

# THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

*Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine*

**DIVISION ON EARTH AND LIFE STUDIES  
BOARD ON ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES AND CLIMATE  
BOARD ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

## **Evaluation of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives**

### **Statement of Task**

The National Academy of Sciences will convene an ad hoc committee to examine the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) program. This committee will evaluate the purpose, goals, and scientific merits of the program within the context of similar programs, and whether the LCC program has resulted in measurable improvements in the health of fish, wildlife, and their habitats. This will include:

- 1.** An evaluation of the scientific merit of the LCC program and its goals.
- 2.** A comparison of the stated purpose and goals of the LCC with other similar programs. How are these programs similar, and how do they differ? Is there substantial overlap in their mission and purpose? If so, is there rationale for and benefit from this overlap? Is there sufficient coordination with these related programs?
- 3.** A comparison of the types of projects, activities, and collaborations supported by LCC and related programs.
  - Do the projects, activities, and collaborations supported by the LCC program overlap significantly with the traditional portfolio of other FWS programs (as the primary sponsoring agency)? Is there sufficient coordination and integration with these related programs? What benefit, if any, is gained by moving and/or consolidating this work within the LCC program? What effectiveness or efficiency is lost, if any, by housing this work within the LCC program? What changes can the FWS consider to address concerns?
  - Do the projects, activities, and collaborations supported by the LCC program overlap significantly with the portfolio of related programs in other agencies? Is there sufficient coordination with these related programs?
- 4.** An examination of the evaluation process for the LCC program. What is FWS's strategy to assess the effectiveness (output and outcomes) of the LCC program? What are reasonable short, medium, and long-term metrics for the effectiveness of the LCC program in achieving its stated purpose and goals?
- 5.** An assessment of the impacts of the LCC program at various scales. What goals (and/or objectives) have been achieved? What improvements in managing and conserving habitat and fish and wildlife species might be reasonable to expect from the LCC program in the timeframe it has existed? What longer-term impacts are likely to be realized?