



Photo courtesy of Todd Hopkins

Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative *Strategic Plan*



Vision

Great Basin landscapes that sustain natural and cultural resources now and in the future.

Mission statement

The Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative supports landscape-scale conservation, promotes science, and enables management based on traditional knowledge and science so human and ecological communities can respond and adapt to climate and land use change.

About the Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC)

The Great Basin LCC is a partnership among public and private groups working to meet large-scale conservation challenges across five states. We promote management based upon science and traditional knowledge that enables human and natural communities to respond and adapt to ongoing change. Our partners include a variety of groups committed to conservation, such as Native American tribes, universities, non-governmental organizations, and federal, state and local government agencies.

The Great Basin LCC is one of 22 LCCs collectively forming a network of resource managers and scientists who share a common need for scientific information and interest in conservation. Each LCC brings together federal, state, and local governments along with tribes and first nations, non-governmental organizations, universities, and interested public and private organizations. Our partners work collaboratively to identify best practices, connect efforts, identify science gaps, and avoid duplication through conservation planning and design. With the signing of Secretarial Order No. 3289, the Department of the Interior launched the LCCs to better integrate science and management to address climate change and other landscape scale issues

Introduction

This strategic plan for the Great Basin LCC builds on existing work and lays out a plan to achieve the Great Basin LCC's vision and mission over the next five years. This plan identifies goals, objectives, actions and anticipated outcomes that support the vision and mission. The plan was developed through a yearlong process by a working group composed of Great Basin Steering Committee members and LCC staff. A draft version of the Strategic Plan was shared with the Great Basin conservation community through a virtual Public Forum. Members of the conservation community provided input on the plan and the future direction of the Great Basin LCC.

Goals and Objectives

The Great Basin LCC Strategic Plan is organized into four strategic goal areas:

1. Landscape focus
2. Collaboration and maximizing conservation efforts
3. Tribal partners
4. Information sharing

Each strategic area has a goal, a set of objectives with associated actions and anticipated outcomes. On the following page is an overview of the goals and objectives.

Goals and Objectives

<p>Goal 1:</p> <p>Great Basin communities develop mutually agreed upon landscape-scale conservation strategies and deliver conservation actions guided by those strategies.</p>	<p>Goal 2:</p> <p>The Great Basin is more resilient to climate change and other landscape-scale stressors because of increased collaboration, optimized conservation investments and efforts aligned to a common vision.</p>	<p>Goal 3:</p> <p>Traditional knowledge and contemporary science are shared and/or integrated, as appropriate, to further Great Basin conservation priorities and land stewardship.</p>	<p>Goal 4:</p> <p>Communication and understanding about science, management and cultural resources are enhanced and this information is accessible and discoverable by the broader conservation community.</p>
<p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Great Basin LCC will provide leadership by promoting landscape-scale science and management among partner organizations that leads to the development of regional conservation strategies. 2. Collaborate with partners to identify and prioritize landscape-scale scientific information needed to inform and enhance conservation actions by natural and cultural resource managers. 3. Develop information, tools and technical products that are needed to fill the highest priority landscape-scale science gaps. 4. Apply geospatial and information management technologies to support planning, monitoring and evaluating conservation activities and outcomes at the landscape or eco-region scale. 	<p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaboratively develop a long-term shared vision that will guide natural resource conservation of the Great Basin for many decades. 2. Create networking opportunities for scientists and natural resource leaders to develop collaborative solutions to conservation challenges. 3. Provide tools to increase visibility of conservation activities by organizations in the Great Basin to support collaboration and leveraging of resources. 4. Share timely and relevant information about conservation efforts and emerging science. 	<p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create opportunities for dialogue on shared conservation goals with tribal governments and local communities. 2. Support exchanges of traditional knowledge and contemporary science with tribes to enhance land management, conservation and cultural preservation. 3. Partner with tribes to identify and implement effective and appropriate ways to incorporate traditional knowledge into Great Basin stewardship. 4. Develop a process for exchange of contemporary science and traditional knowledge that can be supported by both the tribes and non-tribal scientists. 	<p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance access to discoverable scientific information about natural resources and understanding the importance of cultural resources of the Great Basin. 2. Regularly update natural and cultural managers on key findings from Great Basin LCC-supported projects. 3. Keep all partners informed on relevant activities of the Great Basin LCC.

Goal 1 (Landscape focus):

Great Basin communities develop mutually agreed upon landscape-scale conservation strategies and deliver conservation actions guided by those strategies.

Objective 1:

The Great Basin LCC will provide leadership by promoting landscape-scale science and management among partner organizations that leads to the development of regional conservation strategies.

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage a focused science program that encourages partners to work collaboratively on landscape-scale conservation by providing research funding, knowledge management tools, cross-disciplinary training and sponsoring technical meetings.• Provide leadership to the Great Basin Consortium and support workshops and an annual conference focused on landscape-scale science and management actions.• Facilitate development of a framework for landscape-scale conservation initiatives. Build on state and federal land use and wildlife action plans.• Bring together Great Basin program coordinators to understand diverse missions and values and work towards coordinated landscape-scale synergy.• Participate in national conservation science, decisions and policy working groups and committees; synthesize and share that information with partners to enhance planning and implementation of landscape-scale conservation in the Great Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public and private organizations in the Great Basin are delivering more conservation that aligns with landscape-scale strategies.• Annual Great Basin Consortium meetings continue to be well attended, and successful in promoting landscape-scale science and coordination.• A framework for landscape-scale conservation is established and being used by partners across the basin to understand how their activities fit in the context of other organizations and to identify opportunities for collaboration.• The Great Basin LCC supports the development of regional conservation strategies (e.g., NW Basin and Range Conservation Project).• The Great Basin LCC is identified by partners as a dependable source for syntheses of national level conservation science, decisions and policies as they apply to landscape-scale conservation.

