



**LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION
COOPERATIVES**

National LCC Network
Bi-monthly Report
September 2012

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National LCC Network Bi-monthly Report

Dear Colleague,

The national network of 22 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) is nearing its third year since the establishment, in fiscal year 2010, of the first eight of the LCC's. In subsequent years, the other 14 were established with the most recent now barely a year old. Clearly, the network is still young but as you will see in the reports below the LCCs easily can be described as precocious. This is a result of excellent staff supporting the LCCs but, most importantly, many conservation partners at all levels stepping up to play leadership roles in the LCCs. State agencies from all 50 states, a vast array of federal agencies, critical and highly effective NGOs, a growing representation of tribes and some private or industry representatives – all have contributed to this early success.

At the national level, the LCC staff has formed a strong and effective LCC Coordinators team working to ensure appropriate operational support and consistency across the network. We also have a new LCC Science Coordinators team that is helping to craft solid and effective science efforts. In the near future, a well-constructed and thoughtful proposal for developing a National LCC Council will be distributed across the network for discussion. We hope to have this council operational by early in 2013.

All of these pieces are designed to support our vision of ***landscapes capable of sustaining natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.***

This bimonthly report is a compilation of LCC news and activities and represents a small window into the activities of the LCCs. For more information about the National LCC Network, please visit www.doi.gov/lcc/index.cfm or contact: Doug Austen, National LCC Coordinator, at Doug_Austen@fws.gov or Ben Thatcher, Assistant National LCC Coordinator, at Ben_Thatcher@fws.gov.

Regards,

Doug Austen, National LCC Coordinator

Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands LCC (ABSI LCC)

Contact

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Science and Conservation

The ABSI LCC Steering Committee approved the use of fiscal year 2012 LCC funds for two projects. The first project will match \$37,000 of LCC funds with \$50,000 of

USGS funds for a study called "Seabirds as Indicators of Climate Change." These funds will be used to collect puffin diet samples in the western Aleutians in the summer of 2013.

The second project will be working with the Alaska Ocean Observing System to develop a data portal to serve information about Platforms of Opportunity for collaboration in the ABSI region. This project will match \$8,000 of LCC funds with \$23,000 of staff time and computer hardware provided by AOS.

During the May-June period, the ABSI Coordinator also participated in two workshops: 1) Coastal Hazards in Alaska, sponsored by the Western Alaska LCC and AOS; and 2) Bering Straits shipping, sponsored by IUCN.

Collaboration and Coordination

The Alaska Platform of Opportunity Portal listed above establishes a partnership with AOS that will also enhance coordination among researchers within the ABSI region.

ABSI LCC Staff worked with NOAA Fisheries to help coordinate a delivery of scientific equipment to a study of Northern fur seals aboard the M/V Tiglax in July.

Business

ABSI LCC Steering Committee met on June 4, to review a draft of the science plan. A working group consisting of LCC Staff and Steering Committee Chair and Vice Chair met twice in June as a working group to continue development of the draft science plan. As listed above, the ABSI LCC Steering Committee approved the use of fiscal year 2012 LCC funds for two projects.

Outreach and Upcoming

No new updates.

Other Updates

The ABSI LCC filled the Science Coordinator position, selecting Aaron Poe of the U.S. Forest Service for the position. Poe begins work as Science Coordinator on July 2.

LCC Electronic Newsletter Submission

The ABSI LCC is pleased to announce that Aaron Poe began work on July 2, as Science Coordinator. Poe has served on the Chugach National Forest for 14 years working as a wildlife biologist, landscape planner and in partnership development and community engagement. During his years with the Chugach he has focused on evaluating the impacts of outdoor recreation activities on wildlife habitat and populations. As a result of his focus on understanding human-wildlife interactions, he has also studied human behavior in wilderness settings. In his previous position, he worked to connect the Chugach to neighboring land managers around areas of common interest in research and conservation, as well as broadly engaging with regional stakeholders to promote collaborative stewardship action. He has B.S.

degrees in Fisheries and Wildlife Management, and Geography, specializing in GIS and Remote Sensing from Utah State University, as well as a Masters in Natural Resource Management from the University of Arizona. He enjoys spending time in the outdoors with his wife and two young children.

Appalachian LCC (App LCC)

Contact

Jean Brennan; LCC Coordinator; Jean_Brennan@fws.gov

Science and Conservation

No new updates.

Collaboration and Coordination

No new updates.

Business

The Appalachian LCC Interim Steering Committee Meeting and Workshop was held from July 11-13 in Blacksburg, VA to develop the Cooperative's key goals, formulate guiding principles, and define next steps to take. A major component of the meeting was the initial development of a "3-5 Year Work Plan" that identifies the role and contribution of the various members and distributes work and resources to effectively achieve the Cooperative's mission. The work plan will also identify key conservation targets and opportunities for collaborative and coordinated conservation efforts.

The Interim Steering Committee is the decision-making and oversight body of the Appalachian LCC and provides guidance on programmatic, policy, and funding decisions. It consists of representatives from federal and state agencies, Tribes, and NGOs.

Other

No new updates.

LCC Network Electronic Newsletter Submission

No new updates.

Arctic LCC (ALCC)

Contact

Greg Balogh; LCC Coordinator; (greg_balogh@fws.gov)

Science and Coordination

Contracted for awards for the following projects: 1) Linking North Slope climate, hydrology, and fish migration; 2) Arctic Shorebird Demographic Network; 3)

Streamflow monitoring on the Upper Kuparuk and Putuligayuk Rivers; 4) Fish Creek hydrology study; 5) Hydrologic monitoring of the Hulahula River; 6) Development of updated permafrost map of Northern Alaska; 7) Development of custom snow models and maps for ecological conditions; 8) Thermokarst monitoring at landscape level, a feasibility study; 9) LiDar data acquisition for Alaska's North Coast; 10) AHAP orthophoto development for Alaska's Arctic Coastal Zone; 11) Enhanced shorezone ground survey efforts; 12) Interdisciplinary study plan development - Biological responses to increasing water temperatures in lakes of the Barrow/Atqasuk focus watershed: an interdisciplinary bioenergetics and contaminants study; 13) Interdisciplinary study plan development - Interdisciplinary study of how climate change may affect wetland habitats and the associated waterbirds; 14) Interdisciplinary study plan development - Towards an integrated study plan focusing on aquatic and wetland habitat and biological response to climate variability and change in a representative and relevant Arctic watershed; 15) Interdisciplinary study plan development - How will marine food webs in the coastal Arctic respond to increased runoff associated with permafrost melt?; 16) Developing and conducting a future needs assessment for land managers under projected climate scenarios; 17) ShoreZone data acquisition for Northwestern Alaska (high resolution georeferenced oblique aerial photography and video with ground-truthing and web-based mapping); 18) Evaluating the "bottom up" effects of changing habitats: climate changes, vegetative phenology and the nutrient dynamics of ungulate forages; 19) Alaska Integrated Ecosystem Model continued development (phase two).

