include additional coarse filter elements (e.g., habitat or vegetation types) deemed important to management decisions in the Sierra Nevada, particularly those related to the Forest Service. Several fine filter elements were also recommended as possible additions to the list. To help refine the list of fine filter resources, we developed a set of criteria upon which to evaluate each resource to provide justification for why a particular resource was selected. A revised list of focal resources and criteria for evaluating fine filter elements is being sent to and reviewed by committee members.

We worked with TACCIMO (Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options) to begin developing initial background documents for focal resources – these documents will be used to inform the vulnerability assessment and feed directly into the digital database of climate change vulnerabilities for focal resources. We have compiled scientific, peer-reviewed literature on several coarse filter focal resources.

Vulnerability Assessment Workshop

A final date and location was selected for the workshop. It will be held March 5-7, 2013 at Modoc Hall at Cal State Sacramento. A save-the-date was sent to interested groups and we have created a participant list for the workshop. We have also developed the expert elicitation process and worksheets for the vulnerability assessment workshop. Participants will use these worksheets to assess the vulnerability of focal species, habitats, or ecosystem services to climate change. The worksheet framework is being used to guide the background literature review for the focal resources (described under 'Focal Resources' above).

Outreach

1. USFS webinar – October 2012
2. CA LCC and CDFG Climate College presentation – November 2012
3. NCTC Vulnerability Assessment training – November 2012

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