

The National LCC Network



LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVES

The Western Alaska LCC is one of 22 LCCs that cover the United States, parts of Canada and Mexico. Although each of the landscape conservation cooperatives is a self-directed partnership designed to meet and respond to the needs and issues specific to its geography, the initial vision for the LCCs was that they would also serve as a broader network to facilitate conservation across the continent. In 2012 the following Vision, Mission and Goals were developed for the National LCC Network.

Preamble

The Landscape Conservation Cooperative Network¹ (LCC Network or Network) desires to establish a unifying agenda for furthering the conservation of natural and cultural resources in the 21st Century. The Network is striving to establish an organizational framework and approach for pursuing opportunities to inform natural and cultural resource conservation and sustainable² resource management in the face of unprecedented challenges facing these resources. We recognize that the need to understand the science of global climate change, and mount an integrated response for adapting to this threat, is a foundational principle for the establishment of LCCs and the Network. We recognize that, in addition to climate change, there are a variety of other landscape-scale stressors³ that require mutual understanding and effective responses to conserve the natural and cultural resources within the Network's geography. We recognize that a functioning Network will require pursuit of certain fundamental approaches by each LCC. We recognize that it is important that each LCC have flexibility to adapt to local conditions.

The intent of this document is not to prescribe how things are done by individual LCCs, but to identify the anticipated responsibilities each LCC will need to fulfill in support of the Network vision. Therefore, the twenty-two Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, in coordination with their steering committees have adopted this document to unify the individual Cooperatives into a Network.

¹ The LCC Network is composed of the twenty-two individual LCCs and their linkages (i.e., steering committees, staff, partners and others associated with the LCCs).

² The use of the terms sustainable, sustaining, and sustainability do not intend to imply maintenance of status quo.

³ This term is used in the context of broad spatial scales that may encompass coastal or marine systems, freshwater systems, and terrestrial systems, depending on the scope defined by the individual LCCs.

Vision

Landscapes capable of sustaining natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

Mission

A network of cooperatives depends on LCCs to:

- Develop and provide integrated science-based information about the implications of climate change and other stressors for the sustainability of natural and cultural resources;
- Develop shared, landscape-level, conservation objectives and inform conservation strategies that are based on a shared scientific understanding about the landscape, including the implications of current and future environmental stressors;
- Facilitate the exchange of applied science in the implementation of conservation strategies and products developed by the Cooperative or their partners;
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of LCC conservation strategies in meeting shared objectives;
- Develop appropriate linkages that connect LCCs to ensure an effective network.

Guiding Principles

- Consider and respect each participating organization's unique mandates and jurisdictions.
- Add value to landscape-scale conservation by integrating across LCCs and other partnerships and organizations to identify and fill gaps and avoid redundancies.
- Conduct open and frequent communications within the LCC network and among vested stakeholders and be transparent in deliberations and decision-making.
- Focus on developing shared landscape-level priorities that lead to strategies that can be implemented.
- Develop and rely upon best available science.
- Develop explicit linkages and approaches to ensure products are available in a form that is usable by partners delivering conservation.
- Use a scientifically objective adaptive management approach in fulfilling the mission.