HO_9 – Goal 2 Work Plan Report Card

Goal 2. Landscape-level Planning

FY2014 Annual Steering Committee Meeting
5-Year Work Plan ("*Report Card*" updated August 2014)

Notes:
- Several of the identified Tasks actually focus on work towards integration as part of the National LCC Network or Regional Coordination with neighboring LCCs or DOI Climate Science Centers. These Tasks are identified by the notation **[Network]**.

Goal 2:	Deliver regional landscape-level conservation plans		
Ranking {3.75}	**Objective 2.1 -- Conduct an overall threat assessment**	**Completed**	**Update**
Task **2.1.1**	Annually update AppLCC "Science Needs Portfolio" and develop "Top Ranked Science Needs" recommendations for SC consideration in guiding landscape planning priorities (reference 4.3.1) and decisions regarding expenditures of FY funds and/or other Member-sponsored capacity.	*(ongoing)* **FY13** [Science Needs] **Completed**	**FY13 update** [Science Needs Workshop 2011] **FY14 update** *(ongoing)***:** [Annual Review] suspended (Science Coordinator position vacant)
Task **2.1.2**	Initiate threats assessment by impact [energy, urbanization and infrastructure, and climate change, etc.] that will be required to be combined and integrated to generate an overall threats assessment	**FY14 update [Energy]** RFP **Completed [Climate Change]** RFP SE CSC **Completed**	**FY13 update: Initiated[Threats Assessment]** – IAA with USFS/Southern Research Center **FY14 update** *(ongoing):* IAA initiated late in the year
Task **2.1.3**	Conduct an overall threats assessment that integrates all relevant impacts and projected changes over time.		
Ranking {2.7}	**Objective 2.2 -- Identify requirements to address the human dimension components of land-use change, including preservation of cultural resources**	**Completed**	**Update**
Task **2.2.1**	Identify relevant information to portray the human dimensions (cultural and social resources) in landscape-level planning.		**FY14: Initiated.** [w/ NPS (NCR & WO) and SAMAB]

Task **2.2.2**	Identify and integrate relevant cultural resource GIS Standards/Guidelines, (e.g.: CRGIS at National Parks Service; State recreational and Federal recreational plans; Economic development; Urbanization), along with other funds (e.g., Land and Water Conservation Funds/farm bill opportunities as appropriate) into landscape plans.		**FY13 update: Initiated:** [w/ NPS staff and SAMAB to develop an NCTC-sponsored SDM Workshop] **FY 14 update:** [Sept Steering Committee Workshop]. Also **Initiated** [w/ State Adjunct]
Ranking{4.4}	**Objective 2.3 -- Identify promising opportunities to safeguard the "best of the best" fish and wildlife habitat and plant communities or ecosystems**	**Completed**	**Update**
Task **2.3.1**	Identify current or promising management investment opportunities that reflect conservation of the "**best of the best**" resilient habitat for fish, wildlife and plant communities, including opportunities to contribute to cultural preservation priorities and to reinforce the conservation of other social resources.	*(ongoing)*	**FY13 update** *(ongoing)***:** 2013 (April) Steering Committee. Work Group on "No Regrets" **FY14 update: Initiated** [Conservation Planning] RFP
Task **2.3.2**	Develop a "dashboard decision support tool" that portrays these "best of the best" areas and opportunities to help Members maximize their conservation and resource investments.		**FY13 update: [Web Planning Tool/GIS "GeoNode"]** Integrate (open source) Geospatial System integrated into the AppLCC web planning portal. **FY14 update: Initiated** [Conservation Planning] RFP
Ranking {3.55}	**Objective 2.4 -- Based on articulated conservation targets and objectives, identify and assess potential impacts of land use change on known or projected movement/migration corridors**	**Completed**	**Update**
Task **2.4.1**	Identify potential movement/migration corridors at appropriate level/unit (i.e. functional group, species /population /genetic level, given relevant geophysical variation, behavioral response etc.		**FY14 update: Initiated** [Conservation Planning] RFP
Ranking {4.05}	**Objective 2.5 -- Establish a structured decision-making process for the ongoing integration of existing partner plans to deliver landscape-level conservation planning**	**Completed**	**Update**

