

APPALACHIAN LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT & OPERATIONS PLANNING

A Shared Conservation Mission in the Appalachians



Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

With his signing of Secretarial Order No. 3289 on Sept. 14, 2009, Department of Interior (DOI) Secretary Ken Salazar launched a climate change response strategy. A national network of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) was established as one centerpiece of the Department of the Interior's strategy (See Map 1). LCCs are applied conservation science partnerships that provide scientific and technical support for conservation at landscape scales. LCCs will inform resource management decisions to address landscape-scale stressors including habitat fragmentation, genetic isolation, spread of invasive species, and water scarcity - all of which are magnified by climate change. LCC partnerships will include federal agencies, states, tribes, nongovernment organizations, universities and other entities within a geographic area. LCCs will work collaboratively through partnerships, such as Joint Ventures, State Wildlife Action Plan implementation, National Fish Habitat Partnerships, and others to serve as an umbrella for science assessments, data management, and accomplishing priority science needs. LCCs will be focused on providing the science necessary to guide informed landscape actions. Actions of individual LCCs will be coordinated with the national network of LCCs to advance nation-wide approaches to such needs as standardized baseline monitoring, species vulnerability assessments, ecological modeling, invasive species control, and population and habitat distributions and trends.

Map 1. National Map of LCCs <http://www.doi.gov/lcc/index.cfm>

The Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) (See Map 2) is identified as part of the national network of LCCs. The Appalachian LCC is intended to be a broad-based partnership of organizations concerned with the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats, water, and cultural resources within the Appalachian LCC area. It will provide a forum for continuous exchange and feedback among partner organizations, scientists, and species and habitat managers in the Appalachians Region. Appalachian LCC partners will aggregate and consolidate existing information and coordinate research activities to meet common science needs identified across agencies/organizations, with particular attention to how climate change will impact fish and wildlife conservation. A secondary role of the Appalachian LCC will be to coordinate its efforts with those of the national LCC network, and collaborate on even larger-scale issues and projects. More information on the intended form and function of LCCs is available at <http://www.doi.gov/lcc>.

MAP 2. Appalachian LCC Boundary Map
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/science/alcc.html>