

Action Items and Notes from:

Appalachian LCC (ALCC) Interim Steering Committee (ISC)
Charleston, WV. May 4th 2011

Session 1. Discussion on shared interests, commitment, and opportunities

{Conservation in Context -- within the Appalachians}

- Creating a vision for landscape sustainability. -- Ability to articulate tradeoffs on land use decisions. Involves ability to assess tradeoffs. – The Appalachian LCC must have a seat at the broader decision making table -- Outreach need to engage the various stakeholders – The Appalachian LCC needs to also address the human dimensions – conservation managers tend to make a lot of assumptions, need to establish some baselines on what the public needs or view as important regarding conservation and landscape planning in the Appalachian LCC. (Note: Often, state wildlife agencies lack the capacity to address human dimensions => value added aspect of the LCC would be to find the right people to help states and other conservation managers to determine and incorporate the human dimensions.) -- Need interaction at the social/cultural level – jobs, economy, etc. Mission of Appalachian Regional Commission – consider bringing into group. **Action #1. Identify contact to invite/engage ARC** (Note: Hugh Bevens, USGS, to assist -- he has worked with ARC.)
- **POSSIBLE ROLE:** The Appalachian LCC may not be the decision maker at the landscape level but can provide the key information to those making the decisions – valued added by offering solutions at the landscape level. Help identify impacts and ways to minimize impacts, can be adding value to those decisions.

{Landscape-level Challenges - Energy}

- Energy and transmission development is a big challenge.
- **POSSIBLE ROLE:** The LCC can help address those challenges through a decision support system. If the agencies have a system in place or the LCC can help guide the development of a system.

{Landscape-level Challenges - Biodiversity and Population Objectives}

- All species -- LCCs will be challenged to keep all aspects on the table (i.e, all species that make up the broader biological diversity we hope to maintain).
- We need to change the landscape to support some of the diminishing species. The Appalachian LCC needs to work with states to define how conservation at the state level fits into the overall landscape. This group needs to collectively develop a composite picture of what the landscape should look like and what is needed to achieve that picture based on input from states and partners. This is the challenge for the group.
- **Action #2. SUPPORT/ANALYSIS:** Are there common themes and challenges from the various state wildlife action plans that we can identify?

{Landscape-level Challenges - Climate change}

- The public thinks about microeconomics and not the long term vision. The Appalachian LCC needs to keep looking at the long term, broad vision. Societal decision making is often short term – thus a dichotomy with a long term approach.

How will the Appalachian LCC articulate, translate and market its approach into short term thinking? Both the long term and short term interpretations of the Appalachian LCC's vision will be critical to it's success.

Ex. Shared Interests - Existing Initiatives:

- [Under 2009 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – OSMRE-EPA-ACE-DOI(FWS)] Product -- A Four State GIS Mapping Pilot: Purpose -- mapping effort to facilitate coordination of permit review and approval (as it relates to mining practices). Mapping such things as: benthic information, threatened and endangered species location/range, water quality/quantity, etc., to (i) share data, (ii) assist in evaluating potential cumulative impacts, and (iii) assist federal agencies to make the best decision (in executing their respective mandates.) {Source: Mike Robinson, OSMRE}
- Appalachian Reforestation Initiative – Over 1M acres available for reforestation. {Source: Mike Robinson, OSMRE}

Session 2. Preliminary Discussion on drafting a Vision and Mission Statement

Action #3. Email additional thoughts to Jean and Megan within 2 weeks (COB May 19th).

{General Comments / Guidance}

- Pretty short, succinct and resonate with folks. A mission statement is a statement of purpose and vision is a statement of outcomes. A little on process – like “we’re all going to play well together.”
- Mission statement identifies a problem, how you go about addressing it, and then why.
- Mission and vision backtrack into concepts on notions of values. Make sure concepts of core values are discussed and agreed upon.
- Core values – capture what is important
- Everyone of the agencies represented here have core pieces of how to get there – use verbs: coordination, collaboration, communication
- Appalachians have unique features and should focus on the conservation needs here – conversation is important. A common voice to articulate the conservation needs. “This is **what we’re for collectively**.”
- “...for God sakes put it into English. 4th grade reading level”

[Note from Published Reference shared by Dean Demarest (FWS): “The Vision Framework has two principal components: (1) Core ideology and Envisioned Future. Core ideology combines core values (essential and enduring tenets (= values that hold even if they become a competitive disadvantage), and core purpose (the fundamental reason for being). Envisioned future – must identify bold stretch goals; then articulate vivid descriptions of what it will mean to achieve them.]

{On drafting a Vision Statement [proposed draft text as bracketed text below]}

- [To deliver landscapes that can sustain natural and cultural resources at desired levels.]
- Discussion on definition of “natural resources” (energy and biological?) and “cultural resources” (include the economy?)
- Need to clearly articulate what issues the Appalachian LCC will work to resolve and how it is part of the solution.