Task **2.5.1**	Determine which of the currently recognized structured decision/scenario planning/strategic prioritization process to be used and engage expertise as required.	*(ongoing)*	**FY13 update** *(ongoing)***:** Staffing limitations (Science Coordinator position vacant) **FY14 update** *(ongoing)***:** Staffing limitations (Science Coordinator position vacant) but **Initiated** [w/ State Adjunct]
Task **2.5.2**	Identify all key, relevant representatives (individuals and organizations) of regional community of practice, and actively engage and solicit participation in identifying common species/habitat priorities /shared values.	*(ongoing)*	**FY13 update** *(ongoing)***:** Staffing limitations (Science Coordinator position vacant) **FY14 update** *(ongoing)***:** Staffing limitations (Science Coordinator position vacant) but **Initiated** [MDNR/AppLCC Partnership Agreement: Analysis by w/ State Adjunct]
Task **2.5.3**	Review and synthesize key information from existing conservation, land and resource management plans.	*(ongoing)*	**FY12** Staff, Work Group, contractor [see "103 Report"] **FY13 update** *(ongoing)***:** Staffing limitations (Sci. Coord. position vacant) **FY14 update** *(ongoing)***:** Staffing limitations (Science Coordinator position vacant) but **Initiated** [w/ State Adjunct]
Task **2.5.4**	Charge Work Group with crafting the framework and identifying the priority elements to be included in the integrated plans generated under 2.5.1 [SDM/Scenario Planning], and review of products.		
Task **2.5.5**	Oversee an ongoing structured decision process that provides ongoing planning integration recommendations to the Steering Committee for use in conservation planning actions and for development of dashboard tools.		
Ranking {3.55}	**Objective 2.6 -- Based on the underpinnings of resiliency, identify the management approaches to achieve, restore or enhance system integrity, function, and reflect the conservation prioritization and relative ranking of the systems**	**Completed**	**Update**

Task **2.6.1**	Establish and oversee an **ongoing** structured process that provides the Steering Committee recommendations for: (a) utilizing existing data to **rank conservation targets**, and (b) **identifying data gaps and providing priority recommendations** for closing.	*(ongoing)*	**FY14 update** *(ongoing)***:** Staffing limitations (Science Coordinator position vacant) but **Initiated** [w/ State Adjunct]
Task **2.6.2**	Identify the components, function and relationships that **define resiliency and management approaches** to achieve, restore, or enhance system function.		
Task **2.6.3**	Identify and rank the core areas, components and interrelationships that help **reinforce resilience**. Continuously refine the details and status describing those areas based on threats and opportunities to help facilitate coordination and planning prioritization.		
Ranking {3.05}	**Objective 2.7 -- Facilitate the use of natural resource indicators and surrogate species to inform landscape-level planning, identify and establish data needs and monitoring design that reflect management objectives and conservation targets.**	**Completed**	**Update**
Task **2.7.1** +**[Network]**	Ensure adequate representation of the AppLCC expertise in relevant US Fish and Wildlife Service Regional [surrogate species] workshops and events.	*(ongoing)* **FY13 update: Completed**	
Task **2.7.2**	Assemble or develop and adopt agreed upon vegetation of habitat classification systems and geospatially recognize areas of rare or unique ecosystems.		**FY13 RFP (Terrestrial) - update:** – Staff working thru FWS-R5-SA GIS Staff - remains problematic. **FY14 update: (contributes information towards):** [Conservation Planning] RFP
Task **2.7.3**	Assemble or develop and adopt agreed upon species classification and distribution data and geospatially recognize areas of rare and endemic species and unique habitats.		
Task **2.7.4**	Identify appropriate natural resource indicators and candidate taxa or surrogate species, and develop explicit population objectives or natural resource appropriate targets.		**FY13 update:** Staffing limitations (Sci. Coord. position vacant) SC Work Group following April 2013 workshop. **FY14 update:** Staffing limitations (Science Coordinator position vacant) but **Initiated** [w/ State

