



## Steering Committee/Partner Meetings: Feb. 4 – Feb. 5, 2015 FFA Leadership Center, Haines City, FL

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*Participants: Tim Breault, Steve Traxler, Beth Stys, Dave Hankla, Andrew Townsend, Lisa Thompson, Bill Miller, Barry Rosen, Caroline Gorga, Allison Benscoter, Doria Gordon, Laura Brandt, Stephanie Romanach, Bob Ford, Scott Sanders, Jay Harrington, Dennis David, Julie Morris, Charles Shinn, Ernie Cox, Greg Galpin*

**Meeting purpose:** A forum for the steering committee of the Peninsular FL LCC to review, discuss and understand the shared vision of the PFLCC.

**Meeting objectives:** Discuss how the PFLCC should move from planning to implementation in order to achieve Vision and Mission.

### Links related to the meeting:

- Florida's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP): <http://myfwc.com/conservation/special-initiatives/fwli/action-plan/>
- PFLCC Charter and Business Plan: <http://peninsularfloridalcc.org/page/pflcc-charter-draft>
- Words Matter – LCC Network Terminology: <http://peninsularfloridalcc.org/page/steering-committee>
- PFLCC overview (see attachment)
- USFWS Science Investment and Accountability Schedule for LCCs: <http://peninsularfloridalcc.org/page/steering-committee>

### Key decisions from meeting:

- SWAP will be the biological starting point for choosing priority resources and setting conservation targets. The human dimension/ecosystem services aspect will need to be added in later.
- A smaller, sub-group has formed to focus on a pilot plan for using SW FL and work from the Cooperative Conservation Blueprint (CCB) for on the ground conservation delivery that can be done now.
- Doria Gordon is now the Steering Committee Chair; unanimous consent that Ernie Cox will now be Vice Chair.

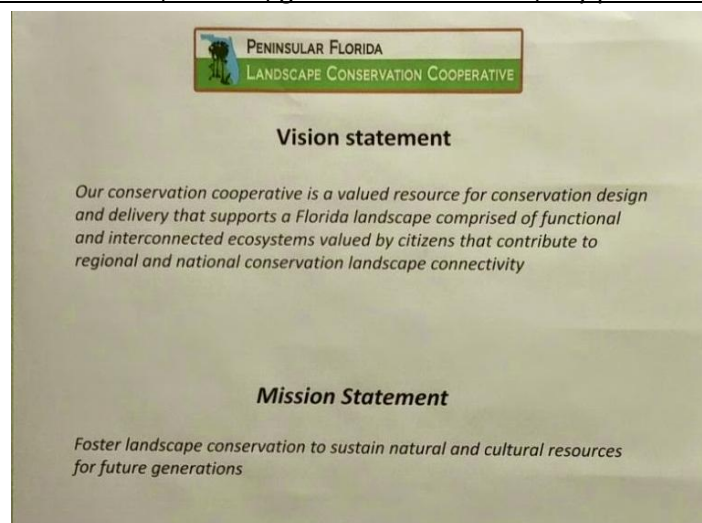
- The next in-person meeting will be in May, following the group consensus that the two half-day/overnight structure is preferred (allowing break-out evening sessions).

### Action items:

- To create a technical team for developing conservation targets, the group was asked to nominate either themselves or colleagues. Nominations due two weeks from meeting: Feb. 20. Send to Beth [beth.stys@myfwc.com](mailto:beth.stys@myfwc.com)
  - Nominators: provide information to nominees on what they are being asked to do
  - Nominees must be available through this spring and summer; once the team has been assembled, Stephanie will be contacting the group to get started
  - If you know of people that should be involved with this, but are not available for the time frame necessary, do not nominate them for the technical team – there will be opportunities for them get involved in review process later on
  - Drafts will be shared with the steering committee throughout this time frame
- Once the technical team is formed, a charter will be written by Tim, Beth and Steve to organize roles and responsibilities of the team.
- SW FL sub-group: Julie Morris will follow up with.
- Steering committee members: look at the PFLCC 5 year strategic plan and see if it applies to your own organization. If not, advise Tim and we can always revise.

**Meeting opening, Tim Breault:** The context for the meeting is about what is meant by the term, “conservation targets”; in the last steering committee meeting, there were many questions generated in regards to this. Although each agency and organization represented by steering committee members has their own priority resources, the LCC is looking for common ground to look at the bigger landscape in Florida.

Overview of LCCs and PFLCC vision, mission, governance structure, key phrases and core science focus.



