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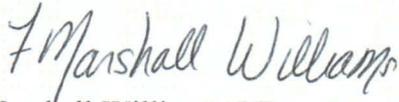
The Steering Committee of the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (SALCC) has reviewed the recently released National fish, wildlife, & plant Climate Adaptation Strategy (Strategy). The SALCC commends the Strategy steering committee and management team on a well-crafted document that lays out a clear roadmap for action to reduce risks and to increase the resiliency of our valuable natural resources. It is abundantly clear that many of the goals within the strategy will require a high level of integration across organizations, jurisdictions and geographies.

It is with this in mind that the SALCC steering committee would like to acknowledge its commitment to support the Strategy within the South Atlantic geography. Our mission is strongly aligned with the Strategy's goal to: *Conserve habitat to support healthy fish, wildlife, and plant populations and ecosystem functions in a changing climate*. The mission of the SALCC is to: *Create a shared blueprint for landscape conservation actions that sustain natural and cultural resources*. As currently envisioned, this blueprint will be an initial attempt at completing Strategy 1.1 ("identify areas for an ecologically-connected network of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine conservation areas that are likely to be resilient to climate change and to support a broad range of fish, wildlife, and plants under changed conditions.") for the South Atlantic region. We are also coordinating with the other LCCs in the southeast through the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy and the broader LCC network to ensure this blueprint scales to a larger ecologically connected network. We have attached a summary that elaborates how our current direction will support the Strategy.

The SALCC is focused on fulfilling its mission to develop a shared conservation blueprint within the next twelve months. There may be other actions within the Strategy that the SALCC could play a coordinating role in. We see the Strategy as providing an excellent framework for identifying those possible roles and will consider them as interest and capacity allow.

In closing, we believe that the SALCC is uniquely positioned by way of its mission, its geographic scale, and its breadth of member organizations, to coordinate implementation of the Strategy as outlined above. We are already strongly committed to this direction and believe that the broadly supported Strategy gives further impetus to our work.

Sincerely,



Marshall Williams, PE
Regional Environmental Coordinator / Engineer
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Chair, South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

South Atlantic LCC Steering Committee

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Kate Haley Parsons, Administrator, Florida's Wildlife Legacy Initiative, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Mallory Martin, Chief Deputy Director, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Mike Harris, Chief Non-game Conservation Section, Wildlife Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (SALCC Steering Committee Vice-chair).

Cale Godfrey, Assistant Director, Bureau of Wildlife Resources, South Central Region, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Ken Rice, Center Director, Southeast Ecological Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey.

Lisa Garrett, Chief Division of Inventory and Monitoring, Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service.

Rick Studenmund, North Carolina Director of Conservation Programs, The Nature Conservancy.

Roger Pugliese, Senior Fishery Biologist, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

David Viker, Regional Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, Southeast Region, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

David Brown, Director Regional Climate Services, Southern Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Cory W. Berish, Ph.D., Deputy Assistant Regional Administrator for Information Technology, Infrastructure and Management, Office of Policy and Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4

Keith Lawrence, Forest Supervisor, Savannah River Site, U.S. Forest Service Region 8.

Marshall Williams, Regional Environmental Coordinator, Army Regional Environmental and Energy Office – Southern (SALCC Steering Committee Chair).



SOUTH ATLANTIC
LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

Vision: A landscape that sustains the nation's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Vision: Ecological systems will sustain healthy, diverse, and abundant populations of fish, wildlife, and plants. These systems will provide valuable cultural, economic, and environmental benefits in a world impacted by global climate change.

Mission: To create a shared blueprint for landscape conservation actions that sustain natural and cultural resources by:

- Facilitating an inclusive and cross-jurisdictional collaborative for landscape conservation planning and action;
- Linking broad-based efforts to create a shared conservation blueprint for South Atlantic partners;
- Identifying and filling the research gaps of the partners that enable creation of the blueprint;
- Working across jurisdictional boundaries at new and larger temporal and spatial scales;
- Using an interdisciplinary approach that addresses the interconnectedness of systems and society;
- Focusing on protection, maintenance and restoration of healthy ecosystems on a landscape basis;
- Building resilience into ecological systems for long-term sustainability by anticipating future change.

