



# Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Newsletter, The Monitor



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## Headlines at a Glance:

### **Project Highlight:**

[Beyond just sea level rise: incorporating climate into coastal wetland vulnerability assessments](#)

### **Greg Wathen's blog**

[An Ecologically Connected Network of Landscapes](#)

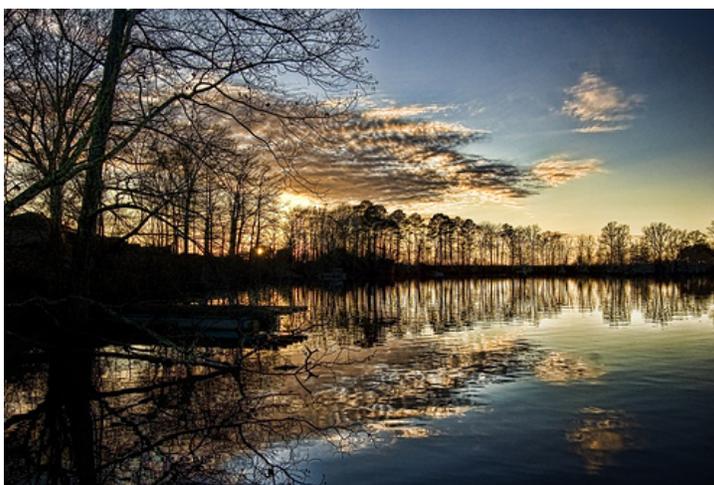
### **John Tirpaks blog**

[Technical Advisory Teams for Projects Seek Volunteers: Making the Connection Between Science and Management](#)

### **GCPO LCC 2013 Annual Report**

[Read the 2013 report](#)

Read "[By the Numbers](#)," a 1-page summary



## The Wide Angle View

### *News from Greg Wathen, LCC Coordinator*

Last month, I attended a meeting of the national LCC Coordinators and Science Coordinators, an All Hands Workshop, in Kansas City, MO. It was the first time that our national LCC network had gotten together in over a year, and there had been a lot that had occurred during that time. Perhaps the biggest change had been in the national LCC office in Washington, DC, where new leadership has been assumed by Dr. Elsa Haubold, after the capable tenure of Doug Austen ended last summer. Doug has moved on to a new position as Executive Director of the American Fisheries Society, but it's good to have Elsa on board as the new National LCC Coordinator. It was also good for Elsa to meet all of the Coordinators and Science Coordinators from across the vast LCC network.

For me, however, the biggest and most far-reaching



### **Around the GCPO Region**

[New economic profile documents Lower Mississippi River's many values](#)

[Southern Instream Flow Resources](#)

[Alabama receives \\$1 million Coastal Wetlands Grant from USFWS for Lillian Swamp](#)

[White-nose syndrome confirmed in Marion County, making Arkansas 23rd state to confirm deadly disease](#)

[America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative 2013 Rangewide Accomplishment Report](#)



### **Opportunities & Events in Jan-Feb 2014**

[Biodiversity responses to climate change: perspectives from the southeastern US](#),  
March 14-15, 2014

[GCPO LCC Spring 2014 Steering Committee meeting](#),  
April 22-24

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### **News You Can Use**

outcome from our meeting was a decision that received the unanimous support of 22 LCC Coordinators, and provides a compelling and unifying message for LCCs: LCCs support the creation of an ecologically connected network of landscapes, as defined in the [National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy\[1\]](#) (NFWPCAS).

[Read more](#) about next steps for the GCPO LCC

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## **From Under the Scope**

### ***News from John Tirpak, LCC Science Coordinator***

Although nearly all of us (and our organizations and agencies) aspire to science-based conservation, there remains a huge divide between research and management. Part of this is a language barrier, with jargon and abbreviations being the norm rather than the exception. Part of this is a time barrier, with all of our plates full and limited time to find ways to meaningfully engage. Part of this is a locational barrier, with few dedicated researchers embedded with managers or vice versa. So how do we find ways to get researchers and managers in the same place at the same time to talk about something they both find meaningful in a way that everyone can understand? Our first answer is the development of TATs – Technical Advisory Teams – for the projects recently funded through the GCPO LCC.