- Tim: Moving forward, we need to create a technical implementation team to begin process of identifying priority resources and conservation targets.
- Group discussion

**What does conservation success look like? What do the partners need to do to achieve success? Group discussion:**

- The PFLCC has facilitated a multi-agency partnership to achieve land conservation (fee simple/easements) of highest collective ecological priorities.
- Conservation stakeholders have an understanding and awareness of landscape conservation targets developed by the LCC.
- We have mechanisms in place to allow priority public/private focal areas and collaborative management approaches that facilitate function and resilience.
- Develop useful tools for people to use to achieve statewide vision. The work of the LCC is a resource that is useful and being used; it's important for this group to plan for conservation delivery – at 100,000 foot level – this group could be the unifying effort for the state.
- Achieved landscape connectivity through collaboration (effective and rapid).
- People who deliver conservation operate on a common knowledge base, facilitated by the LCC.
- Science capacity in place to determine why we did not succeed (adaptive science).
- Have an evolving plan through a collaborative process.
- Infrastructure planning incorporated into LCC planning; infrastructure planners use LCC plans.
- Be relevant to the community – not just the conservation community. Get feedback; develop products that are useful and used by those on the ground.
- Complementary Conservation Delivery.
- Stream-lined conservation: communication, collaboration, reduce/remove duplications
- Set of visuals of plan – so that we can see where and what we are trying to conserve.
- Bring in relevant partners/agencies – we as a group need to make more of an effort to do so; right now missing some key people at the table.

**What are the key components of your vision of a Florida that has been successfully conserved? Group discussion:**

- Connected landscapes.
- Connection of stakeholders, using products that cross boundaries – synergy, communication
- More natural water management: restore natural hydrology, increase spatial extent of natural water areas, reservoirs vs. wetlands.
- Mosaic of public/private landscapes: working landscapes (Ag, timber, grazing) – understand benefits of conservation linkages. (Secoded)
- Well managed (healthy) lands/habitats.
- Sufficient water supplies – no more water wars; solutions and sufficient water for everyone (environment, people, Ag, etc.).

- Sustainable landscapes dealing with future changes, threats, stressors - natural and built environments.
- Improved water quality (estuaries, springs, canals, etc.).
- New infrastructure designed to be consistent with connectivity and management desired conditions.
- Sustained coastal dynamics/systems – shoreline migration, recreation, etc.
- Growth management that supports ecosystem viability.
- A way to facilitate land management practices and planning tools that promote a balance of the needs of species and humans (develop and provide access to tools – delivery).
- Functional systems that can sustain people and wildlife. Healthy systems on public lands and working landscapes for species, while allowing humans their use.
- Widespread public support – measured by a next generation that cares.
- A well developed, broadly supported conservation ethic that promotes sustainable human and natural systems.
- Need to be agile and adaptive, climate-responsive and proactive to future changes.

## Creating priority resource options (defining characteristics):

- Definitions

**Objective:** Develop a shared vision of important natural resource landscapes to enhance collaborative conservation.

### Priority Resources

The set of biological, ecological, cultural features and ecological processes that have been collaboratively identified by LCC Steering Committees and that are the focus of the LCC's planning, science and measurable objectives.

### Indicator

An attribute or value that informs us about desired landscape conditions.