- [Sustain healthy, productive, diverse and resilient forests and streams of the Appalachians]

core values (essential and enduring tenets)

- [Sustain healthy, productive, diverse and resilient forests and streams of the Appalachians] ...And the benefits they provide human communities. – (Tie it into communities.)
- People like to know that the statement of healthy wildlife means that their environment is healthy, clean air and clean water may resonate more with people.
- Sustainability – include critters and plants. -- Include habitats in relation to the species they are supporting. Ensuring fish and wildlife species to support habitat conservation goals.

core purpose (fundamental reason for being) – in this case, related to the LCC approach

- Sustain – enhance? Something that shows the Appalachian LCC is actively managing (to achieve desired results)
- Incorporate change – climate change or landscape change
- The Appalachian LCC is a collaborative. Consider highlighting collaborations.
- Supporting responsible development and effective collaboration, and the prospects of climate change
- Shared resources, synergy resulting from shared resources, development guided by science
- Not duplicating efforts, but being able to coordinate at the many different scales the partners are working at – be efficient.

{Related Discussion on Operational Issues}

- Operational consideration – different time and administrative scales by the partners, so consider keeping it in the forefront of how the partnership will work. How can barriers that other partners might have be addressed quickly/efficiently (i.e., we need to design a nimble organizational structure) and will the Appalachian LCC be able to step in when necessary?
- Competition for landscape level partnerships – how to carve out distinct territories the relevance of this effort to show energy organizations – why participate?

Volunteers on the Drafting Team: Jean Brennan (ALCC), Cal DuBrock (PA), Todd Fearer (AMJV), Tai-Ming Chang (EPA), Megan Nagel (ALCC)

Procedure: Jean Brennan will distribute an initial draft to the writing team to start the process. Team responds over the two week (please refer back to Action #3) period. As additional thoughts are submitted by the ISC members these will be shared with the drafting team to help further refine the “zero-order” draft Vision and Mission Statements will be shared with entire ISC for comments, revisions, and adoption.

Session 3. Preliminary Discussion on Governance and Structure of the ALCC

{Discussion on Membership and Representation (Taxonomic / Geographically)}

- At least nine folks here on Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture management board – makes this a bit bird centric
- Where does the joint venture groups fit into the LCC? Atlantic Coast Joint Venture attached their science arm to the North Atlantic LCC science/technical team.
- Consider inviting a member from each fish partnership to participate in the interim

steering committee so they can better understand and help determine where they best fit in the Appalachian LCC. Four fish habitat partnerships – Ohio River Fish Habitat Partnership, The Southeastern Aquatic Resource Partnership(SARP), National Reservoirs, and Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. Interested in defining a more formal role.

{Governance, Structure and Steering Committee Make-up}

- Challenge is to combine the three main pieces – evaluating what science needs to be done, people applying it in the field, and administrators who are connected enough to see how system works back and forth.
- Upwelling of needs by certain groups and then synthesized by a group that helps to strategize the direction. -- Need to coalesce around simple goals, float things up through the governance structure.
- (Ex. of using a Management Board approach to handling large SC membership numbers -- joint venture management boards developed more effectively with a nimble, small group to make decisions quickly.) Will need to consider how many people/organizations for the management board? There are models for determining effective management size.
- Propose – every state wildlife agency be invited to participate, federal agency (resource or land management), NGOs – this gets you started for an ALCC Steering Committee. Next level is a Technical Committee – fairly broad membership. Let's keep it simple...
- Governance – Role of the ISC -- Is a major focus of this group to prioritize science funding? – this needs further definition

Action #4. ISC members are asked to forward on the names of organizations and possible contact information of additional representatives for consideration in serving on the ISC to Jean Brennan (ALCC). Note various organizations have been contacted including NRCS, Forest Service, but consideration of additional representation may be warranted including but not limited to: Appalachian Regional Commission, four fish partnerships, industry/trade association, Partners For Amphibian Conservation (PARC, etc.

Volunteers on the Drafting Team: Jean Brennan (ALCC), Gwen Brewer (MD), and Scot Williamson (WMI), Todd Fearer (AMJV), Tai-Ming Chang (EPA), Megan Nagel (ALCC)

Session 4. Preliminary Discussion Conservation Priorities / Science Portfolio

{Process in Identifying Conservation / Science Information Research Needs}

- Question on process – how to ensure a comprehensive list?
- Create what the “user” wants. “*User pull* versus *User push*” in the vernacular used by NOAA.
- (Regarding the North East States’ Regional Conservation Network (RCN) Initiative – five years ago, before there was a proposal to create LCCs, there was an effort among the Northeast States to pool part of their state grants funds to support projects directed at addressing regional needs). The initial effort was launched at a workshop in Albany, NY about five years ago. At this “Albany I” meeting – presented as a good technical model to consider – the technical representatives identified (hundreds) of needs and through a multi-day workshop discussion process identified the most critical needs to start funding over time - www.rcngrants.org. ‘Albany II’ is planned

for June 14-16, 2011 – see website after June 16th will have science projects list.