			Adjunct]
Task **2.7.5**	Identify factors believed to be the most limiting to specific (surrogate species or targets) and identify monitoring efforts to track changes in these factors and response		
Task **2.7.6**	Develop species-habitat models to fully operationalize the integration of natural resource indicators and use of surrogate species measures across the AppLCC landscape-level planning, monitoring, and assessment.		
Task **2.7.7**	Further refine selection of indicators, species, and targets as needed.		
Ranking {3.6}	**Objective 2.8 -- Project future landscape conditions cumulatively/over time, based on best available science/scenarios, indicating probable patterns and changes**	Completed	Update
Task **2.8.1**	Consult with end-users/resource managers to determine what predictive tools are needed to support their work.	*(ongoing)*	**FY13 update** *(ongoing)*: **[**Cave/Karst Classification System and Mapping] AmU PIs consultation to be COP on monthly call **FY14 update:** [Cave/Karst] *(ongoing)* [Riparian DST] PIs and partners engages a technical team testing tool and help review final product.
Task **2.8.2**	Assess currently available predictive tools to determine if they meet needs identified under 2.8.1[managers needs], and evaluate tool functions, model assumptions, etc. for applicability to AppLCC needs.	**FY14 update Completed***:* [Conservation Planning] RFP	
Task **2.8.3**	Develop the Charter to guide the Integrated Planning Team (subset of COPs with expertise in landscape-level planning and modeling) to serve as a standing Advisory Team to support the work of Staff and facilitation of consultation and integration of assessments and recommendations from the various COP.		
Task **2.8.4**	Identify landscape-level models and articulate-potential scenarios.		(also see 2.8.3) **FY14 update (contributes information towards):**

			[Conservation Planning] RFP
Task **2.8.5**	Deliver freely accessible (open source) data outputs and products that will feed to desktop decision-support tool (e.g. focus on landscape level habitat/species mitigation opportunities).	*(ongoing)* *(re: 1.2.4)* **FY13 update:** *Completed* **FY14 update:** [Delivery via AppLCC Web Portal] **Completed**	*(re: 2.8.1)* **FY13 update** *(ongoing)***:** [Cave/Karst Classification System and Mapping] AmU PIs monthly consultation with COP **FY14 update** *(ongoing)***:** • **[Aquatic Classification]** Literature Review available on Web Portal. • **[Energy]** modeling outputs can be downloaded from Web Viewer (Sept). • **[Aquatic/Ecological Flows]** Literature Review available on Web Portal. • **[Climate Change Vulnerability Study]** Phase I (Report) available on Web Portal • **[Data Needs]** Analysis and State review (reporting) download from Web Portal. • **[Riparian DST under Climate Change]** working thru EBTJV- updated by State Partners data delivery. • **[Cave/Karst Classification]** Literature Report available on Web Portal
Task **2.8.6**	Assess data gaps and define an ongoing "futuring" process to fill knowledge gaps, monitor emerging trends, and adapt existing efforts.		**FY14 update: (contributes information towards):** [Conservation Planning] RFP
Ranking {3.0}	**Objective 2.9 -- Provide guidance on how much habitat is necessary for sustainable/resilient (healthy ecosystem) outcomes**	Completed	Update
Task **2.9.1**	Define and offer recommendations on what type and how much habitat is necessary for sustainable/resilient (healthy) outcomes and to achieve conservation targets.		**FY14 update: (contributes information towards):** [Conservation Planning] RFP **FY14 update: (contributes information towards):** [Energy] Build-out Modeling Projections
Task **2.9.2**	Develop tools and models to identify strategic opportunities (including integration of private lands into the broader conservation	*(ongoing):*	**FY14 update:** Annual update *(ongoing):* includes integration and

matrix).		deliver of products supported through RFP • [Energy] data and build-out • [Riparian Restoration DST] **FY14 update: (contributes information towards): [Conservation Planning]** RFP