Partners for the above projects are as follows: 1) FWS and Woods Hole; 2) FWS, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, Canadian Wildlife Service and others; 3) UAF WERC and Arctic Observing Network; 4) FWS; 5) BLM; 6) BLM, USGS, CSC, NPS, FWS; 7) BLM, USGS, Alaska Climate Science Center, NPS, FWS; 8) BLM, USGS, Alaska Climate Science Center, NPS, FWS; 9) USGS, BLM, ADFG; 10) USGS, 11) BOEM; 12) USGS; 13) FWS Migratory Bird Management, University of Missouri; 14) UAF/WERC; 15) Institute of Marine Sciences at William and Mary; 16) Environmental Conflicts Resolution with Udall Foundation; 17) NPS, BOEM, BLM; 18) USGS, BLM, ADFG; 19) Alaska Climate Science Center, Western Alaska LCC, Northwest Interior Forest LCC.

Collaboration and Coordination

Attended NASA ABoVE planning meeting in Colorado as the sole resource management entity.

Held a FWS advisory group meeting where staff discussed LCC issues with ALCC FWS Steering Committee representative on July 31.

Coordinated with Interior Arctic Coordination Group regarding U.S. Monitoring and Observation Networks in Alaska; will eventually present ALCC-sponsored monitoring efforts to this group.

Developed data sharing white paper for possible development of a data sharing policy for FWS Alaska Region.

Worked with Alaska Climate Change Executive Roundtable and the Climate Change Coordinating Committee in developing a proposal for addressing statewide hydroclimatological monitoring needs.

Business

The Northwestern Interior Forest LCC Steering Committee ratified the LCC charter at its May meeting in Whitehorse, YT. Eric Schroff of Environment Yukon's Climate Change Secretariat and Carl Markon of USGS were elected co-chairs.

Outreach and Events

A steering committee meeting took place on July 31 in Fairbanks.

Other Updates

No new updates.

LCC Electronic Newsletter Submission

No new updates.

California LCC (CA LCC)

Contact

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Science and Conservation

In June, the CA LCC selected eight science projects to fund this year that enhance conservation efforts in the state. The projects total nearly \$775,000 and support efforts ranging from regional invasive plant management to predicting sealevel rise impacts on tidal wetlands. The process began in March when more than 90 pre-proposals were received by the CA LCC. For a list of funded projects, please visit CA LCC website: <http://www.californialcc.org>.

Collaboration and Coordination

No new updates.

Business

The CA LCC continues to develop its strategic plan and held its most recent Steering Committee Meeting July 12. Members of the Steering Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee attended the day-long session to help develop a framework for the strategic plan, which will define the focus to maximize conservation benefits across the state. To learn more about the Strategic Plan, please visit the CA LCC website.

Outreach and Upcoming Events

A regular webinar series begun by the CA LCC in April continues to flourish with recent webinars addressing USGS efforts to model sea-level rise for tidal salt marshes along the Pacific coast, demographic impacts of climate change on tidal marsh birds, and climate change vulnerability assessment for rare plants. To view recorded webinars, please visit the CA LCC website.

Other Updates

The CA LCC has begun work to develop its new website, which when completed, will be fully integrated with a repository of climate science and conservation data. The new CA LCC website will be seamlessly linked to a website called the California Climate Commons, which was funded by the CA LCC in 2011. The Commons website hosts terabytes of data, databases, maps and tools, and by integrating the two sites, scientists and resource managers will have a one-stop-shop for helpful information.

LCC Network Electronic Newsletter Submission

No new updates.

Caribbean LCC (CLCC)

Contact

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Science and Conservation

A science coordinator position announcement was recently closed. This position is supported by the FWS. An interview panel has been selected and will be expecting to start the interviews of the pre-selected candidates these upcoming months.

This next fall, the CLCC will have a post doc (modeling future scenarios and vegetation dynamics for PR and the USVI) and an outreach coordinator working for the cooperative. Both positions are located at the IITF headquarters in San Juan, PR.

Collaboration and Coordination

A contractor is currently working in making a compilation of different environmental groups that work within Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) region. This compilation will result in a publication. The work is expected to serve as a basis for future outreach efforts and also to help focus the CLCC conservation efforts.

Business

Coordinator participated in the following activities in June and July 2012:

June 14 CLCC hosted an open house in the IITF-FS Headquarters building. The audience for this meeting was very diverse, with representation from universities, NGO'S, state and federal agencies.

June 22 was the Protected Areas Meeting hosted by TNC. The coordinator gave a brief introduction about the purpose of the CLCC.

June 29 was the State of the Climate 2012 meeting hosted by the Department of Natural Resources.

July 16 – July 18, the CLCC presented a poster at the inauguration of the main building with the visiting of the FS chief.

Outreach and Upcoming Events

During September a series of talks will be given in Humacao and Cabo Rojo ,PR and also in the USVI.

Other Updates

No new updates.

LCC Network Electronic Newsletter Submission

No new updates.

Desert LCC (DLCC)

Contact

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Science and Conservation

Comprehensive Science Needs Assessment Approved

In June 2012, the Desert LCC Steering Committee, upon recommendation from the Science Working Group, approved the Comprehensive Science Needs Assessment. The Comprehensive Science Needs Assessment process consisted of 1) extracting science needs from reports, workshops, and individual input; 2) developing criteria for scoring the science needs; and 3) applying the criteria to arrive at a list of top science needs. The Science Working Group identified 553 science needs from 6 outreach meetings and workshops and 40 published technical documents related to resource assessments in the Desert LCC region. Members then identified priority needs using a set of criteria established by the Steering Committee in January 2012. This process is now being used to further identify existing information that addresses the science priorities, to identify current science projects underway that could fill the science needs, and to identify opportunities to initiate new science efforts across agencies and organizations.

Fiscal Year 2012 Reclamation Funding Opportunity Announcement and Interagency Agreement Opportunity

The Bureau of Reclamation's Funding Opportunity Announcement closed on June 28. Proposed projects are expected to deliver new capabilities that address priorities identified and shared by Reclamation and the partners involved in the

LCC. The cooperative agreements, funded through WaterSMART, will provide approximately \$685,000 to States, Tribes, irrigations districts, water districts, universities, nonprofit organizations, or nonprofit research institutions, on a 50/50 cost-share basis, for projects with a water nexus that met the priority science needs of the Desert LCC. Twenty-two science project proposals were received. An application review committee, comprised of Reclamation staff and Desert LCC Steering Committee nominees, reviewed the proposals. Applicants have been or will be notified.

In addition, the Bureau of Reclamation announced a new opportunity for federal partners to develop applied science tools and information to meet Desert LCC science needs through interagency agreements with Reclamation. Reclamation intends to award between two to four interagency agreements through a competitive selection process, with a maximum of \$100,000 allocated to each agreement. If selected, recipients will be required to cost-share with Reclamation on a 50/50 basis. The announcement closed on June 22 and 14 statements of interest were received. Statements of interest have been reviewed by a panel comprised of Reclamation staff and DLCC Steering Committee members. Applicants have been or will be notified.

Other agency funding contributions:

This year, FWS received funding for Desert LCC science projects. Because it was a smaller allocation, FWS prioritized supporting LCC science thematic areas that had been previously identified as high priority by the Desert LCC and funded through BOR's fiscal year 2011 Funding Opportunity Announcement or those science needs that could not be met under the fiscal year 2012 Reclamation Funding Opportunity Announcement. Projects include expansion of seeps and springs research to support restoration of habitat for desert fish and other aquatic resources and expansion of an avian climate change vulnerability assessment to include the Sonoran Desert landscape in Mexico.

