



August 21, 2013

Mark Shaffer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Roger Griffis, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Arpita Choudhury, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Management Team Co-Chairs, National Fish, Wildlife & Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy

This letter is in response to your communication dated June 6, 2013, regarding the recently released *National Fish, Wildlife & Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy* (NFWPCAS or Strategy), and the potential role that Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) might provide in its successful implementation.

The Gulf Coast Prairie LCC met most recently in Lost Pines, TX, June 3-5, 2013, and at that time had not had the opportunity to review or respond to the Strategy as a Steering Committee. However, we have convened two conference calls and discussed NFWPCAS and would like to include more discussion before we make a final recommendation. Our recommendation will closely align with adjacent LCCs and we hope to engage in discussion at the upcoming SEAFWA meeting and the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks Steering Committee meeting 12-16 October 2013. Through our conference calls and these discussions I expect a firm recommendation and a clear response back to the Management Team after our January 2014 meeting in McAllen, Texas.

In reviewing the Strategy and the materials you provided, I believe that there are substantial areas of intersection between the priorities of the Strategy and the ongoing work of the GCP LCC. I plan to work with GCP LCC Coordinator, Bill Bartush, and Science Coordinator Cynthia Edwards, to articulate those intersections, and to seek Steering Committee guidance on how we can best work with our partners and adjacent LCCs to achieve the objectives of the GCP LCC, and provide leadership in the Strategy's implementation. The GCP LCC is one of 6 LCCs leading the Southeastern Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS), and we would expect that our collective work in moving SECAS forward would have substantial value and input into the implementation of the NFWPCAS.

We applaud the work of the committee of scientists and managers involved in developing this ambitious Strategy. It is indeed an impressive body of work, and we in the Gulf Coast Prairie LCC look forward to additional review of the document with our Steering Committee, and providing you with a prospectus on our anticipated activities in support of its implementation.

Sincerely,

Allison Shipp
Chair, Gulf Coast Prairie LCC
USGS

cc: GCP LCC Steering Committee Members