



Together, we can solve problems that are too big for any one organization to solve alone. Our strength lies in our collective ability to support the sustainable management of our cultural and environmental resources.

WHO WE ARE

The Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) is an international, public-private partnership that collectively influences landscape conservation in five states across the major desert regions of the Southwestern United States and 10 states in Northern Mexico. Established in 2011 under Department of the Interior Secretarial Order No. 3289, we are one of 22 such cooperatives functioning as a network to develop a coordinated, science-based response to climate change and other landscape-scale stressors on land, water, human, cultural and wildlife resources.

OUR GEOGRAPHIC AREA

The Desert LCC area includes the Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan deserts, grasslands and valley bottoms, and



isolated mountain ranges, with elevations ranging from near sea level to more than 10,000 feet. The Desert LCC also contains several large river systems: the Rio Grande and the Lower Colorado, Gila, San Pedro, Sonora, Yaqui, and Conchos rivers. The ecological richness of this geographic area supports a great diversity of native plants, fish, and wildlife and their habitats. It includes many species and ecosystems that are vulnerable to landscape-scale stressors, including climate change impacts.

OUR MISSION

Land managers are faced with increasingly complex management challenges, including water scarcity, the conversion of landscapes from natural to developed states, the protection and recovery of sensitive and imperiled species, the spread of invasive species, unnatural wildfires and a range of other issues, all of which are amplified by climate change. Through our partnerships, the Desert LCC's mission is to provide scientific and technical support, coordination, and communication to assist natural and cultural resource managers, decision-makers, practitioners, and the broader Desert LCC community in addressing problems that are too large in scope for any one agency, organization, or individual to solve alone. Desert LCC partners are integrators of science and management.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

In the Desert LCC, we operate on the philosophy that to create lasting results, effective collaboration must incorporate both human and ecological considerations. We also believe that the road to success in resource conservation lies in the power of "collective impact": the commitment of a group of people from different sectors to a common agenda for solving a specific problem. Shifting from isolated impact to collective impact is not merely a matter of encouraging more collaboration, but rather requires leveraging the capabilities that each organization brings to the table; maintaining strong, trusting relationships among organizations; and facilitating their progress toward shared objectives. The Desert LCC offers the unique opportunity, partners, skills, and resources necessary for collective action to succeed.

OUR PARTNERS

Among our partners are representatives of Federal, State, Tribal and local governments and non-government organizations; resource managers; and others engaged in, interested in, or supporting natural and cultural resource conservation within the Desert LCC geographic area. Partners may include anyone interested in participating in the Desert LCC.

OUR GOALS

The goals of the LCC are to grow commitment for cooperative landscape conservation that builds socio-ecological resilience through these strategic efforts:

Collaboration and Communication

We promote and facilitate collaboration and communication among our partners to support and add value to their efforts to respond to climate change and other stressors; and to integrate scientific information into resource management plans and conservation projects.

Science Development and Delivery

We identify science needs of LCC partners related to climate change and ecosystem stressors at broad spatial scales; and facilitate the development, integration and application of scientific information (including decision support tools) that will inform resource management decisions.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We provide expertise and opportunities to enhance and add value to climate change and other monitoring programs of various partners through such activities as coordinated data collection, data analysis and information management, and data dissemination, when such actions are mutually agreed to by the partners involved.

Outreach and Education

We provide information and tools that inform and educate resource managers and the public about the effects of climate change and other ecosystem stressors.

OUR SCIENCE

Through a comprehensive needs assessment process, the Desert LCC identified 23 priority science needs in our geographic area upon which to focus our attention and resources. These needs fall into four broad categories: Terrestrial, Water, Cultural, and Monitoring.

From these needs, we gathered critical management questions from resource managers that we are addressing by building capacity for science development through

applied science grants and collaborative, multi-disciplinary working groups; and by partnering with others, such as Department of the Interior Climate Science Centers, who are undertaking, or have an interest in, these or similar research areas.

The Desert LCC advances applied science to improve the management of natural and cultural resources and help resource managers analyze and adapt to climate change and other large-scale landscape stressors. Funding for our science comes from several sources, notably the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Science Applications program. The Desert LCC also leverages its science funding through contributions from its partnering organizations.

More information on our needs assessment process, science priorities, critical management questions, and grant opportunities can be found on our website at <https://desertlcc.org/issues>

OUR OPERATIONS

The Desert LCC is one of two landscape conservation cooperatives that are jointly led by the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A full-time staff supports efforts to achieve the Desert LCC goals. Partnering organizations provide part-time staff support to LCC efforts. A Steering Committee serves as the executive body, providing leadership, direction and guidance to the LCC. Working Groups take the lead on specific tasks to accomplish the goals of the LCC, help identify priorities for Steering Committee consideration, and communicate LCC results to a wide network. The Desert LCC governance document provides additional information about Desert LCC membership, roles, and responsibilities.

<https://desertlcc.org/resource/desert-lcc-governance-document>

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