The USGS is supporting science "round tables," which will bring further refinement to understanding science needs and gaps on specific topics of high priority to the Desert LCC. This innovative process (outlined in more detail below under "Business") is expected to narrow the gap between science and management, and facilitate more effective science delivery to managers.

FY11 Project Updates

Progress continues on seven fiscal year 2011 funded projects. The Sky Island Alliance is inventorying data on springs and seeps critical to wildlife and the environment in Southeastern Arizona. Findings will provide a better understanding of ground water and surface water interactions and inform better management decisions and stewardship of these critical water resources in context of future climate changes. Kansas State University is completing research on how fish habitat connectivity influences community dynamics and species persistence in the upper Gila River basin. Efforts will result in decision support tools that help evaluate

current resource management practices and adapt to the effects of climate change on fish species. The University of Texas is currently compiling and normalizing biodiversity data for all fishes occurring in internationally shared drainages by the U.S. and Mexico throughout the Desert LCC. This project will benefit and enhance management of aquatic resources by addressing information gaps in biodiversity data, as well as improving forecasting of species' responses to future climate change.

Collaboration and Coordination

The Steering Committee approved Genevieve Johnson to represent the Desert LCC on the Southwest Climate Science Center Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Johnson attended a meeting in June, where the committee agreed on the importance of coordinating the science needs and projects from the LCCs and the other CSCs with the SWCSC Science Plan.

The Desert LCC Acting Science Coordinator, Mark Kaib, initiated a seeps and springs conference call to assess the science and management implications of seeps and springs science. Participants, including USGS, University of Arizona, Sky Island Alliance, and Spring Stewardship Institute, discussed research gaps and management needs, how to complete this research in a complimentary fashion and how the LCC can play role.

Kaib also initiated a conference call with the National LCC Coordinators and the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) Manager, John Cissel. The discussion included possible use of the JFSP Internet platform for fire science proposal review and science tracking accountability system. This partnership opportunity between JFSP and the LCC's could enhance future science applications and delivery.

Johnson gave a Desert LCC presentation at Western Regional Partnership Natural Resources Committee meeting in Sierra Vista, AZ on June 8. WRP is a collaborative effort headed by Department of Defense which "provides a proactive and collaborative framework for senior-policy level Federal, State and Tribal leadership to identify common goals and emerging issues in the states of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah and to develop solutions that support WRP Partners and protect natural resources, while promoting sustainability, homeland security and military readiness."

WRP's Natural Resources Committee works on broad based regional planning issues. Specifically within the Desert LCC, WRP identified the Mojave Desert Region as an important focus area and is expanding ongoing efforts in the lower Colorado River and Southeastern Arizona/New Mexico Region. In addition, WRP maintains a vast GIS and project database that could be useful to LCC partners.

Johnson and Kaib met with staff of Arizona and New Mexico National Wildlife Refuges to brief them on LCCs and discuss potential collaborative efforts. Genevieve and Mark also met with John Rice, Science Coordinator for the Southern

Rockies LCC during his visit to Arizona for the USGS Environmental Flow Studies Workshop, to discuss future possibilities for collaboration between the LCCs.

Business

The Desert LCC Steering Committee held a conference call on June 21. In addition to finalizing the Comprehensive Science Needs Assessment, the committee reviewed and finalized the GIS/Spatial Data Working Group needs statement, adopted the National LCC data standards, and supported the concept of a data steward that could potentially be shared, at least initially, with another LCC.

The Steering Committee also agreed to have the Science Working Group further develop a science needs roundtable concept. In partnership with USGS, the Science Working Group will refine the Desert LCC science need priorities via the Round Table science scoping and framing process. The goal of this process is to gather scientists and resource managers together to identify known science related to a specific science topic, identify needed science in relation to specific management questions, build partnerships and communicate results throughout the Desert LCC network.

The Science Working Group has had several conference calls to finish the Comprehensive Science Needs Assessment, refine the Science Round Table concept, and welcome new members. The Science Working Group will be adding a Co-Chair position from our membership to assist the Science Coordinator in leading the group. Janet Monaco, a Division Manager with the Southern Nevada Water Authority in Las Vegas, is the newest member of the Science Working Group. Monaco provides experience surrounding Mojave Desert hydroecological issues, as well as a perspective from a local water authority, both identified as expertise needs for the group. Lisa Soo, BLM Arizona State Office climate change coordinator with invasive species and noxious weeds expertise, has also joined the Science Working Group, replacing Karl Ford who recently retired. Cecil Schwalbe from USGS, a recognized applied herpetologist, will be retiring this fall.

The Administrative Working Group continues to identify strategies to engage partners that are currently underrepresented within the Desert LCC community. This process will help guide the structure of the Desert LCC Steering Committee, and help us determine additional needed working groups to ensure we effectively engage multiple partners in determining science priorities and communicating results.

Tom Owens, USGS Science Coordinator, will also be moving on from the Desert LCC. Tom has led our GIS and Data Management working group. He was instrumental in providing coordination and expertise for our needs. Frank D'Erchia, one of USGS's very experienced science leaders, will be replacing him as the Desert LCC Steering Committee alternate and lead of the GIS and Data Management committee.

Outreach and Upcoming Events

The Desert LCC and NatureServe hosted the Mojave-Sonoran Deserts Natural Communities Vulnerability Assessment Adaptation Strategy Workshop on August 1-2 in Phoenix, AZ. The goal of the workshop was to identify management strategies that can be readily implemented in managed lands of the Sonoran and Mojave deserts to promote adaptation of natural communities and associated species to climate change.

The Desert LCC Steering Committee reviewed Administrative Working Group recommendations on group structure and outreach during an August 21 conference call.

The next in person Steering Committee meeting will be held October 10-11 in El Paso, Texas.

Other Updates

Mark Kaib is serving a 90-day detail as the Science Coordinator for the Desert LCC while the USFWS goes through the hiring process for a permanent selection.

LCC Network Electronic Newsletter Selection

No new updates.

Great Basin LCC (GBLCC)

Contact

Linda Kelly, LCC Coordinator; ljkelly@blm.gov

Science and Conservation

Public lands are facing increasingly complex and widespread environmental challenges that transcend traditional management boundaries. These challenges include managing wildfire, controlling weeds and insect outbreaks, providing for energy development and urban growth and addressing pervasive impacts from the effect of climate change. The Bureau of Land Management has developed a landscape-level approach to address these challenges, which they call a Rapid Ecoregional Assessment.

The landscape approach consists of a suite of interconnected components that provide a consistent, science-based, adaptive management framework for integrating broad-scale and long-scale resource management. There are five components to the landscape approach. It consists of ecoregional assessments, ecoregional direction, field implementation, monitoring for adaptive management and science integration. The GBLCC has been asked by the BLM to prepare a report on regional challenges and opportunities based on the Central Great Basin Rapid Ecological Assessment. The GBLCC will lead a team to review the ecoregional assessment and prepare a report with proposed findings and

recommendations for an Executive Committee comprised of representatives of participating federal, state and tribal entities established by the BLM.

Collaboration and Conservation

Staff from the Great Basin, California, Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs facilitated sessions at the Southwest Climate Summit in Tucson June 11-14, hosted by the Southwest CSC. The summit was held to gather climate-related needs from stakeholders and Tribes to help inform future societal and resource management decisions.