[Read more](#) about the specific role of TAT members and how to join

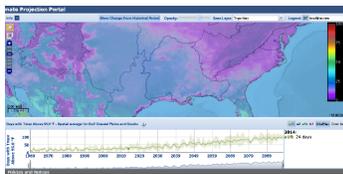
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## **Highlight**

### **Beyond just sea level rise: incorporating climate into coastal wetland vulnerability assessments**

by Gregg Elliott, GCPO LCC

Climate change is projected to cause significant sea level rise (SLR) impacts along the Gulf Coast. It's ironic, then, that so much climate change planning in the Gulf focuses almost exclusively on SLR, neglecting how direct changes in temperature and rainfall could affect the region. Most people are familiar with the influence of rainfall on



[BP Funds & NAWCA - Demonstrating "Nexus" in the WGCP](#)

[Southern Instream Flow Resources](#)

[Gulf Coast States each provide "one-stop shop" websites for information on coastal restoration](#)

[Longcore et al. 2012 and 2013...annual avian mortality estimates from communication towers](#)

[Bird-building collisions in the United States: estimates of annual mortality and species vulnerability, Loss et al. \(2014\)](#)

[Making Climate Change Real: the USGS Downscaled Climate Projection Portal](#)

[New Survey Results: Policymakers' and Scientists' Ranks of Research Priorities for Resource-Management Policy](#)

[Latino Decisions poll from Nov-Dec 2013 indicates strong support for action on climate change](#)

[Beta version of Global Forest Watch tracks forest gain and loss worldwide](#)

From the [gcpolcc.org](#) [Funding & Grants](#) page

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

terrestrial ecosystems: along the Gulf Coast, plant communities range from forest in the wettest regions, shrublands and grasslands in less wet areas, to desert in the most arid regions. Wetlands have similarly dramatic transitions along climatic gradients, but they're less well-known and understood.

[Read more](#) about coastal wetland plant zonation and how this project can help restorationists

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## Around the GCPO

### New Economic Profile documents Lower Mississippi River's many values

The Lower Mississippi River and its associated natural resources support a diverse and productive regional economy, according to a new profile prepared for the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee. Considered together, river-related economic sectors generate \$151.7 billion in annual revenue and employ 585,000 people. In their research, economists sought to document the values derived from or associated with the Lower Mississippi River and its abundant water, extensive forests, rich soil, diverse fish and wildlife, and other resources. Economists examined 10 sectors: manufacturing, navigation, agriculture, tourism, outdoor recreation, energy, mineral extraction, natural resources harvesting, natural resources services and water supply.

[Read more](#) to access a copy of the Economic Profile

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### White-nose syndrome confirmed in Marion County, making Arkansas 23rd state to confirm deadly disease

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has confirmed the presence of white-nose syndrome, a disease fatal to several bat species, in Arkansas. The disease was documented in two northern long-eared bats found at a cave on a natural area managed by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission in Marion County.

A total of five dead bats were found during a Jan. 11



***Our LCC Network (border LCCs & CSCs)***

[SALCC Releases its draft Conservation Blueprint for review](#)

[USDA 'Climate Hubs' will provide regional networks on climate science](#)

[The SARP 2013 Year in Review](#)

[Interior Announces 2013 CSC Science Projects](#)

[Northeast CSC's Strategic Science Agenda finalized](#)

[Southeast Climate Science Center Annual Report FY2012-13](#)

[News from the South Central Climate Science Center](#)

[Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy](#)

survey of the Marion County cave. Two of the bats were collected and submitted to the U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center where it was confirmed both bats had the fungus. Both bats had damage to wing, ear and tail membranes consistent with white-nose syndrome.

[Read more](#) to learn about the species of bats that may be affected

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**BP Funds & NAWCA - Demonstrating "Nexus" in the West Gulf Coastal Plains/Ouachitas**

This is an alert to all LMVJV and WGCP/O partners concerning the new (2014) guidelines for NAWCA Standard Grant proposals, <http://www.lmvjv.org/pages/funding/NAWCA.htm>. There are several changes from past instructions, but in particular pay attention to the potential for accessing BP oil spill funds that are and will be disbursed through the regular NAWCA funding cycles over the next 5+ years. These essentially are funds in an additional sub-pot of NAWCA dollars.

[Read more](#) about how to access additional NAWCA "oil spill" funds

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