



Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Newsletter, *The Monitor*



June 2012



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Headlines at a Glance:

Highlight:

Two USFWS I&M Ecologist Positions with the Southeast Region National Wildlife Refuge System **open until Aug 13, 2012:**

I&M Aquatic Ecologist (GS-9/11)

[R4-12-713480-CI-MP \(Status Candidates\):](#)

[R4-12-713507-CI-DEU \(General Public Applicants\):](#)

I&M Coastal Ecologist (GS-9/11)

[R4-12-713286-CI-MP \(Status Applicants\):](#)

The Wide Angle View

News from Greg Wathen, LCC Coordinator

Climate Science Centers, and Gulf Coast Prairie LCC Steering Committee Meeting

The Gulf Coast Prairie LCC, our sister LCC to the east of the GCPO, held its recent Steering Committee meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, and the regional Climate Science Centers were also meeting at the same time and venue. The meetings were held at the National Weather Center, which is housed on the Oklahoma University campus, about 20 miles south of Oklahoma City. The National Weather Center is a really interesting facility, and includes the Storm Prediction Center, which is responsible for tracking storm events (except hurricanes) all across the conterminous 48 states of the United States. When you see a Tornado Watch issued in your area, that watch was issued by the Storm Prediction Center.

[read more](#)

SECAS and the Southern Forest Futures Project

A few days ago, I came across a report of the Southern Forest Futures Project, which was put out last year by the U.S. Forest Service and Southern Group of State Foresters. One thing that really struck me about this report, is that for me, it is a great articulation of the reason

[R4-12-713352-CI-DEU
\(General Public Applicants\):](#)

Greg Wathen's blogs

[Climate Science Centers, and
Gulf Coast Prairie LCC
Steering Committee Meeting](#)

[SECAS and the Southern
Forest Futures Project](#)

[Climate Science Centers and
Landscape Conservation
Cooperatives](#)

John Tirpak's blogs

[Adaptation Science
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[GCPOLCC Science
Coordinator participates in
Central Hardwoods Climate
Change Response
Framework workshop](#)

[Mississippi Delta National
Heritage Area: Linking
Natural and Cultural
Resource Priorities](#)

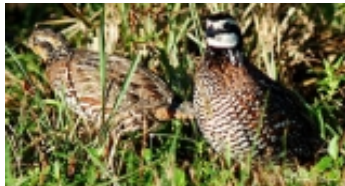
[JVs and LCCs Discuss
Grassland Conservation](#)

[Lower Mississippi Valley Joint
Venture meets in Heber
Springs, AR and Hires
Science Coordinator!](#)

Staff Highlights

by Taylor Hannah

[My Many Experiences Being
Employed with the Gulf
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From Around the Region

Partnership Highlights

[A periodic update on activities](#)

that the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) endorsed the concept of pursuing a Southeastern Conservation Adaptation Strategy.

[read more](#)

Climate Science Centers and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

Here's a poster entitled "Climate Science Centers and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives: A Coordinated Federal Effort to Sustain Natural and Cultural Resources in the Face of Climate Change," which was presented at the American Geophysical Union Sponsored Science Conference, in Washington, DC, in April of this year. It really highlights the unique partnership that CSCs and LCCs are developing.

[read more](#)

From Under the Scope

The View from John Tirpak, the LCC Science Coordinator

Adaptation Science Management Team Prepares for September Workshop

The GCPOLCC's [Adaptation Science Management Team](#) and [Conservation Science Staff](#) are preparing for their inaugural workshop on September 18-20, 2012 at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS. The agenda is ambitious, but it mirrors the objectives and expected outcomes for this meeting.

[read more](#)

GCPOLCC Science Coordinator participates in Central Hardwoods Climate Change Response Framework workshop

John Tirpak participated in the Central Hardwoods Climate Change Response Framework workshop to help assess the vulnerability of natural communities in the Central Hardwoods region to climate change. Hosted by

[of the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center and DOI Climate Science Centers](#)

by Robin O'Malley, USGS

[Teachable Moment: Time is Now for 'Naturally Drought-Proof Pastures' to Reconnect Cows, Quail](#)

by Don McKenzie, NBCI

[The Lower Mississippi River: Conservation Committee and Resource Assessment report](#)

by Gregg Elliott, GCPO LCC

[I&M Projects Awarded - 3 in the GCPO Region](#)



Opportunities & Events

Central Hardwoods
JV [Woodland & Savanna Management Workshop](#),
Crossville, TN, Sep 5 & 6,
2012

posted by Larry Haggemann

New & Recent [gcpolcc.org](#)
Groups:

The [Vulnerability Assessment Clearinghouse](#)
The [Ecosystem Services Team](#)

From the [gcpolcc.org](#) [Funding](#)

the USDA Forest Service's Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS), the workshop brought together an expert panel of forest researchers and managers from federal, state, and NGO partners in the region to discuss the vulnerability of these systems. Building off the work of Louis Iverson's Climate Change Tree Atlas and Frank Thompson/Hong He's work on linking climate, ecosystem, landscape, and wildlife models (see "[Change in the Central Hardwoods](#)" article on this project in our January newsletter); the group categorized vulnerability of these systems in the hotter and drier world predicted to occur in this region.

[read more](#)

Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area: Linking Natural and Cultural Resource Priorities

GCPO LCC and LMRCC staff recently met at the LMVJV office in Vicksburg, MS with the folks developing the feasibility and management plan for the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area to provide them input on natural resource priorities for the Heritage region. The meeting offered the opportunity to meet three critical objectives...