- **Process:** The ISC Chair, David Whitehurst (VA) noted the need to identify a process over the next several weeks/months to help the Appalachian LCC identify what projects and activities it wishes to fund under FY 2011 project funds (amount TBD at this point but resolution expected soon.) **Motion Raised in Discussion:** to request to the FWS Northeast Region representatives in attendance (Drs. Ken Elowe and Rick Bennett) to amend an existing draft MOU between FWS and WMI to include the Appalachian LCC FY 2011 funds in the agreement to hold and manage these funds as directed by the Appalachian LCC ISC representative decision-making body. In so doing this allows a more deliberate review of science needs and decision-making on how to allocate funds. (**Passed by unanimous vote**).

{Identifying Needs and Categorization of Science Needs Portfolio (Handout & Presentation)}

- Suggest focusing on foundational science needs that address interests across the partnership
- Baseline information / materials – GIS layers; LIDAR imagery; Consistent and uniform information across geography on status and trends of biological objectives to address management activities and measuring effectiveness. Standard GIS info, trend info on species of interest; Share databases between federal and state agencies – house it on the Internet, maintain currency of systems.
- Assessment of public knowledge and values – human dimension
- The needs identified by partner organizations were used to draft “Science Needs Portfolio” handout materials. Although not specifically identified by expressed research questions/activities it is noted that the ALCC landscape represents 18% grassland and shrub lands and should be included.
- The category of “forest ecology and restoration” as well as “Climate- and Land Use Change” categories will include non-forested areas – working lands/enhancement categories that would include grazing and mining. -- Species and habitat protection – need best management practices, major land use change. -- Forest resources, what is on the landscape now? Forest health, forest structure – major challenges (in the migratory bird conservation world).
- Need to identify projects and activities that reinforce the need to be a seamless network that ties in with other surrounding LCCs.

Ex. Shared Interests - Existing Initiatives:

- The Pennsylvania State University is working on a system for the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture – project tracking, accomplishment, data, interactive mapping interface – serve as a data portal. Just in beginning stages, could help serve the Appalachian LCC. [Note: Megan Nagel (ALCC) is following up with Todd Fearer (AMJV).]

Session 5. Discussion on Developing ALCC Communication Strategy

{Audience and Response to Presentation}

- Important to communicate among ourselves effectively. Directed email (or phone) preferable.
- Agree to communicate once per month. Summary email update with key points acceptable; possibly webinar platform if that is best way to convey and present the information needed for discussion.

Next Meeting / Administrative Issues

Action #5. ISC members are asked to forward on recommendations on how best to schedule follow-on meeting to get maximum participation given time and cost constraints. Discussion on the the model of tacking onto the North American meeting was thought to be less effective given the number of competing meetings etc. Discussed the model used in this meeting of tacking onto a JV meeting. No resolution at this point awaiting further input from ISC members.

Action #6. Jean Brennan will send out a message with notes and a Doodle poll to schedule an ISC meeting via conference call to discuss draft Mission and Vision, Structure and Governance, and set the next face-to-face meeting date.

ISC Members in Attendance: David Whitehurst (VA), Karen Waldrop (KY), Gwen Brewer (MD), Chris McGrath (NC), Paul Johansen (WV), Dave Scott (OH), Cal DuBrock (PA), Keith Hudson (AL), Rodney Bartgis (TNC), David Pashley (ABC), Scot Williamson (WMI), Bruce Schofield (TVA), Mike Loesch (USACE), Ellen Mecray (NOAA), Matt Marshall (NPS-NE), Ken Elowe (FWS-R5), Tai-Ming Chang (EPA-R3), Mike Robinson (OSMRE), Hugh Bevans (USGS-NE), Meredith Bartron (FWS-R4).

LCC Coordination Staff: Jean Brennan, Megan Nagel, Rick Bennett.

Participated by phone: Rick Durbrow (EPA-R4), Pat Campbell (NPS-Capital Region), Mike LaVoie (Eastern Band Cherokee).

Guests: Marvin Moriarty (FWS-R5), Bret Preston (WV), Deb Carter (FWS-WV), Dean Demarest (FWS-R4-MB), Brian Smith (AMJV), Todd Fearer (AMJV), Callie McMunigal (EBTJV), Pat Ruble (WMI)