

AppLCC Conservation/Management Community

AppLCC Conservation/Management Community - within the Department of Interior

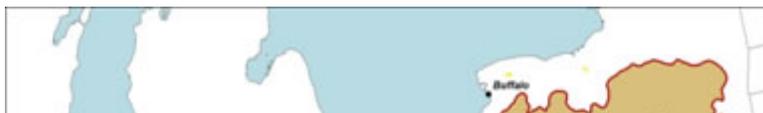
FEDERAL (DOI)



- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).** In supporting the efforts of establishing a National LCC Network through the Department of Interior, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), which takes the lead in coordinating many LCCs, has enhanced its organizational science capacity through the creating of Science Application Programs within the Service at each Regional Office. The AppLCC overlaps with three of the FWS Regions: the North East (R5), South East (R4), and Central (R3) Regions. Each Region is working with the LCCs within their Region to formulate a broader Regional conservation strategy, engaging the multiple LCCs to further enhance the landscape-level thinking, planning, and prioritization. The North East Region refers to their approach as a “Conservation Framework” while the South East Region refers to their approach as the “Conservation Adaptation Strategy.” Workshop participants will be presented an overview of these regional strategies in order to give an even broader context within which to consider and define the Science Needs Portfolio for the AppLCC. The USFWS has over 30 field stations located within the Appalachian LCC, including National Wildlife Refuges, National Fish Hatcheries, Migratory Birds stations, and Ecological Services field offices that each carry-out the responsibilities of providing management capacity. Field station biologists are often species and/or habitat-type experts charged with enhancing, restoring, protecting, regulating and monitoring populations and habitats for Federal trust species: migratory birds, inter-jurisdictional fishes, and federally listed endangered or threatened species. To maximize the effectiveness of the agency programs charged with conservation outcomes, coordinated access to data and research results at larger scales will become increasingly important for strategic planning.

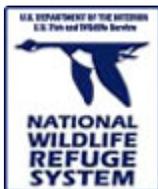


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- MAP - National Wildlife Refuges in AppLCC



- **National Wildlife Refuges Systems (NWRS).** The USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System’s Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Program plan is in its early phase of development but is being established to be “a nationally coordinated effort to support inventories and monitoring at the refuge, landscape, regional and national scale to inform management and evaluate the effectiveness of strategies to support adaptation to climate change and other major environmental stressors.” The program has initially been devoted to starting baseline inventories on abiotic resources, biological diversity, vegetation and priority species – including developing methods to inventory and monitor, building systems to manage and share data and develop a comprehensive approach to data management for refuges.
 - Canaan Valley NWR
 - Ohio River Islang NWR
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- National Park Service (NPS).** The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation. In the Appalachian region NPS operates Shenandoah and the Great Smokey Mountains National Parks within the Appalachian LCC, in addition to co-managing the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, which extends over 2,000 miles, with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. As part of the National Park Service's effort to "improve park management through greater reliance on scientific knowledge," a primary role of the [Inventory and Monitoring \(I&M\) Program \(outside link\)](#) is to collect, organize, and make available natural resource data and to contribute to the NPS institutional knowledge by facilitating the transformation of data into information through analysis, synthesis, and modeling. The primary goals of the I&M Program are to: (1) inventory the natural resources under National Park Service stewardship to determine their nature and status; (2) monitor park ecosystems to better understand their dynamic nature and condition and to provide reference points for comparisons with other, altered environments; (3) establish natural resource inventory and monitoring as a standard practice throughout the National Park system that transcends traditional program, activity, and funding boundaries; (4) integrate natural resource inventory and monitoring information into National Park Service planning, management, and decision making; and (5) share National Park Service accomplishments and information with other natural resource organizations and form partnerships for attaining common goals and objectives.



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- MAP - National Parks Areas within AppLCC
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- MAP: NPS - I&M Network Map
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- **BLM Office of Surface Mining (OSM).** The Office of Surface Mining carries out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) in cooperation with States and Tribes. Primary objectives are to ensure that coal mines are operated in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining and assures that the land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines. In regulating active coal mining, OSMRE seeks to maintain compliance at high levels and ensure that all mines are properly operated and promptly reclaimed to the standards established under the Act.



- [Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative \(ARRI\) \(outside link\)](#) - ARRI is an OSMRE initiative that encourages the reforestation of coal-mined lands in the Eastern United States. The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) is a coalition of groups, including citizens, the coal industry, and government dedicated to restoring forests on coal mined lands in the Eastern United States. ARRI was established in early 2004 with the formation of the [Core Team](#). The Core Team's responsibilities include outreach, trainings, event planning, monthly meetings to discuss progress reports and new strategies, among other things.

