

Southwest Region LCC Update

January 2011

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives in the Southwest Region

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is committed to collaborating closely with states, other federal agencies and private organizations to support and sustain fish, wildlife and their habitats through science-based landscape conservation practices. As part of that commitment, the Service's Southwest Region is aligning people and funding with its partners to facilitate a network of state, federal and private science planning partnerships known as Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC).

In support of this commitment, the Southwest Region has been proactive in ensuring the success of its three LCCs. The Great Plains and Gulf Coast Prairie LCCs play an important role in helping partners establish common goals and priorities using the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) model. SHC is an adaptive management strategy that allows involved parties to be more efficient and effective in targeting the right science in the right places. Products developed by the LCCs inform the actions of the Service, partners and other interested groups in the delivery of on-the-ground conservation.

LCC Steering Committees and Staffing

Three LCCs have been established in the Southwest Region:



Whooping Crane. Photo credit: USFWS.



Grasslands. Photo Credit USFWS

- the Great Plains LCC,
- the Desert LCC, and
- the Gulf Coast Prairie LCC.

The Southwest Region contracted a coordinator (Mike carter) for the Great Plains LCC through the Playa Lakes Joint Venture. The Great Plains LCC established its Steering Committee – comprised of state, federal agency and other organization partners – and conducted Steering Committee meetings. Additionally, the Southwest Region worked closely with the Bureau of Reclamation and other key partners to establish the Desert and the Gulf Coast Prairie LCCs in 2010. The Region has hired an LCC Coordinator for the Gulf Coast Prairie LCC, as well as Science Coordinators for the Great Plains and Desert LCCs.

Most notably, the Service's Southwest Region recently named Dr. Dana Roth as Assistant Regional Director (ARD) for Science Applications. As ARD, Dr. Roth will help the Service expand its work with partners to advance shared conservation goals through the growth and development of LCCs.



Desert Cactus. Photo Credit: USFWS

Status of Available Funding

Last year the Southwest Region made more than \$750,000 available in GPLCC to fund 10 scientific studies that will inform on-the-ground conservation decisions and activities. In 2011, the goal is to fund additional projects, as well as build science capacity with state partners.

FY 2010 Final Funded Projects

Author	Project Title
Boal, Clint, Ph. D. USGS Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit	Phase I - Understanding the Ecology, Habitat Use, Phenology, and Thermal Tolerance of Nesting Lesser Prairie Chickens to Predict Population Level Influences of Climate Change
Crabtree, Bob Yellowstone Ecological Research Center	Decision Support for Climate Change Adaptation in the GPLCC: Creating Geospatial Data Products for Ecosystem Assessments and Predictive Species Modeling
Cushman, Samuel A. USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station	Progress Report: Climate change and connectivity: assessing landscape and species vulnerability
Gido, Keith B. Division of Biology, Kansas State University	Consequences of Stream Fragmentation and Climate Change for Rare Great Plains Fishes
Hanni, D.J. Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory	Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative Monitoring Grid
Hendrickson, Dean A., Dr. University of Texas Austin, Texas Natural History Collections	Report: Provision and Inventory of Diverse Aquatic Ecosystem-related Resources for the Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GPLCC)
Wisely, Samantha Division of Biology, Kansas State University	Development of regional planning tools to assess the impacts of climate and land use change on a sensitive grassland bird
Zack, Steve Wildlife Conservation Society	Climate change planning for the Great Plains: Wildlife vulnerability assessment & recommendations for land and grazing management
Drafts Also Funded	
Crockett, Harry Aquatic Wildlife Researcher	Conservation status of Arkansas darter (<i>Etheostoma cragini</i>) in Colorado

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Connect with Us in the Southwest Region

Regional LCC website:
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/AboutUs/LCC/index.html>

Regional Website:
www.fws.gov/southwest/

Regional Facebook site:
<http://www.facebook.com/USFWSSouthwest>



Regional Twitter page:
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