The GBLCC science coordinator has been engaged in the bi-state Sage-grouse Executive Oversight Committee and the Technical Team and helped create a process for ranking science needs.

GBLCC staff briefed the Nevada and Idaho BLM Leadership Teams on the LCCs, CSCs and the GBLCCs priorities.

The GBLCC science coordinator reviewed over 150 pre-proposals for the Southwest and Northwest CSCs.

Business

No new updates.

Outreach and Upcoming Events

The Great Basin LCC recently launched its Facebook site. Check them out at <http://on.fb.me/N0Dymi> and be sure to "like" them.

Other

No new updates.

LCC Electronic Newsletter Submission

No new updates.

Great Northern LCC (GN LCC)

Contact

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Science and Conservation

Fiscal year 2012 funding allocation can be found at:

http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/fy12_gnlcc_final_funding_allocation_june_2012

GNLCC funded eight new and eight previously funded projects among five Federal, six State, two university and three non-governmental organization partners.

Visiting researcher, Graham McDowell from Oxford University visited GNLCC for two weeks to conduct independently funded research on how LCCs can effect change in environmental management and policy through social network analysis.

Collaboration and Coordination

Sage-steppe and Rocky Mountain Partner Forum leadership teams met by phone to coordinate on how best to link science to on-the-ground conservation needs. Partners include Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative, Arid Lands Initiative, BLM, USFS, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, Crown Manager's Partnership and others.

Business

GNLCC Steering Committee met in Kamloops, BC in May for the 5th Steering Committee meeting. More than 15 U.S. and 25 Canadian executives and program leads met to discuss transboundary coordination and interfacing U.S. and Canadian landscape and natural resource strategies.

The GNLCC Steering Committee and Advisory Team are finalizing the GNLCC Strategic Framework, which includes vision, goals, conservation targets and strategies (which partner forums will flesh out into science plans). They are also finalizing the outreach and communications plan.

At the Kamloops meeting, GNLCC hosted the BC-MT Transboundary Flathead Memorandum of Understanding Executive Group who gave feedback and direction on an action plan for implementation of the MOU among partners.

Outreach and Upcoming Events

GNLCC AT meets monthly by phone. The next GNLCC SC meeting will be Sept 24-25 at Jackson Lake Lodge, Moran, WY (30 miles north of Jackson, WY) in Grand Teton National Park.

In early September, GNLCC is hosting a workshop with the Crown Manager's Partnership to determine specific coordination and action items for development and implementation of the BC-MT Transboundary Flathead MOU.

Other Updates

No new updates.

LCC Network Electronic Newsletter Submission

No new updates.

Great Plains LCC (GPLCC)

Contact

Heather Whitlaw; LCC Coordinator; Heather_Whitlaw@fws.gov

Science and Conservation

The GPLCC funded eight science projects with fiscal year 2011 funds. The projects range from modeling Black-tailed prairie dog habitat in the Southern Great Plains to migration of Arkansas River Shiners in the Canadian River to a five-state aerial survey of Lesser Prairie-Chickens. Projects funded by the GPLCC in prior years (with project highlights and downloadable reports) are available at gplcc.org.

Fiscal Year 2011 Project Highlights:

Black-tailed Prairie Dog (BTPD) Habitat Suitability Modeling for the Southern Great Plains

The results from the study will allow land managers to compare and prioritize areas of conservation importance for BTPD and provide GPLCC managers a model for plague management in response to climate change.

- David J. Augustine, Research Ecologist, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, Fort Collins, CO
- Jack F. Cully, Kansas State University Assoc. Professor of Biology and Assistant Wildlife Unit Leader, Kansas Coop. Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
- Michael F. Antolin, Professor, Department of Biology, Colorado State University

Migration of Arkansas River Shiner and other Broadcast Spawning Fishes in the Canadian River, New Mexico-Texas

Given the sensitivity of the Arkansas River Shiner to climate change, the objectives of the research are to document the timing, distance, and rate of migration by Arkansas River Shiner, peppered chub and plains minnow. Other objectives include developing analytical and simulations models for Arkansas River Shiners to allow assessment of spawning migrations and sensitivities to variations in river discharge and habitat length. The results will be generalized to allow preliminary assessments of migration characteristics for other Great Plains fishes.

- Gene R. Wilde, Texas Tech University Professor of Fishery Ecology

Patterns and Processes of Dispersal of Black-tailed Prairie Dogs in a Heavily Managed Landscape of the Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Considered an indicator species in the North American short grass prairie lands, the black-tailed prairie dog occupies an estimated two percent of its original distribution. This is due to poisoning and plague outbreaks fragmenting the remaining populations. The study will conduct a population genetic analysis of Black-tailed prairie dogs in the short grass prairie of Colorado to the eastern periphery of their distribution in the mixed grass prairie of Kansas. The research will provide a baseline assessment of how grassland productivity affects

populations; these data are important for future models addressing the impact of climate change on the local extinction risk of this species.

- Dr. Samantha M. Wisely, Kansas State University, Associate Professor, Division of Biology, Hall
- Dr. Jack Cully, Kansas State University, Associate Professor and Asst. Unit Leader, USGS Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
- Charles Lee, Extension Wildlife Specialist, K-State Research and Extension

Understanding the Ecology, Habitat use, Phenology and Thermal tolerance of Nesting Lesser Prairie-Chickens to Predict Population Level Influences of Climate Change

Due to climate change, the GPLCC is anticipated to experience increased maximum and minimum temperatures and reduced rainfall. These changes and subsequent landscape management techniques may influence the Lesser Prairie-chicken, a candidate species for protection under the Endangered Species Act and a priority species under the GPLCC. The research will combine and synthesize existing data. By combining the data, the resulting models will contribute to a clearer picture of how environmental conditions influence Lesser Prairie-chickens.

- Clint Boal, Ph.D., Research Biologist, USGS Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and Texas Tech University, Associate Professor, Department of Natural Resources Management
- Dave Haukos, Ph.D., Unit Leader, USGS Kansas Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Range-wide Population Estimation and Monitoring for Lesser Prairie-Chickens

The Great Plains LCC funded the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for the project entitled "Range-Wide Population Estimation and Monitoring for Lesser Prairie-Chickens". This project is unique for five western states (KS, CO, OK, NM, and TX) because it is the first time that all five states inventoried lesser prairie-chickens with the same methodology. Further, the methodology that was used is a statistically sound and repeatable sampling technique that will be used by the states in the future to continue monitoring in a statistically relevant manner. The data from the spring 2012 surveys will help the states in their preparation of a range wide conservation strategy for the species, as the Service publishes a proposed rule for listing in fall 2012 and anticipates a final rule in fall 2013.

- Bill Van Pelt, WAFWA
- Lyman McDonald, WEST Inc.
- Jim Griswold, WEST Inc.
- Troy Rintz, WEST Inc.
- Fawn Hornsby, WEST Inc.

Collaboration and Conservation

Steering Committee Meeting

The GPLCC Steering Committee has a diverse representation of members from Federal/State agencies and NGO's committed to applied science in support of a

sustainable landscape. GPLCC is actively coordinating with the following existing partnerships: Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, Fish Habitat Partnerships and Lesser-Prairie Chicken Interstate Working Group.

