

**Overview: Eastern Tallgrass Prairie & Big Rivers  
Landscape Conservation Cooperative  
Presentation before The National Academies  
December 16, 2014**



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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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**Overview of presentation:**

- Quick journey down memory lane
- Why LCCs are needed now
- How one of the 22 LCCs was “stood up”
- How we found our niche
- Organizational and strategic approach
- How a Midwest LCC ended up so involved with the Gulf hypoxia problem
- Role of convener
- Where do we go from here?

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**LCCs? Why now?  
The ETPBR LCC experience**

Or- “How the heck did we get here?”

**Salmon version of the North American  
Model of Wildlife Conservation**

With apologies to Leopold, Darling, Roosevelt,  
Shoemaker and many others

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### Example- Indiana DNR State Agency Authorities

- Chapter 2. Division of Fish and Wildlife
- Administration of article
- Sec. 2. The division of fish and wildlife shall administer this article.
- Duties of director
- Sec. 3. The director shall do the following:
  - (1) Provide for the **protection, reproduction, care, management, survival, and regulation of wild animal populations** regardless of whether the wild animals are present on public or private property in Indiana.
  - (2) Organize and pursue a program of research and management of wild animals that will serve the best interests of the resources and the people of Indiana.

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### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:  
working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Authorities:

- Migratory Birds
- Endangered Species
- Inter-jurisdictional fishes
- National Wildlife Refuge system
- Others

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### Funding model- States:

- Based on user-pay concept
- Sale of sport hunting and fishing licenses
- Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) funds from excise tax on hunting arms, ammo, fishing tackle, etc.
- State Wildlife Grant funds: annual (?) appropriation from Congress

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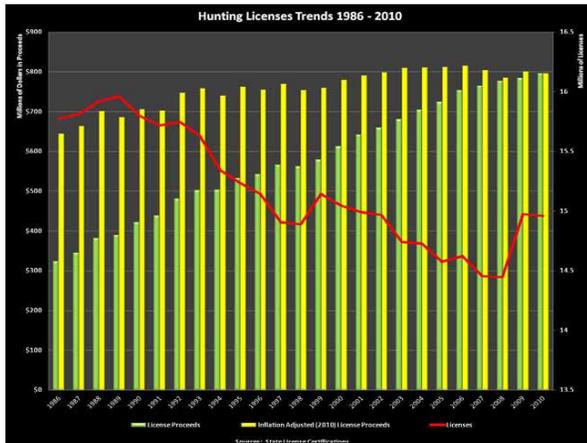
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- ### Federal Funding
- Annual Budget Battles
  - Omnibus Legislation
  - Continuing Resolutions
  - Competition among Federal Agencies
  - Lack of certainty

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**Insanity:** doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. [Albert Einstein](#)

NA Model of Conservation "same ol' thing":

States:

- Sell (fewer & fewer) hunting and fishing licenses
- Utilize WSFR funds for eligible projects
- Continually raise fees to stay ahead of inflation

Federal Agencies:

Annual budget battles for appropriated funds (conservation has low priority compared to defense, human health services, education, etc.)

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**Aldo never told us about these things:**

The N.A. model was a tool to manage fish and wildlife resources in the early 1900's. I doubt the visionary crafters ever dreamed it would be same tool managers would use to tackle:

- Captive hunting facilities, transportation, disease issues, containment
- Ever increasing cost to purchase land and manage wildlife habitat
- Environmental unit staff and permitting expenses
- Communications, Facebook, social media, tweeting
- Invasive species control on fish and wildlife management areas, rivers & lakes.
- Nuisance wildlife problems- such as cougars, Canada geese, deer in cities
- Wildlife disease issues such as CWD or Whirling disease in trout
- Non game program expenses
- Poaching and international transportation of protected animals for black markets.
- And many, many more

**The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is showing its age**

Looking at evolving issues such as loss of prairies, loss of large river habitat, invasive species, climate change, excess nutrients flowing into our waterways, loss of relevancy spurred by urbanization:

**Are these really issues that can best be tackled state by state, agency by agency or NGO by NGO?**

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More than ever- responding to today's conservation challenges requires cooperation




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Keep in mind that Political boundaries are not respected by wildlife



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How would you suggest we fix this "wicked" problem?