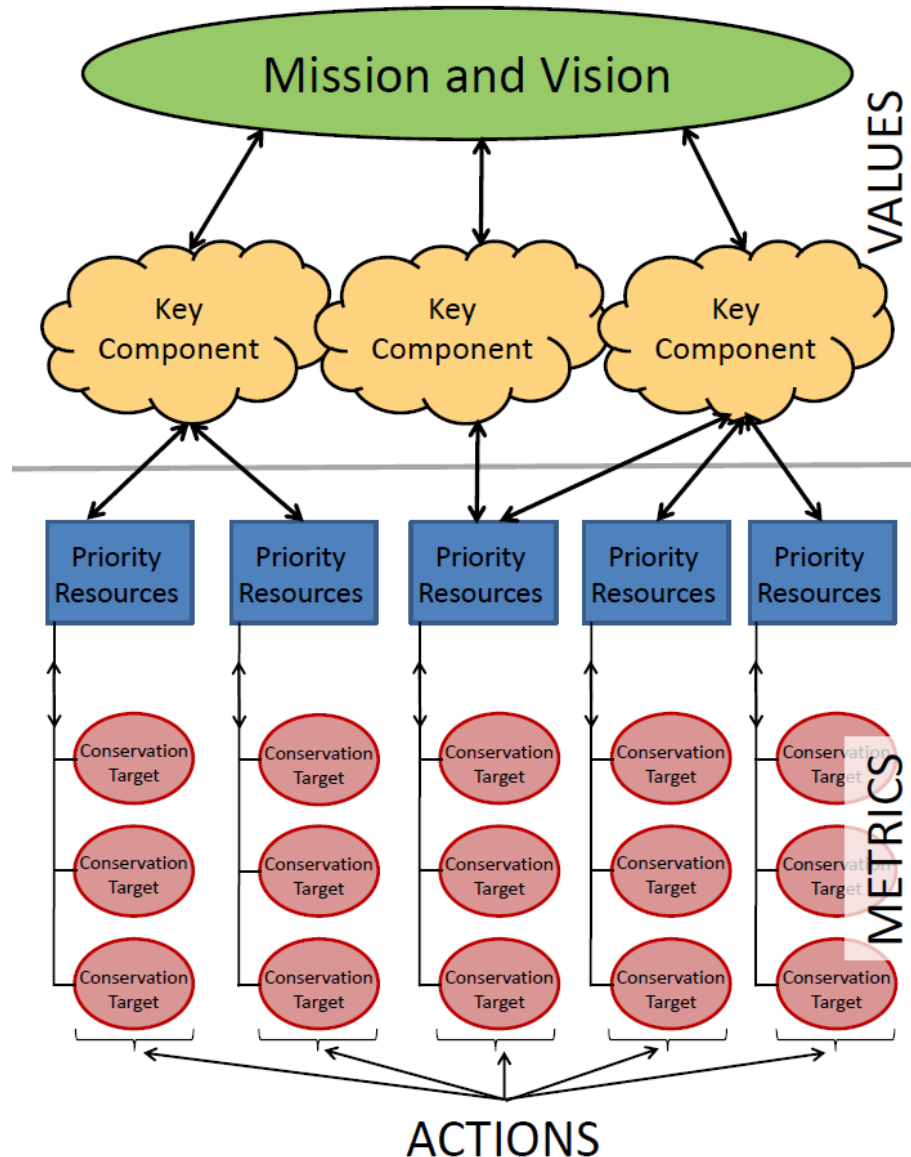
### Conservation Targets

Targets are measurable expressions of desired resource conditions that are established by the LCC partnership. Targets are a measurable endpoint of indicators.

- *Numbers of animals or breeding pairs*
- *Species distribution and abundance*
- *Habitat size, condition, distribution and connectivity*
- *Ecosystem functionality*
- *Ecosystem services*
- *Human endpoints*

- Identification of Priority Resources

Beth: What characteristics would make a good priority resource?



**Group discussion:**

- Build from existing processes – use SWAP (it is habitat based). Take this larger work and break it into less categories and see how they can be rolled up into key components – see if habitat categories can be rolled up to get us to priority resources. SWAP would be supported at the state level; there are already resources and a team for this. Approval by group for proposal of SWAP as a starting point – can adapt as we go. May need to add public support.

## Characteristics – group discussion:

- Priority resources need to be responsive to actions
- Utilization of other system classifications – e.g.: Natureserve, so there are similarities to other LCCs and across landscapes
- Link with other LCCs, especially neighboring ones
- Be able to clearly link priority resources to key components
- Limited number of measurable
- Nest SWAP habitats in a way that best represents key components (ex: hydro systems, fire dependent systems, coastal)
- Conservation target can cross-cut to multiple priority resources
- Working lands are incorporated – landscape integrity
- Consider human values as a component
- Hydrology – how this group can have as a priority resource the infrastructure that the Everglades has transfer to not just a place to store water; group discussion on Everglades topic:
  - If Everglades is listed as a priority resource, restoration of glade system is tied to many others – make sure it's tied to entire watershed – measure how well the state is doing
  - Look at gaps – what currently isn't being done
  - Linkages of bigger picture
  - Natural systems
  - Work done to date; restoration
- Define where/how priority resources were identified, selected and developed
- Need leadership buy-in; both top-down and bottom-up

## **Ecosystem and human dimensions components moving forward. Group discussion:**

- Recognizing uniqueness of Florida – include clear direction in addition to ecological measures that we look at the social side (not just people enjoying the outdoors, but on statewide mandate by voters to spend money on conservation w/Amendment 1)
- Groups getting funding at the local and federal levels reporting on what they've done with Amendment 1 funds, but there is no one entity reporting on whole strategy – this group, the LCC, could be the organization reporting on whole effort state-wide
- Track Amendment 1 progress
- Look for all conservation accomplishments
- Tie tracking into the priority resources we're building
- Make this a feedback strategy from society on how they want FL to look – is the money from Amendment 1 being spent where they want?
- Public access is a measure of societal needs – priority resources of refuges' public access are part of their mission

- Before the election, The Nature Conservancy did a poll to assess public opinion on Amendment 1 – possible baseline measure
- Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) – likely choice for online mapping/tracking of Amendment 1 funds spent; we can't volunteer them, but can ask – they already spatially track conservation areas
- Society wants to know now if something is happening with Amendment 1 funds and spending on conservation – if you start to see a map or other visual fill in with conservation spending, the public will see the money being spent where it was meant to and creates a comprehensive list of what the state is doing with this conservation purchasing – can the LCC work on this?
- LCC did originally have someone lined up to add in human dimensions with setting priority resources and conservation targets; the person for the position is no longer available, but the LCC will continue to incorporate human dimensions/ecosystem services

## **Meeting wrap-up and adjournment**