Outreach and Upcoming Events

Steering Committee Joint Meeting with GPLCC Science Team Sept. 19-20 in Lubbock, TX. This meeting will allow the two groups to discuss science priorities.

Other Updates

The GPLCC has contracted with DW Turner, a communications firm, to update the website, develop quarterly newsletters and provide a strategic communications plan.

LCC Network Electronic Newsletter Submission

No new updates.

Gulf Coast Prairie LCC (GCP LCC)

Contact

Bill Bartush; LCC Coordinator; Bill_Bartush@fws.gov

Science and Conservation

No new updates.

Collaboration and Coordination

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Meeting: participated June 19 - 21, 2012, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Leaders from the five Gulf States, Mexico, up-watershed partners, Federal and State agencies, and coastal organizations will be present to discuss current and upcoming strategies for a resilient future for the Gulf of Mexico. Priority issue team meetings will also be conducted. More information is available at:

<http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org>.

LCCs and National Wetland Research Center collaborators met at GOMA to discuss future conservation efforts and to prioritize future restoration projects along the Gulf of Mexico. USGS National Wetlands Research Center Director Phil Turnipseed, GCPLCC Coordinator Bill Bartush.

Plains and Ozarks LCC Coordinator Greg Wathen, Chris Pease of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, NOAA Coordinator Laurie Rounds and others met in a series of meetings to discuss how the NWRC, USGS, NOAA, FWS, GOMA TxA&M Corpus Christi Harte Institute and others can coordinate efforts in the future. These meetings are crucial to ongoing conservation work in the LCCs and the Gulf of Mexico.

Business

The GCPLCC Steering Committee met at the National Weather Center in Norman, OK on June 26-28.

Outreach and Upcoming Events

- October 7-10 SEAFWA Hot Springs, AR
- December 6-9 State of Prairie Conference, Kingsville
- January 7-8 or 14-15 GCP LCC Steering, Lafayette
- March 4-6 CESU meeting San Antonio, TX

Other

No new updates.

LCC Network Electronic Newsletter Submission

No new updates.

Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC (GCPO LCC)

Contact

Greg Wathen; LCC Coordinator; Greg_Wathen@tn.gov

Science and Conservation

Adaptation Science Management Team (ASMT)

Purpose/Application

Form a technical team comprised of researchers and managers representing a cross-section of geographic, organizational and resource perspectives from across the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks region to guide science projects and priorities within the GCPO LCC.

LCC Role

The Science Coordinator from the GCPO LCC developed the structure for the ASMT in collaboration with the GCPO LCC Steering Committee, then recruited participants with the appropriate geographic, organizational and resource perspectives.

Key Project Partners

GCPO LCC Steering Committee members and Partnership Advisory Council members. For more information: <http://gcpolcc.org/group/asmt>

Conservation Planning Atlas

Purpose/Application

Develop an online platform that serves data in a consistent manner and allows end-users to easily discover, access and integrate existing data and tools.

LCC Role

The Science Coordinators from the GCPOLCC and South Atlantic LCC are working

with sub-teams from their respective Geomatics Working Groups to flesh out a workable solution for developing a Southeast-wide CPA. Funding for this project is being provided through the GCPOLCC, the South Atlantic LCC, and FWS Southeast Region.

Key Project Partners

South Atlantic LCC; Peninsular Florida LCC; FWS Region 4 Science Applications; Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture; Mississippi State University – Geosystems Research Institute; FWS Southeast Region Ecological Services; American Bird Conservancy; Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; USGS – National Wetlands Research Center; Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership; FWS Southeast Region Refuges; NatureServe; Tall Timbers Research Station; National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative; U.S. Army – Ft. Bragg; Information International Associates, Univ. of TN Knoxville, NOAA, TN Wildlife Resources Agency, Gulf Coast Joint Venture, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., KY Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources, Missouri Dept. of Conservation, Ducks Unlimited. For more information:

<http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/cpa-update>.

Landscape Level Acoustic Monitoring Program for Bats Initiated

Purpose/Application

Train key refuge and LCC staff to conduct acoustical monitoring and use data to: Provide a base inventory of bats on each participating Refuge; provide broad-scale information on habitat use by bats; detect landscape level trends in bat population and community dynamics; provide insight into how climate change, urbanization, wind development and other threats may be affecting bat populations; provide insight into the potential economic effects of reduced bat populations, which provide significant pest control services of value to agriculture; and broaden scientists' ability to monitor the whole spectrum of bat species, including those that do not aggregate in caves.

LCC Role

Coordinated two trainings on anabat survey equipment for biologists in the Southeast; provide SCEP student to conduct bat surveys.

Partners

Thirty-five National Wildlife Refuges and three FWS Ecological Services offices in the Southeast, Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks LCC, the South Atlantic LCC, Dr. Eric Britzke of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, USFS, Bat Conservation International. For more information:

<http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/nwrs-i-m-network-joins-with-lccs-to-monitor-bats-across-the-south>.

Forecasting Mangrove Migration due to Climate Change in the Southeastern U.S.

Purpose/Application

Forecast the potential extent and distribution of mangroves under alternative climate scenarios.

LCC Role

The LCC's Research Scientist is conducting this exploration as part of a larger effort to develop an internal capacity for climate envelope modeling that can be applied to species of management interest in the GCPOLCC. Contributed to a recent mangrove expansion workshop and will help develop a mangrove expansion working group.

Partners

USGS – National Wetlands Research Center; Southeast Climate Science Center; NOAA. For more information, please visit:

<http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/5242182:BlogPost:28564>.

Expand SLEUTH Models for the Southeast to Cover the Entire GCPO Geography

Purpose/Application

Project future urbanization through the year 2050 for the GCPO geography and incorporate projections into long-term conservation/adaptation planning.

LCC Role

The LCC identified the need for complete coverage across the entire geography and worked with the Southeast CSC to address this gap. LCC staff will be asked to provide input for various scenarios.

Partners

Appalachian LCC; South Atlantic LCC; Southeast Climate Science Center; North Carolina State University; USGS North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. For more information: <http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/urban-growth-projection-data-available-for-part-of-the-gcpo>.

Collaboration and Coordination

Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands Meeting

Purpose/Application

GCPO LCC representation at the GOMA 2012 annual meeting focused on the Habitat Conservation and Restoration team and the Nutrients & Nutrient Impacts PIT sessions to identify appropriate LCC roles.

LCC Role

Open communications with GOMA and other partners to provide LCC land conservation planning and other forms of expertise where needed.

Partners

Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation. For more

information: <http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/mangrove-workshop-and-gulf-of-mexico-alliance-all-hands-meeting>.

Landscape scale framework for cooperative grassland bird conservation

Purpose/Application

Decide how LCCs and JVs can complement each other in achieving cooperative grassland bird conservation.

LCC Role

Raise awareness of this project and support for conducting socioeconomic/human dimensions research as it relates to grassland conservation among the network of LCCs (help parameterize the landowner choice part of the conceptual model). Consider possible future LCC funding requests for a multi-LCC proposal on this topic.

Partners

Midwest Region Coordinated Bird Monitoring Coordinator, regional JVs including the East Gulf Coastal Plain JV, and regional LCCs. For more information: <http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/jvs-and-lccs-discuss-grassland-conservation>.