Details

Task **2.1.2**	Initiate threats assessment by impact [energy, urbanization and infrastructure, and climate change, etc.] that will be required to be combined and integrated to generate an overall threats assessment • **[Climate Change]** Initiated RFP under SE CSC funding: Down-scale Climate modeling across the entire AppLCC boundary. **Completed** • **[Threats Assessment]** –IAA with USFS/Southern Research Center Threats Assessment Center /Post-Doc hired to conduct AppLCC-region (a) threats and (b) environmental services assessment with geospatial reference data
Task **2.2.2**	Identify and integrate relevant cultural resource GIS Standards/Guidelines, (e.g.: CRGIS at National Parks Service; State recreational and Federal recreational plans; Economic development; Urbanization), along with other funds (e.g., Land and Water Conservation Funds/farm bill opportunities as appropriate) into landscape plans. • **FY 14 update:** [Sept Steering Committee Workshop: [Introductions by NPS staff and partners on: Legal Framework from NHPA and Heritage Resources at the landscape level; to the National Heritage Program; Traditional Cultural Properties; People on the Land and along the Water; and DOI LCC Focus for Natural Resources & Cultural Resources. DOI Initiative- Approach to SO3330; and the CRGIS planning tool)]. [Introduction by SAMAB Executive Director, NEMAC partner, and Blue Ridge NHA application of the (Socio-Economic based Planning Tool "Vitality Index".)]
Task **2.3.1**	Identify current or promising management investment opportunities that reflect conservation of the "**best of the best**" resilient habitat for fish, wildlife and plant communities, including opportunities to contribute to cultural preservation priorities and to reinforce the conservation of other social resources. • **FY14 update: Initiated** [Conservation Planning] RFP to Rob Baldwin, Clemson University. Sept 2014 Steering Committee Meeting. Presentation on Conservation Planning Models and Facilitated Workshop to Identify Priority Resources (in modeling lingo "targets"). The "No Regrets" dataset serves as the 'base (modeling) scenario for September Steering Committee Workshop.

Task **2.4.1**	Identify potential movement/migration corridors at appropriate level/unit (i.e. functional group, species /population /genetic level, given relevant geophysical variation, behavioral response etc. • **FY14 update: Initiated** [Conservation Planning] RFP to Rob Baldwin, Clemson University. Sept 2014 Steering Committee Meeting. Presentation on Conservation Planning Models and Facilitated Workshop to Identify Priority Resources (in modeling lingo "targets"). Modeling effort presents a suite of possible scenarios (scenario representing possible Steering Committee identified Priority Resource developed prior to September Workshop) and integrated connectivity factors using programming (Circuit scape ex.)
Task **2.7.4**	Identify appropriate natural resource indicators and candidate taxa or surrogate species, and develop explicit population objectives or natural resource appropriate targets. • **FY13 update:** Staffing limitations (Science Coordinator position vacant) FWS SA staff work with SC Work Group charged to develop a list of Natural Resource Indicators and application of Surrogate Species, following April 2013 workshop. • **FY14 update:** Staffing limitations (Science Coordinator position vacant) but **Initiated** [w/ State Adjunct]
Task **2.8.5**	Deliver freely accessible (open source) data outputs and products that will feed to desktop decision-support tool (e.g. focus on landscape level habitat/species mitigation opportunities). *(re: 1.2.4)* • **FY13 update:** AppLCC staff developing data request/access process information file via web portal. ***Completed*** **FY14 update** *(ongoing)***:** • **2012-01 [Aquatic Classification]** Literature Review available on Web Portal. • **2012-02 [Energy]** modeling outputs can be downloaded from Web Viewer (Sept). • **2012-03 [Aquatic/Ecological Flows]** Literature Review available on Web Portal. • **2012-04 [Climate Change Vulnerability Study]** Phase I (Report) available on Web Portal & underlying source data used to ID species selection for in-depth CCVA available on-line (by state and habitat type/NS ecosystem classification system.) • **2013-01 [Data Needs]** Analysis and State review (reporting) download from Web Portal. • **2013-03 [Riparian DST under Climate Change]** working with EBTJV Partnership, updated by State Partners data delivery. • **2013-04 [Cave/Karst Classification]** Literature Report available on Web Portal