



SOUTH ATLANTIC
LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE



Pea Island, NWR

Annual Report 2011

www.southatlanticlcc.org

Vision

The vision of the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative is a landscape that sustains the nation's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations



Mission

The mission of the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (SALCC) is to create a shared blueprint for landscape conservation actions that sustain natural and cultural resources.

Background

The SALCC is an ecologically diverse region in the southeastern US that contains portions of six states from Southern Virginia to Northern Florida. It encompasses approximately 89 million acres and includes areas of high environmental, cultural and social value. Four eco-regions are included in the SALCC: the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain, Southern Coastal Plain, Southeastern Plains and the Piedmont. This diversity of ecosystems contributes to the region being one of the richest areas in the temperate zone, second only to eastern Asia. Longleaf pine and the species it supported were once common in much of this area. Now, however, this historic ecosystem has largely been converted to cropland, pasture, mixed hardwood, mixed loblolly and shortleaf pine and, increasingly, urban centers. Management concerns are not surprising considering that much of the SALCC is currently experiencing population pressures almost unmatched in the Eastern US.





Black Bear and Cubs

Goals →

Calendar year 2011 culminated with the Cooperative identifying five goals that need to be pursued in order to support the mission:

- ✓ Provide a blueprint for enhancing SALCC conservation planning and investments.
- ✓ Provide support for conservation investment decisions.
- ✓ Facilitate collaboration to maximize conservation investment.
- ✓ Promote data integration and sharing.
- ✓ Evaluate and report progress.



Longleaf Pine, Croatan NF

Major Accomplishments

Steering Committee Governance Structure Staff

February

- › SALCC Steering Committee inaugural meeting at North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission headquarters in Raleigh, NC

March

- › Steering Committee approved the governance structure for the LCC
- › Established Partnership Committee (see below) and Communications Committee, which will support development and implementation of a communications strategy for the LCC

August

- › Steering Committee elected Mallory Martin, Chief Deputy Director of NC Wildlife Resources Commission, as first Steering Committee Chair
- › Hired Climate Change Socioeconomic Adaptation Coordinator (NPS)

October

- › Hired GIS Coordinator (FWS)
- › Hired Information Transfer Specialist/Forest Service Liaison (USFS-SRS and FWS)

November

- › Initiated Strategic Planning Process
- › Logo adopted by Steering Committee

December

- › Joined with three other Gulf Coast LCCs to support Gulf Coast LCC Liaison position (FWS and NOAA)
- › Completed first draft of Strategic Plan

2011 Projects

In February we released a request for proposals targeting science needs most immediately limiting to LCC conservation planning and funded the following five projects:

- Investigation of the effects of sea level rise on sea turtle, shorebird, seabird, and beach mouse nesting distributions within the South Atlantic LCC region.
- Determining priority amphibian and reptile conservation areas for the South Atlantic Region, and assessing their efficacy for cross-taxa conservation.
- Identifying and prioritizing key habitat connectivity areas for the South Atlantic.
- Identifying and integrating optimal cultural and natural sustainability strategies for the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative Region.
- Identifying priority areas for land protection in the South Atlantic: a landscape genetics pilot study.

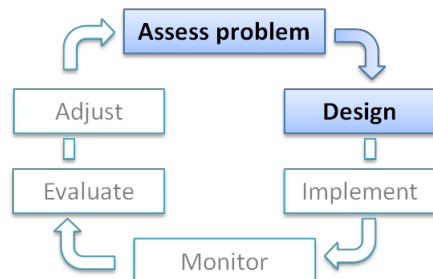


Loggerhead, Wassaw NWR

SALCC Staff-Supported Projects

- Seamless LiDAR coverage for the entire SALCC
- A Conservation Planning Atlas as a consistent way to share and deliver geospatial information across all southeastern LCCs.

The location of the SALCC in the adaptive management cycle in 2011



Conservation Planning

In January the cooperative began to develop a scientific framework to help partners identify how natural and cultural resources will be vulnerable to future change (climate, urban growth, etc.) and where to take action to sustain those resources across the South Atlantic LCC. This initial effort was led by the Optimal Conservation Strategy (OCS) Project. Highlights from this effort include:

- A series of webinars and in-person workshops including private, state, non-profit and federal perspectives to begin defining measurable priorities for natural and cultural resources.
- Development of a prototype modeling tool capable of predicting: 1) the future landscape based on climate change, urban growth, and sea level rise; 2) response of potential indicators to the future changes in the landscape; and 3) identifying places and times for actions to meet targets for potential indicators in the face of uncertainty.

Selected Coordination With Other LCCs

In addition to the accomplishments listed above, the SALCC put time and effort into working with other LCCs and partners to better integrate our work:

- In November, Ken met with 19 other LCC Coordinators to discuss consistency and coordination across the North American LCC network.
- Rua participated in multiple conference calls with science staff from the GCPO, AP, NA and PF LCCs to discuss how to ensure conservation plans and science products are seamless across the LCC boundaries.
- During the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) meeting in October, Rua met with SE Climate Science Center staff and staff of the other SE LCCs to discuss LCC/Climate Science Center coordination.
- At the request of SEAFWA staff met with other staff from all the SE LCCs at the end of September to discuss integrating conservation plans in order to create a southeast conservation adaptation strategy.
- Rua worked with his counterpart in the Gulf Coast Plains and Ozarks and the Geospatial Groups of both LCCs to begin work on the Conservation Planning Atlas – a consistent way for sharing and delivering geospatial information across all southeastern LCCs .
- Laurie met with several Gulf of Mexico conservation groups that cross LCC boundaries throughout the end of the year.



American Oystercatcher,
Cape Romain NWR

“I believe the SALCC will help us work together with our partners to protect the animals and habitats that extend beyond our jurisdictional boundaries.”

- Mallory Martin, Deputy Director, NC Wildlife Resources Commission & Chair, SALCC Steering Committee



Prescribed Fire, Cedar Island NWR

Priority Next Steps

- ✓ Establish conservation priorities to conserve and enhance natural and cultural resources
- ✓ Prioritize applied research that fills immediately-limiting gaps in the blueprint
- ✓ Actively coordinate with Southeast LCCs to ensure overlap of science and planning through SE Conservation Adaptation Strategy effort
- ✓ Develop a clear, transparent process for the partnership to submit and prioritize key conservation questions
- ✓ Provide information on future landscapes by providing interim spatial data products (e.g. climate change, sea level rise, urbanization, etc.) to support existing planning efforts
- ✓ Develop Conservation Planning Atlas to support spatial data sharing
- ✓ Facilitate regular information exchange among SALCC partners and communicate SALCC happenings to various audiences

Steering Committee

- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- US Geological Survey
- National Park Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency
- US Forest Service
- Department of Defense



Partnership Committee

The Partnership Committee facilitates coordination and integration of existing landscape scale conservation partnerships in order to provide input and support for the South Atlantic LCC. It works through the SALCC staff to provide advice and recommendations to the Steering Committee on conservation issues, strategies, and initiatives of mutual interest to a broad spectrum of the conservation community within the SALCC.

- Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program
- Atlantic Coast Fish Habitat Partnership
- Longleaf Alliance
- Southeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
- Eastern North Carolina/Southeast Virginia Strategic Habitat Conservation Team
- Atlantic Coast Joint Venture
- Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
- Southeast Partners in Flight



Atlantic Coast Joint Venture



Sandhill Cranes in Flight

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