Central Hardwoods Climate Change Response Framework Workshop

Purpose/Application

Use the Landis model to simulate future landscapes that incorporate the influences of climate change, urbanization, and other landscape stressors.

LCC Role

Science Coordinator participated in initial assessment of the implications of these alternative landscapes on fish and wildlife species at a Climate Change Response Framework Workshop. The LCC is providing additional funds (\$150,000) to leverage existing funds provided by NIACS (\$375,000) to expand this modeling effort to include the entire Central Hardwoods region. The LCC Science Coordinator is working with the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture Science Coordinator to ensure this effort is useful to their conservation planning, while also ensuring it provides a valuable input for the development of a regional Conservation Adaptation Strategy.

Partners

USFS – Northern Research Station; Central Hardwoods Joint Venture; Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science. For more information: <http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/gcpolcc-science-coordinator-participates-in-central-hardwoods-cli>

Southeastern Bat Diversity Network joins the GCPO LCC Partnership Advisory Council

Purpose/Application

Incorporate the needs of bats into landscape scale conservation planning for reforestation and habitat management.

LCC Role

Plug the SBDN into the process for refining Desired Forest Conditions guidelines for resource managers in bottomland hardwoods.

Partners

Southeastern Bat Diversity Network, Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture. For more information: <http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/the-southeastern-bat-diversity-network>

Business

Connecting to the Gulf Steering Committee meeting held in Daphne, AL, April 2012. For more information: <http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/our-connecting-to-the-gulf-steering-committee-meeting>

Outreach and Upcoming Events

Southeast Communications Network formed

Purpose/Application

Rapidly spread word of priority or actionable information to many people in the Southeast conservation community, using existing channels for communication (such as organization newsletters, websites, list serves).

LCC Role

GCPO LCC Communications Specialist is spearheading development of the Network contacts and jumpstarting its use.

Partners

Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, SALCC, Appalachian LCC and approximately 50 organizations listed on the Network. For more information: <http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/communications-professionals-you-are-invited-to-join-the-southeast>.

Other Updates

NWRS I&M Projects funds three projects within the GCPO LCC region. For more information, please visit: <http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/nwrs-i-m-program-announces-project-selections>.

LCC Electronic Newsletter Submission

NWRS I&M Network Joins with LCCs to Monitor Bats on a Landscape Scale

An exciting new joint effort across 35 National Wildlife Refuges and three FWS Ecological Services offices is unfolding this spring and summer across the Southeast. The Service's new Inventory & Monitoring program, under the leadership of Deputy Chief Janet Ertel in the Southeast, is working with the Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks LCC, the South Atlantic LCC and researcher Dr. Eric Britzke of the US Army Engineer Research and Development Center to contribute to a landscape-level acoustic monitoring program for bats. For more information, please visit: <http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/nwrs-i-m-network-joins-with-lccs-to-monitor-bats-across-the-south>.

An excellent poster showing collaborative projects between the SE Climate Science Center and GCPO LCC/SALCC: <http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/climate-science-centers-and-landscape-conservation-cooperatives>

Profile of the East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture - a partnership within the GCPO LCC: <http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/the-east-gulf-coastal-plain>

Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers LCC (ETPBR LCC)

Contact

Glen Salmon; LCC Coordinator; Glen_Salmon@fws.gov

Science and Conservation

Two projects were selected for fiscal year 2012 funding at the May ETPBR LCC Interim Steering Committee meeting. Both will be completed by our partners at the USGS and deal with agricultural landowners attitudes towards conservation farm bill practices.

Collaboration and Coordination

At the May 2012 ISC meeting, a project was selected to be completed by our partners at the USGS Northeast Climate Science Center using fiscal year 2012 funds from USGS. The project was identified during the January ETPBR LCC /Illinois Natural History Survey co-hosted listening session, held at the campus of the University of Illinois. The project will deal with the question of farm bill practice selection by farm owners in light of climate change information.

Business

The ETPBR LCC Governance document was adopted and a team was put together to develop a mission/vision/values document. Dr. Gwen White was hired as the LCC Science Coordinator and will start in October.

Outreach and Upcoming Events

The ETPBR LCC website was updated and a fact sheet was produced. Video was shot of Co-Chairs Marc Miller and Charlie Wooley speaking about the importance of the LCC. That video will be on the website soon.

The Steering Committee wanted to get together in a retreat setting to establish our top five areas of concentration. That retreat is scheduled for early September at the Dixon Mounds State Museum in Illinois.

Chicago Wilderness and The Nature Conservancy joined the Steering Committee.

Other Updates

LCC Coordinator Salmon presented the national LCC update at the MAFWA meeting in Wichita, KS.

LCC Network Electronic Newsletter Submission

No new updates.

North Atlantic LCC (NALCC)

Contact

Andrew Milliken; LCC Coordinator; andrew_milliken@fws.gov

Science and Conservation

In April, The North Atlantic LCC Steering Committee approved five high priority science needs that could be funded with fiscal year 2012 LCC appropriated funds included: 1) Phase II of Providing Science and Tools in Support of the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (Designing Sustainable Landscapes), 2) a synthesis of coastal and aquatic fish habitat information in the LCC, 3) improved coastal habitat mapping, 4) development of consistent terrestrial and aquatic habitat classification and mapping in the Canadian portion of the LCC, and 5) developing and testing coastal wetland restoration methodologies that account for climate change adaptation. Contracts were completed for topics one, three and four and an request for proposals was issued for topics two and five.

These science needs are consistent with the Northeast Conservation Framework and LCC Science Strategic Plan developed last year and focus on development of consistent foundational information and decision support tools that allow conservation partners to make decisions in the face of climate change, urban growth and other major drivers.

Collaboration and Coordination

The North Atlantic LCC is working closely with the 14 northeast states through the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on an effort to compile, synthesize, translate and make available regional information from LCC and State

Wildlife Grant projects to support updates to each states State Wildlife Action Plan (including regional project funded through pooled SWG funds). All of the states have agreed to include this information on regional context and priorities in their plans. This effort is being led by the LCC Conservation Design Specialist, Steven Fuller and will be supported by two GIS analysts, one located with LCC staff and the other located in The Nature Conservancy's Eastern Resource Office.

Business

The North Atlantic LCC is making a small amount of funding available for "demonstration projects" that allow partners to apply and test LCC science to a particular implementation project or set of projects.

Outreach and Upcoming Events

The North Atlantic LCC is hosting three workshops for conservation managers and decision makers in the North, Middle and Southern part of the LCC to review initial science and tools developed for the *Providing Science and Tools in Support of the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (Designing Sustainable Landscapes)* project and provide input on how to best develop the next phase of that project. About 120 attendees are expected to attend in person and the workshops will also be broadcast live:

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/science/seminars/october2012.html>

The LCC is developing a website and information management system at northatlanticlcc.org. The LCC is completing an Information Management Needs Assessment to better understand what partner information management needs are.

Other Updates

No new updates.

LCC Electronic Newsletter Submissions

The North Atlantic LCC is pleased to announce the hiring of Ms. Lori Pelech as a GIS Analyst to support the LCC science and information program. Her initial focus is on the compilation, synthesis, translation and management of spatial information for the 14 northeast states to use in the updates of their State Wildlife Action Plans. A parallel cost-shared GIS Analyst position has been established in The Nature Conservancy's Eastern Resource Office.

