Eastern Mojave Conservation Collaborative

Progress Report #2
June 2018

Background

The Eastern Mojave was selected as one of three Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative Landscape Conservation Design pilot areas in early 2016. Landscape Conservation Design (LCD) is a process that identifies, develops and strengthens large-scale collaborative relationships (more here). The process leverages existing resource management efforts to identify potential actions and target locations where partners can apply their management tools to meet common conservation objectives.

The Eastern Mojave Conservation Collaborative aims to achieve lasting conservation outcomes in the Eastern Mojave Desert by promoting effective collaboration and leveraging existing resources. The collaborative is working with partners to identify important social values, resources, stressors, and trends in the area, as well as potential actions and target locations where partners can apply their management tools for maximum collective impact. The objective is to support coordinated management across multiple jurisdictions within the pilot area (see map).

Who's involved

The Coordinating Team provides continuous guidance and information to develop the LCD. These key partners actively conduct outreach and participate in regular meetings to ensure the Landscape Conservation Design meets on-the-ground management needs.

Recent activities

Summer 2017: Partners worked with the LCD project team to define a 2-year scope of work, and secure funding for 2018.

Fall 2017: Partners finalized the core goals and framework for the LCD, and the priority ecosystems for which to develop shared indicators (see side bar)

Fall/Winter 2017: The US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Forest Service launched the Collaborative Conservation and Adaptation Strategy Toolbox (CCAST), which will be used to highlight conservation case studies from across North America's hot deserts and build a "conservation toolbox" for the Eastern Mojave, Madrean Watersheds, and Dos Rios LCD efforts. View a case study for the Eastern Mojave here. For more information on CCAST, contact Matt Grabau: matthew_grabau@fws.gov

Restoring Desert Tortoise Habitat – An Eastern Mojave Case Study. Available on CCAST: https://arcg.is/1yGCH0

Fall/Winter 2017: The LCD project team conducted an extensive review of existing data and relevant partner plans to develop alist of potential ecosystem integrity indicators (see side bar) The LCD project team began working with the University of Arizona to initiate the spatial analysis components of the LCD. The University of Arizona is also performing spatial analysis for the other two LCD pilot areas (Madrean

Watersheds and Dos Rios), and work will be integrated where approriate to build towards a Desert LCC-wide indicator assessment.

January 2018: Partners joined a webinar and virtual work session to review, refine and prioritize draft ecosystem indicators (view webinar here)

February 2018: A group of key technical partners came together in Las Vegas to refine and prioritize ecosystem integrity indicators.

Ecosystem Integrity

Partners have identified priority integrity indicators for the following ecosystems:

Mojave Desertscrub
Springs
Streams and riparian areas

Work is proceeding to develop short-lists for:

Playas
Dunes
Woodlands/forests

April 2018: First Partner Workshop of the Eastern Mojave Conservation Collaborative! Over 30 partners gathered at the Clark County Wetlands Park in Las Vegas to work together on many aspects of the LCD, including: ecosystem integrity indicators, recommendations for biodiversity and connectivity work, cultural/social/economic considerations, and development of collaborative management strategies. Some priority outcomes from the workshop were: work with Nevada Department of Wildlife and others to fill gaps in connectivity data in Nevada, develop indicators for playa and dune systems, continue to offer ways for partners to come together and share their work, and continue to search for ways to integrate with existing management. A workshop report, presentations and other materials are available online.

May 2018: The project team met with the University of Arizona to share progress from the partner workshop and begin data discovery for priority ecosystem integrity indicators.

Upcoming activities

- The project team will continue working with the University of Arizona on **data discovery and spatial analysis** for Mojave Desertscrub, springs, streams and riparian ecosystem integrity indicators. The Coordinating Team will work to further develop potential indicators for playas, dunes and woodland/forested ecosystems.
- The newly formed **connectivity and biodiversity working groups** will develop strategies to address gaps in current connectivity data and develop baseline information on biodiversity hotspots, building on existing information from partners.
- The Coordinating Team will review input from the April 2018 Partner Workshop and develop a process to **select indicators that also represent social values, economic values, and ecosystem services**.
- **Outreach will continue** to key groups identified by the Coordinating Team. If your group would like to receive a presentation, please contact Colleen Whitaker (colleen@swdresources.com).

Partner workshop: Clark County Wetlands Park, Las Vegas | April 10-11, 2018