

# Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

America's landscapes and the fish, wildlife, plants and cultural heritage they support are increasingly impacted by land use pressures and widespread threats amplified by a rapidly changing climate. These threats are not just impacting isolated places or a single species, but affecting entire landscapes and multiple resources. The ability to effectively plan for and address these threats across landscapes is beyond the ability of any one agency or organization.

The American public has entrusted their State and Federal governments to ensure the future of these natural and cultural resources. Resource managers must now envision, design and ensure functional landscapes that support the abundance and diversity of natural resources that Americans expect and need. This will take building on past conservation achievements with fundamentally new approaches to better merge our scientific and natural resource management capabilities, so resource managers will not fail in the mission that the American people have entrusted to them.

Landscape conservation cooperatives (LCCs) provide a vehicle for States, Tribes, Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities and other conservation partners to agree on common goals for natural and cultural resources. LCCs jointly develop the scientific information and tools needed to prioritize and guide more effective conservation actions toward these goals. There are no other conservation entities that bring all resource management partners together to share science and conservation management needs and information to collectively build landscapes that will support all of America's natural and cultural resources.

## How do LCCs meet unfulfilled resource conservation needs?

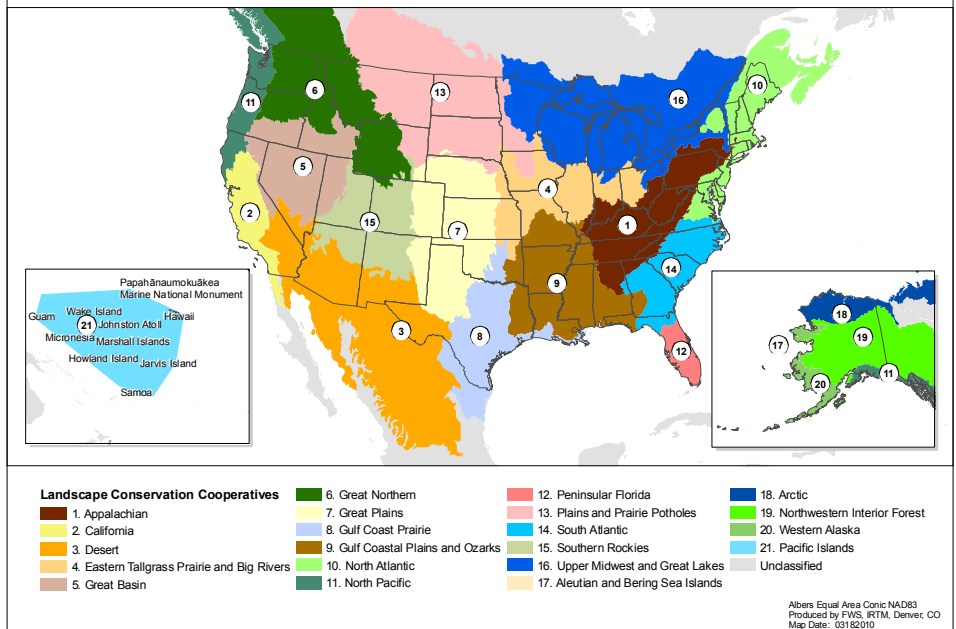
Landscape conservation cooperatives, or LCCs, are the only forum for the entire conservation community to define, design and enable partners to deliver landscapes that can sustain natural and cultural resources at levels desired by society.

- **Reduce Redundancy** - LCCs reduce redundant and inefficient conservation actions by providing a common platform for partners to coordinate, target and implement conservation actions that will be the most effective.
- **Geographic and Jurisdictional Scale** - LCCs manage and plan for America's natural and cultural resources across geographic and jurisdictional boundaries.
- **All Species and Resources** - LCCs

do not focus on a single species or resource, but instead focus on how to conserve landscapes that support all species and resources.

- **Forward-Looking** - LCCs plan for anticipated changes across the landscape that may affect the abundance and diversity of natural and cultural resources.
- **Adaptive** - LCCs apply an adaptive management framework that focuses on learning from conservation actions and applying those lessons to future conservation planning.
- **Maximize Available and Future Science** - LCCs identify what science and resource management tools and efforts exist or are underway, and what is additionally needed, then work together to develop the tools to meet these needs.

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## LCC Role

- facilitate planning at a scale and scope beyond the reach or resources of any one organization;
- leverage funding, staff, and resources;
- agree on common goals;
- develop tools and strategies to inform landscape-level management decisions and link science to management; and
- provide a forum for continuous exchange between partners.

## Partner Role

- define and share their individual landscape-level priorities;
- help shape a common landscape-level conservation framework, targets, priorities, and science and conservation tools needed across the

- region by multiple partners;
- use the tools developed, such as maps of priority areas to aid in their implementation of conservation actions; and
- provide feedback to the LCC on the utility and effectiveness of LCC products and approaches.

## LCCs and Joint Ventures

The increasing complexity of conservation challenges creates a need to integrate conservation efforts across all species and resources. LCCs rely on the specific expertise and work of existing conservation partnerships like migratory bird joint ventures or fish habitat partnerships. LCCs combine the specific expertise of these and other conservation partnerships and programs to increase and integrate their collective science capacity to make planning for multiple resources across

large landscapes possible.

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