North Pacific LCC (NPLCC)

Contact

John Mankowski; LCC Coordinator; John_Mankowski@fws.gov

Science and Conservation

Request for proposals on Traditional Ecological Knowledge – Evaluation of the 21 project proposals from within and beyond the range of the NPLCC was completed and seven proposals were recommended to the Steering Committee for funding (total \$300k). The Northwest CSC is providing \$40,000 to co-share two of the projects.

Adoption of LC MAP as NPLCC Data Management. Interagency agreement with USGS for data management (storage, security, access/networking) and technical support (custom portal design, user training, data/metadata development). Grant agreement to EcoAdapt to lead user forums.

Held Expert Workshop in Arcata, CA with focused discussions primarily on terrestrial ecosystems. Workshop was led by NWF and attended by around 45 participants with three Tribes represented.

The Science/Traditional Ecological Knowledge Subcommittee met in Portland, OR on June 13-14 for their fourth meeting. Twenty-two subcommittee members or their alternates participated either in person or by phone and web. The focus of the meeting was on the *NPLCC Strategy for Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge, 2013-2017* (S-TEK Strategy). Created an Impact Matrix with driver-resource interactions to use as a means to sort through the very large number of potential information and support needs that NPLCC partners have. S-TEK members were assigned the task of using the matrix to score potential priorities to include in the S-TEK Strategy.

The S-TEK met via WebEx on July 10 and continued discussion on the S-TEK Strategy. Reviewed the results of the Impact Matrix and tested criteria for evaluating the “top” 22 driver-resource pairs ranked highest in the Impact Matrix. The S-TEK members were assigned the task of evaluating the potential needs using established criteria.

Conducted the last of three web-based S-TEK discussions building on the NWF findings and identifying connections between resources of management interest, the ecological processes affecting those resources, the relevant decisions and potential information needs.

Mary participated in the Northwest CSC Workshop on Integrating Scenarios for Future Environment in Portland on June 8. Follow-up discussion with AK CSC on the current Integrated Ecosystem Modeling project in AK and B.C. and potential expansion of efforts in the NPLCC.

Collaboration and Coordination

No new updates.

Business

Steering Committee Meeting (via WebEx) on June 5. Approved fiscal year 2012 funding priorities as proposed by the S-TEK.

Completed joint document on how to best engage tribes in CSC and LCC with Tribal Climate Change Network (Kathy Lynn).

Provided input on national LCC efforts (Conservation Targets, Performance Measures).

Completed drafting agreements and contracts.

Outreach and Upcoming Events

Conservation Biology Institute provided the first NPLCC technical webinar on July 11 with a presentation on their NPLCC fiscal year 2011 funded project – *Creating a Soil Vulnerability Index to Identify Drought Sensitive Areas*.

John and Mary participated in monthly PNW Tribal Climate Change Network Calls.

Presented on how the NPLCC informs decisions in Willamette Valley to TRIG (Bob Doppelt, The Resource Innovations Group).

Priorities for Enviro Issues: Facilitate August SC meeting, Launch Outreach and Education Subcommittee, Update Contacts List, .org web site.

Other Updates

No new updates.

LCC Network Electronic Newsletter Submission

No new updates.

Peninsular Florida LCC (PFLCC)

Contact

Tim Breault; LCC Coordinator; Timothy_Breault@fws.gov

Science And Conservation

On June 13-14 the PFLCC convened a Landscape, Climate Science and Scenarios Workshop. A total of 45 scientists were invited based on expertise in the subject areas. The workshop objectives were: Examine the results from current or recently completed integrated science projects involving the PFLCC and approaches to decision analysis that have been applied in the Southeast, discuss current research that will support PFLCC strategic planning goals over the next one-three years, identify science gaps and opportunities for collaboration that will be a focus of the

PFLCC Science Implementation Plan, and use results to design and inform a workshop focused on management needs. Four science themes were covered: climate and sea level rise impacts, coastal impacts, ecological models and decision analysis. At the conclusion of the meeting, all participants indicated that they had discovered numerous opportunities for future collaboration and follow-up.

Collaboration and Coordination

The Coordinator met with staff from the East Coast National Wildlife Refuges to brief them on LCC's and areas of overlapping interest or need.

The Coordinator attended the annual University of Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit meeting to discuss the PFLCC and partnership opportunities.

The Coordinator attended a joint meeting hosted by Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and FWS. LCCs were a break out session topic and several strategies emerged to improve communication, coordination and collaboration on ongoing projects.

Business

The PFLCC has a monthly conference call for the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee was briefed on the process for advertising and hiring a science coordinator, the results of the science workshop and proposed science projects to be funded in fiscal year 2012.

Outreach and Upcoming Events

The Coordinator is planning outreach to the NWRs in southeast, southwest and west Florida.

The Coordinator is planning to meet with representatives of the five regional planning councils in Florida to discuss areas of mutual interest and how they might be involved in the LCC community especially use of scenario planning and alternate futures assessments.

LCC Electronic Newsletter Submission

No new updates.

South Atlantic LCC (SALCC)

Contact

Ken McDermond; LCC Coordinator; Kenneth_McDermond@fws.gov

Science and Conservation

The SALCC partnership committee (JV's, SARP, ACFHP, etc.) and others (John Stanton, Laurel Barnhill) have completed review of science proposals to address immediately limiting gaps in the development of the SALCC Conservation Blueprint.

Cooperative staff has used this review to develop a recommendation to the Steering Committee for approval. This recommendation is currently under review and slated for a decision by the Steering Committee on July 18. Staff will be moving quickly to obligate funds very soon thereafter to meet FWS Region 4 timelines.

Cooperative staff Rua Mordecai and Amy Keister have been working on ways to take products being developed by the Cooperative and get them in partners hands in a usable form. The first part of this effort has been to take early products and turn them into custom maps for refuges. So far, custom maps of urban growth and sealevel rise are complete for every refuge in the LCC. On July 19, the Cooperative hosted a webinar to talk about those custom maps, other products coming soon and include a discussion of how to get information and products in the future.

The Cooperative has established a natural resource indicators team. This team will develop the process for how the Cooperative will develop its measures of success in terms of natural resource priorities, indicators and targets. The Steering Committee identified this effort as a high priority in the recently completed strategic plan. Several FWS staff are members of this team, including: Pete Campbell, Wilson Laney and John Stanton. It is anticipated that this effort will closely align with the upcoming Service effort to establish surrogate species.

Laurie Rounds hosted a *Gulf Climate Data and Scenarios Workshop*. NOAA, USGS, the Gulf LCCs, Louisiana State University and North Carolina State University worked together to develop an objectives-driven agenda for the workshop.

Janet Cakir and Rua Mordecai participated in reviewing proposals of the Southeast CSC. A decision was made and funded projects can be seen on the SALCC website.

Amy Keister hosted a webinar for the Conservation Planning Atlas (CPA) on June 15, this one focusing on Databasin, and then led a phone call on June 19 to further discuss development of the CPA. The CPA team has decided to split and have two sub-teams, one using LC MAP to develop a strong content management system and the other using Databasin to provide a good data viewer.