Goal 1. Provide a blueprint for enhancing SALCC conservation planning and investments.

Goal 2. Provide support for conservation investment decisions – to facilitate implementation of the blueprint.

Goal 3. Facilitate collaboration to maximize conservation investment.

Goal 4. Promote data integration and sharing.

Goal 5. Evaluate and report progress.

Strategy 1.1: identify areas for an ecologically-connected network of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine conservation areas that are likely to be resilient to climate change and to support a broad range of fish, wildlife, and plants under changed conditions.

Strategy 1.2: Secure appropriate conservation status on areas identified in action 1.1.1 to complete an ecologically connected network of public and private conservation areas that will be resilient to climate change and support a broad range of species under changed conditions.

Strategy 1.4: Conserve, restore, and as appropriate and practicable, establish new ecological connections among conservation areas to facilitate fish, wildlife, and plant migration, range shifts, and other transitions caused by climate change.

Strategy 3.2: Facilitate a coordinated response to climate change at landscape, regional, national, and international scales across state, federal, and tribal natural resource agencies and private conservation organizations.
Actions 3.2.1 & 3.2.3

Strategy 4.1: Support, coordinate, and where necessary develop distributed but integrated inventory, monitoring, observation, and information systems at multiple scales to detect and describe climate impacts on fish, wildlife, plants, and ecosystems.
Action 4.1.7

Strategy 4.2: Identify, develop, and employ decision support tools for managing under uncertainty via dialogue with scientists, managers, economists, and stakeholders.
Actions 4.2.3, 4.2.6, 4.2.7 & 4.2.8

Strategy 5.1: Identify knowledge gaps and define research priorities via a collaborative process among federal, state, tribal, private conservation organization, and academic resource managers and research scientists.

Example SALCC projects supportive of FWPCAS

Climate change effects on fish and mussels in the ACF

Multi-scale modeling capabilities for forecasting climate change effects on stream fishes and mussels.

Past and future bird range shifts

This project predicts the effect of land use change and climate change on selected bird populations at the level of Bird Conservation Regions and states for the SEAFWA region.

Predicting baseline, altered, and future instream flows

The project predicts baseline instream flows for all NHD+ catchments in the SALCC and altered, and future instream flows based on urban growth and climate change for catchments within 6 HUC6 watersheds.

Sensitivity analysis of landscape and ecological models

This project will: 1) Integrate SALCC landscape change models and ecological response models, 2) Identify key drivers of change in ecological response models, 3) Assess how potential monitoring and research could be prioritized to reduce major sources of uncertainty (and hence the risk in any decisions informed by the model)

Modeling and experimental assessment of sea level rise adaptation

This project will create an inventory of community types (such as vegetation and terrestrial vertebrate species) in coastal plain habitats using GIS; assess and predict climate change and sea level rise impacts on species and communities; and engage in experimental evaluation of management strategies for landscapes and species of concern for Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.

Priority amphibian and reptile conservation areas for the South Atlantic

Identifies areas throughout the LCC needed to sustain amphibian and reptile populations in the face of future change. Evaluates the abilities of these areas to sustain populations of other non-amphibian and reptile species.

Genetic "hotspots" in the SALCC

Identifies genetic "hotspots" for sustaining populations and maintaining within-species adaptive capacity throughout the LCC. Evaluates the overlap between these genetic "hotspots" and current priority conservation areas. Creates an automated tool to update genetic "hotspots" as new data become available.

Effects of sea level rise on beach nesting species

Links long-term survey data for four species of sea turtle, three species of shorebird, five species of seabird, and two beach mouse species to maps of coastal sea level rise vulnerability to understand the effects of sea level rise on population viability and socioeconomic resources. The coastal study areas include nesting beaches from North Carolina south to Melbourne, Florida.

Impact of sea level rise on marshbirds

Assess the potential impacts of sea level rise on coastal ecosystems and related wildlife resources.