

National LCC Update

1. All 22 LCC's have been established and have, at a minimum, an interim steering committee. This is the full complement of LCC's and the focus now is on maturing the individual LCC's and the national network of LCC's.
 - a. USFS is leading the Caribbean LCC with a variety of partners
 - b. BLM is leading the Great Basin LCC (co-staffing with USFWS)
 - c. Bureau of Reclamation is leading the Southern Rockies and Desert LCC's (also with co-staffing from USFWS)
 - d. USFWS is lead on 18 of the 22 LCC's but frequently with staffing from multiple partners:
 - i. Great Northern is co-staffed with NPS, USGS and the British Columbia Ministry of the Environment
 - ii. Peninsular Florida LCC Coordinator is a shared position with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
 - iii. Four Gulf Coast LCC's have a shared Gulf Coast coordinator with NOAA
 - iv. Several LCC staff are on intergovernmental personnel agreements with states (e.g., Tennessee and Washington)
 - e. All 50 states are involved in LCC's
 - f. Eight LCC steering committees are chaired or co-chaired by state fish and wildlife agencies.
2. The LCC staff have developed a strong organizational structure to ensure that the LCC's act as a national network.
 - a. The 22 LCC Coordinators and national staff have formed an LCC leadership team that holds regular conference calls and has held several working sessions.
 - b. Eleven work teams focus on key issues such as; identification of national landscape conservation science needs, development of national performance measures to address OMB and congressional oversight mandates, monitoring coordination, and others.
 - c. The LCC Science Coordinators have been organized and work with a variety of science partners to establish a solid forum for communications and development of common best practices.
3. In March the LCC's hosted in Denver their first national LCC workshop. Nearly 400 conservation partners participated in the workshop with a focus on inter-LCC communication, sharing best practices, and addressing continuing challenges. For example, a special sessions focused on relationship between LCC's and JV's and NFHAP. A meeting between all LCC staff (Coordinators and Science Coordinators) and the leaders of the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units was held to work out better ways to collaborate on research projects. Numerous other work sessions focused on topics such as conservation planning tools, cultural resources and LCC's, monitoring, and GIS

tools.

4. National LCC Steering Committee or Council (name of group has not been finalized) – A national strategy team has been developed by the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR) under agreement with the USFWS to develop a recommendation for a national body to provide support in establishment and nurturing of the national LCC network. USIECR is program of the Udall Foundation which is one of five federal foundations established by Congress. The institute acts as a neutral facilitator in conservation and environmental issues. Their charge:
 - a. Evaluate the needs, roles and expectations of a national “council”. This was done by interviewing 49 conservation leaders including about a dozen either with state agencies or affiliated with states (some may be in this room – Illinois, North Dakota, AFWA, and Western Governors Association)
 - b. Created a national strategy of about 25 people that includes AFWA and states (Illinois, North Carolina, Louisiana, Arizona, Alaska)
 - c. The strategy team has developed a working model along the lines of a “national LCC steering committee or national council that will include representative from federal, state and tribal organizations, NGO’s and the private sector. Principal roles will be to provide a forum for dialogue on issues that will support the LCC’s working as a seamless national network, coordination with other landscape level programs, identification of policy issues and programmatic coordination that need to be addressed to support landscape conservation, providing best practices and other actions.