Collaboration and Coordination

Cooperative staff Janet Cakir (NPS) and Ginger Deason (FWS/FS) are collaborated with Southeast Region State Historic Preservation Officers on an agenda for a regional meeting in August. The purpose of the meeting is was to begin to explore partnership opportunities and more specifically to lay the groundwork for the development of cultural resource priorities to support development of the SALCC Conservation Blueprint. This meeting included all Southeast states in an attempt to develop a common approach across Southeast LCCs. The NPS is a key investor in this important effort.

Cooperative staff will met with Roxanna Hinzman (FWS) to brainstorm approaches to more fully engage the FWS in the SALCC as well as other Cooperatives. This

discussion supports a related action coming out of the recent GA/FL/FWS coordination meeting. Meeting results will be shared.

On May 1st, SALCC staff met with Norton Webster from Environmental Banc and Exchange in Raleigh, NC. This company works in mitigation banking, as well as other activities. The staff was looking to understand the drivers for conservation investment from the perspective of the mitigation banking perspective. It seemed clear that mitigation banks are potential customers and investors in the conservation plans being developed by the Cooperative. Mr. Webster agreed to participate on the Cooperative's Consulting Team.

The Cooperative is taking initial steps to engage with private sector partners. On July 26th, four steering committee members, including David Viker, met with several large private timberland owners (Weyerhaeuser, Plum Creek, Rayonier, RMS) in Atlanta to begin a dialogue about mutual interests. This initial meeting was developed with strong support and collaboration from the PFLCC Chair and Coordinator. Additional efforts will be made over the coming months to engage with the county/urban planning sector, transportation planning sector and utilities.

Collaboration and Coordination

Ken McDermond and Rua Mordecai attended the GA/FL/FWS coordination meeting in Atlanta May 14-15. This leadership group focused on five important topics over a two-day period. The LCC topic was presented and discussed in an effort to help the agencies become more effective in their engagement in the LCCs in their area.

June 1, Janet and Ginger Deason attended the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Committee meeting in Mt. Pleasant, SC. At this meeting they established contacts in the Gullah/Geechee community as a first step toward building relations for future work in cultural resources. This community extends throughout much of the coastal area of the SALCC region.

Business

During the monthly Steering Committee call on May 2, 2012 Marshall Williams from the Department of Defense was elected as Co-chair of the Cooperative.

The Steering Committee also reviewed and commented on the process and timeline for filling gaps in the Conservation Blueprint. They suggested that staff make certain edits and release the request for proposals in accordance with the timeline. The RFP was released on May 4.

Hilary Cole, our new Student Career Experience Program Intern, became part of the Cooperative staff on May 24.

On June 14th most of the SALCC staff met with Marshall Williams, the new SALCC co-chair, to debrief him on our work with Camp Lejeune. Since Marshall works with the

DOD he is very interested in work that we have already done and in how he can assist in future work.

Outreach and Upcoming Events

In May the SALCC held its second *Third Thursday Web Forum*. The topic was *Filling the Gaps in the Blueprint: This Year and Next*. In June the SALCC held its third *Third Thursday Web Forum*. The topic was *Simulating Suburban and Exurban Development Patterns in the Southeast Using the SLEUTH Urban Growth Model*. This was the first of a series of three that will focus on new spatial data products that the LCC will customize for certain groups. Curtis Belyea from North Carolina State University's Biodiversity and Spatial Information Center presented.

Ginger Deason hosted the *Triangle Climate and Landscape Researchers' Brown Bag* on May 10th. The main presentation was *Applied Climate Research: Turning Science into Services* by Heather Dinon and Adrienne Wootten from the State Climate Office of North Carolina.

Ginger Deason hosted the *Triangle Climate and Landscape Researchers' Brown Bag* on June 14. The main presentation was *A Conceptual Framework for Adaptive Forest Management Under Climate Change* by Tom Holmes of the U.S. Forest Service; Southern Research Station. Ginger published the July SALCC newsletter this past week. This monthly newsletter reflects a continued increase in partner engagement. It includes six guest articles from five different SALCC collaborators including the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, the NC State Climate Office, the U.S. Forest Service and FWS/Florida Sea Grant. This newsletter is sent monthly to all members of the SALCC website.

Other

No new updates.

LCC Electronic Newsletter Submission

In April 2012, the South Atlantic LCC initiated another way of sharing information and generating dialogue about what we're doing and how it's being done with the Third Thursday Web Forum. Now, each month on the third Thursday at 10:00 am EDT, we will host a web forum that all are invited to attend. Every forum will have the same agenda. This is a great opportunity to find out what is going on and how we work, and to get involved in the cooperative! For more information and to see a list of past and upcoming web forum topics the SALCC website: <http://www.southatlanticlcc.org>.

Western Alaska LCC (WALCC)

Contact

Karen Murphy; LCC Coordinator; Karen_A_Murphy@fws.gov

Science and Conservation

In April 2012, the LCC identified 11 projects to receive funding. Ten of the projects were linked together to address science and information needs about how coastal processes are changing the dynamics of coastal storms and how to assess impacts. This is important information for fish and wildlife managers, communities, subsistence users and others because the recent observations and research seem to indicate that there will be an increase in storms that will effect erosion, salinization, flooding and landscape change throughout the LCC. Descriptions of the funded projects are posted on the South Atlantic LCC website.

The integration of these projects is building new connections and partnerships across the LCC as the partners learn of others who are interested in their work and identify new ways to bring diverse programs together.

Collaboration and Coordination

In May 2012, the LCC brought together 25 experts to develop and discuss a conceptual model of how coastal processes transition to changes on the landscape. Modeling experts from NOAA, USACE and USGS worked with local experts, managers and regional scientists to identify the priority science needs. In such a poorly studied geography as western Alaska, it is not surprising that there were many base data needs; however, the group also took the step to identify "how much" information would be needed to meet the needs of resource managers and communities.

In addition to this workshop, we have met with the Yukon River InterTribal Watershed Council, and the Golovin Bay Watershed Alliance to discuss partnership opportunities.

Business

The Steering Committee agreed to partner with the "Raising Educational Achievement through Cultural Heritage (REACH)" program with the University of Alaska.

Outreach and Upcoming Events

During the busy summer months, many of the 2011 funded-projects will be conducting fieldwork. Several of these projects involve working closely with rural communities in western Alaska. The principal investigators have agreed to talk with people about the LCC as they engage with the communities and tribes.

Other Updates

No new updates.

LCC Electronic Newsletter Submissions

The first year of a two-year pilot program focusing on coastal processes is well underway in the Western Alaska LCC. Ten new projects were identified to help advance the understanding of how coastal storms impact terrestrial and coastal

resources. This information is critical since coastal storms and their impacts are expected to increase as our climate continues to change. This effort by the LCC will help western Alaska coastal communities, as well as land and resource managers, looking to enhance conservation efforts into the future. Many of the projects address science needs that drive predictive models, though some projects focus on establishing immediate baseline conditions. The LCC, Alaska Climate Science Center and the Alaska Oceans Observatory System also brought together scientists, managers and local experts to provide recommendations that will help guide near-term research foci for the three organizing groups and collaborating agencies.

The Western Alaska LCC is now organizing efforts to hold a "Stream and Lake Monitoring" workshop this autumn in collaboration with the Northwestern Interior Forests LCC and the Alaska Climate Science Center. This "mini-pilot program" will help establish both near and long-term direction for the LCCs on hydrological topics using stream and lake temperature monitoring as the starting point for a broader hydroclimatic discussion.