- You'd start out with some visionary leaders with the guts and the integrity to say that the model we operate under needs evaluation.
- You'd have to be willing to put your career on the line and go to Congress to secure funding for a new enterprise to bring conservations at the highest level possible together at a "Common Table" to have these crucial conversations.
- You'd need to assemble a team of coordinators to bring these entities together.
- It has to be based on sound science, so you'd need a team of science coordinators to work together to assure the biology is above reproach.
- You would need to decide where to do this. The dreaded lines on a map. Do that.
- And finally you'd need a name-

we called ours Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

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**Secretarial Order 3289**

**"...Interior bureaus and agencies must work together, and with other federal, state, tribal and local governments, and private landowner partners, to develop landscape-level strategies for understanding and responding to climate change impacts."**

*(Note: A yellow callout box highlights the quote above, and a yellow box highlights the text in the Secretarial Order document below.)*

**(c) Landscape Conservation Cooperatives.** Given the broad impacts of climate change, consistent responses to such impacts must be coordinated on a landscape-level basis. For multiple, wildlife migration and related needs for new wildlife corridors, the spread of invasive species and wildfire risks, typically will extend beyond the borders of National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, or National Monuments. Additionally, some bureau responsibilities (e.g., Fish and Wildlife Service migratory bird and threatened and endangered species responsibilities) extend nationally and globally. Because of the unprecedented scope of affected landscapes, Interior bureaus and agencies must work together, and with other federal, state, tribal and local governments, and private landowner partners, to develop landscape-level strategies for understanding and responding to climate change impacts. Interior bureaus and agencies, under the leadership of the Secretary, will seek to stimulate the development of a network of cooperative "Landscape Conservation Cooperatives." These cooperatives, which already have formed in some regions, will work interactively with the relevant DOI Regional Climate Response Center(s) and help coordinate adaptation efforts in the region.

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### ETPBR LCC Team

- Glen Salmon, LCC Coordinator
- Dr. Gwen White, Science Coordinator
- Kristin Shaw Indiana Univ. MS SPEA Fellow
- Megan Cross, Univ. of MN Master student
- TAG Coordinators @ Illinois N.H.S.
  - Lama BouFajreldin
  - James Ellis
  - Andrew Stephenson
  - Craig Miller

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LCCs = Natural Resource Management  
 A Think/Strategy/Action Tank for Agencies &  
 Organizations




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### ETPBR LCC- Status?



Glen Salmon starts as Coordinator	July 2011	
Preliminary Planning meeting w/ States	January 2012	Springfield IL
Interim Steering Committee meeting	May, 2012	Springfield IL
Strategic Visioning Retreat	Sept. 2012	Dickson Mounds IL
Dr. Gwen White hired as Science Coord.	October 2012	
Full Steering Committee meeting	January 2013	Dubuque IA
Strategic Plan finalized	February 2013	
Full Steering Committee meeting	July 2013	Indianapolis IN
Full Steering Committee meeting	January 2014	St. Louis MO
Full Steering Committee meeting	July 2014	Nebraska City NE
Next Steering Committee meeting	January 2015	Glenview IL

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Get the gang together for a strategic planning retreat



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Come up with a plan of action



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Areas of concentration for ETPBR LCC

- 1. River Restoration techniques
- 2. Prairie Restoration techniques
- 3. Urban Conservation
- 4. Agroecology
  - \* Mississippi River/Gulf Hypoxia effort

Strategy: Form a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) around each area of concentration.

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### TAGs: Technical Advisory Groups

- MS student Kristin runs one TAG, others are run through ILNHS
- Serve as the ETPBR LCC Science Committee
- Approximately 250 Midwest researchers, NGO staff, State and Federal scientists
- Annually used to build our “business plan” to select areas of research

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### Annual planning process-overview



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### ETPBR annual planning process

- 1) TAGers Review Strategic Plan
- 2) TAG Webinar to discuss critical research issues.
- 3) Use feedback to draft annual business plan
- 4) Review of business plan by TAGs
- 5) Select potential area of research
- 6) Steering Committee concurrence
- 7) Initiate RFP process

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What are we doing messing around with the Gulf of Mexico?




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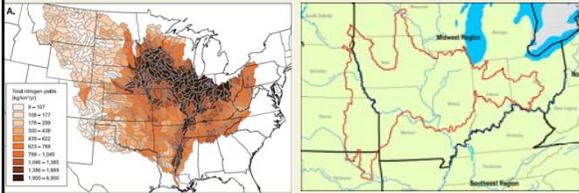
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LCCs: how can we be part the of overall solution




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Niche: Create more opportunities to bring the wildlife community to the table.

Recognize that funding for State Natural Resource agencies:

- Primarily Sporting license based
- Excise Tax on sporting gear (arms, ammo, fishing gear, etc.)
- Must connect habitat improvements and public opportunities in order to increase their participation
- Difficult for them to engage on water quality projects

Engage while always being respectful of the other agencies that have been at work for 20+ years in this endeavor.

State DNRs and Fish and Wildlife Service Private Lands biologists routinely work with a mix of partners (NRCS, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, local conservation groups, etc.) to create habitat opportunities on agricultural lands.

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### Convener role may be most critical

Provide "Common Table"

- Urban Conservation - EPIC
- MRB/GH
- Floodplain Science Network
- Bottomland Hardwoods network
- Prairie restoration w/ PRIAT
- STRIPS expansion
- Zoo based- *Milkweeds for Monarchs*



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### Where do we go from here?



Knowing what we know today; do we expect managing our natural resources going forward-

- To become more, or less complicated?
- To require more, or less cooperation?
- To require stretching existing funding resources?
- To need a strategic convening forum?

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### Questions for Glen?



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