[read more](#)

JVs and LCCs Discuss Grassland Conservation

On June 21st, the GCPO LCC Science Coordinator participated in a webinar to discuss a landscape scale framework for cooperative grassland bird conservation hosted by Katie Koch, Midwest Region Coordinated Bird Monitoring Coordinator, and regional JVs involved in this initial effort (including Catherine Rideout from our very own East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture). The webinar introduced LCC staff to the progress made in framing out conservation decisions surrounding grassland conservation through a structured decision making (SDM) process. Subsequent discussions focused on how LCCs and JVs could complement each other in this effort. Four specific action items emerged from these discussion (see full blog post). A full set of notes from the meeting is also available.

[read more](#)

[& Grants](#) page

From the gcpolcc.org [Position Announcements](#) Page



News You Can Use

New study: [Carbon stocks across a chronosequence of thinned and unmanaged red pine \(*Pinus resinosa*\) stands](#)

[Urban growth projection data available for part of the GCPO \(2010-2100\)](#)

[The Gulf RESTORE Act](#)
by Debbie Devore, USFWS

New [GCPO LCC Factsheet](#)
available for download

Six new [GCPO LCC Project Factsheets](#) available for download

June 2012 [Gulf of Mexico News](#)
Available Now

SALCC [August 2012 newsletter](#)

SARP Science & Data Committee
[New Aquatic Nuisance Species Group](#)

Read about the "[Implications of Severe, Regional and Prolonged Drought](#)"
in the Oak Woodlands and Forests Fire Consortium July newsletter

Share Your News, [Post a Blog!](#)

Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture meets in Heber Springs, AR and Hires Science Coordinator!

The LMVJV Management Board recently met in Heber Springs, Arkansas - where they revisited the language of the mission, purpose, and scope of the Partnership; approved a revised process for allocation of waterfowl habitat objectives; and identified locations for their next meetings. The full Actions and Decisions document from that meeting can be found here.

[read more](#)

'A National Geographic Framework for Conservation' or 'Where Did Those LCC Boundaries Come From?'

For those of you who have ever wondered where the "landscape" regions around which LCCs are organized came from, the following article should shed some light on the process. The authors are all FWS or USGS employees that were directly involved in the process. The abstract is included in the blog post; full-text and PDF versions of the open access article are also available.

[read more](#)

Staff Highlights

My Many Experiences Being Employed with the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC and What I Have Learned

by Taylor Hannah, GCPO LCC SCEP Student

My name is Taylor Hannah and I am a SCEP (student career experience program) student working for the GCPO LCC. This position allows me to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gaining practical experience while also working towards my B.S. in Natural Resources Management/ Wildlife Biology. I am a senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin graduating this December and planning on going to graduate school to

obtain my M.S. in wildlife biology. My duties working for the GCPO LCC are compiling statewide priority species, vulnerability assessments, acoustical monitoring, and other tasks that I am assigned on a day to day basis.

[read more](#)

From Around the Region

Partnership Highlights

A periodic update on activities of the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center and DOI Climate Science Centers

By Robin O'Malley, Policy and Partnership Coordinator, National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center

All eight DOI Climate Science Centers (CSCs) are formally in business! USGS activated the agreements for the final three CSCs (Northeast, South Central, Pacific Islands) in March, 2012.

[read more](#)

Teachable Moment: Time is Now for 'Naturally Drought-Proof Pastures' to Reconnect Cows, Quail

By Don McKenzie, Director, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative

"This is a chance to make things better."

-- Hardware-store wisdom following a tornado touch-down near Ward, AR, February, 2001

Landscape-scale habitat restoration as envisioned by the NBCI generally is a slow-moving, long-term slog. But occasional opportunities for a leap forward pop up. The inevitable government response to the current drought presents just such an opportunity to both help cattle producers and restore quail habitat on a large scale.

Since the mid-20th century, some 120 million acres of grazing lands across bobwhite range have been "improved" by conversion – usually with USDA subsidies and encouragement – from native forages to aggressive introduced grasses that provide poor wildlife habitat. Prior

to this landscape conversion, cows and quail shared the land; but not afterward.

[read more](#)

The Lower Mississippi River: Conservation Committee and Resource Assessment report

by Gregg Elliott, GCPO LCC Communications

On July 10th and 11th, 2012 the LMRCC held its 19th annual meeting in Memphis, TN. Also in conjunction with the annual meeting, the first public meeting for Phase 1 of the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment was held there. The LMRCC meeting was quite interesting.

Here are a few highlights from both meetings, and there's much more detail in the complete set of meeting notes posted with the blog.

[read more](#)

I&M Projects Awarded - 3 in the GCPO Region

For the past two years the Inventory and Monitoring Network has sent out a Request for Proposals. This year, they received a total of 64 proposals totaling \$3.08 million. Due to salary savings within the I&M network in fiscal years 2011 and 2012, they were able to award \$458,500. Unfortunately, the limited amount of funding only allowed 13 of the 64 projects to be funded (see full blog post for list of projects and full memo from David Viker), even though most were very good projects. If you have any questions please contact Laurel Barnhill, Branch Chief, Inventory & Monitoring at laurel_barnhill@fws.gov. A number of these projects will be occurring in the GCPO region...

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