Objective 2:

Collaborate with partners to identify and prioritize landscape-scale scientific information needed to inform and enhance conservation actions by natural and cultural resource managers.

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate and synthesize existing technical information to identify knowledge and research gaps at the landscape-scale.• Convene workshops or leverage partner meetings to prioritize scientific information needed to fill landscape-scale knowledge and research gaps.• Identify opportunities for researchers to co-produce landscape-scale knowledge and decision-support tools with natural resource managers.• Identify shared goals and objectives and priorities. Identify existing plans and integrate across plans so that agencies and organizations can see where their missions fit together on a larger scale and take advantage of synergies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are clearly defined and prioritized landscape-scale science needs that are vetted and relied on by natural resource managers and conservation scientists.• Great Basin LCC science funding is reflective of the landscape-scale science priorities.

Objective 3:

Develop information, tools and technical products that are needed to fill the highest priority landscape-scale science gaps.

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fund (fully, or in collaboration with others) landscape-scale science projects that produce needed information to fill the identified gaps.• Monitor funding opportunities and share information with conservation scientists to further develop landscape-scale science.• Synthesize landscape data and make the information readily available to conservation scientists and natural resource managers by showcasing this work at annual conference, webinars, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great Basin LCC information, tools and technical products are based on shared needs, fill identified gaps and are used and referenced across the basin• Managers and scientists attend “showcasing” sessions, webinar, etc. and are informed about availability and usage.

Objective 4:

Apply geospatial and information management technologies to support planning, monitoring and evaluating conservation activities and outcomes at the landscape or eco-region scale.

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify relevant existing geospatial and information resources and work with partners to make these resources widely available.• Prioritize new geospatial and information needs to address evolving landscape conservation plans and programs.• Partner with conservation scientists to generate high priority geospatial information.• Facilitate sharing, analysis and exchange of geospatial information among partners in support of regional conservation by developing a conservation planning atlas for information sharing across the Great Basin LCC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geospatial and information management technologies are readily accessible and have been implemented to support landscape-scale conservation efforts across the basin as learned through sharing sessions.• Usage of data technologies is documented and measured.• Datasets supplied by the Great Basin LCC that reside on ScienceBase are accessed and used by managers and scientists across the basin.



Photo courtesy of Thomas P. Albright

Field technician working in microclimates in the Pine Forest Range near Duffer Peak, Nevada

Goal 2 (Collaboration and maximizing conservation efforts):

The Great Basin is more resilient to climate change and other landscape-scale stressors because of increased collaboration, optimized conservation investments and efforts aligned to a common vision.

Objective 1:

Collaboratively develop a long-term shared vision that will guide natural resource conservation of the Great Basin for many decades.

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Facilitate collaborative interactive dialogue with partners and tribal communities to understand shared values and craft long-term vision(s) for sustainable conservation in the Great Basin.Engage all constituents including local, state, tribal and regional entities regarding future directions in Great Basin ecosystems and conservation priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tribes, agencies, landowners, and land managers all are working towards a shared vision for resource conservation in the basin as evidenced by participation in activities, such as future scenario planning, that encourage all participants to pursue conservation on the landscape scale.Agencies reference the Great Basin vision in the context of their own work.

Objective 2:

Create networking opportunities for scientists and natural resource leaders to develop collaborative solutions to conservation challenges.

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Query the conservation community to determine what types of support would encourage increased networking among scientists and natural resource leaders.Prioritize and work to implement identified network support activities.Identify key landscape-scale issues, provide opportunities for collaboration to address such issues and facilitate such collaboration.Highlight successful collaborations in Great Basin LCC communications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scientists and natural resource leaders know who to work with and are collaborating to produce more effective conservation work as demonstrated by participation in webinars, workshops, conferences, etc.

Objective 3:

Provide tools to increase visibility of conservation activities by organizations in the Great Basin to support collaboration and leveraging of resources.

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and maintain a web-based portal with information about synergistic capabilities and resources. • Promote access to these web-based tools to Great Basin partners. • Help partners articulate the fundamental role of science in adaptive management. • Help partners leverage resources to maximize science-based decision making in conservation actions. • Support development of tools and methods to measure long-term effectiveness of conservation and restoration activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientists and natural resource leaders have readily available information about conservation activities that is leading to more coordinated and effective conservation work. • Scientists and natural resource leaders are using the Great Basin Conservation Planning Atlas. • Partner agencies acknowledge each others programs and define their priorities within a shared framework • Partners are using the tools and methods to measure long-term effectiveness of conservation and restoration activities.

Objective 4:

Share timely and relevant information about conservation efforts and emerging science.

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host seminars and meetings to share topical information. • Share research and management highlights on Great Basin LCC website and in periodic newsletters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation managers look to the Great Basin LCC for emerging science to support their work by regularly attending webinars and meetings and viewing Great Basin LCC publications and materials.



Photo: John Boehmke

The Great Basin Landscape

Goal 3 (Tribal partnerships):

Traditional knowledge and contemporary science are shared and/or integrated, as appropriate, to further Great Basin conservation priorities and land stewardship.

Objective 1:

Create opportunities for dialogue on shared conservation goals with tribal governments and local communities.

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply best practices for protecting and incorporating traditional knowledge in conservation programs.• Develop mutually beneficial relationships with tribes.• Engage tribal governments to better understand their conservation goals and traditional practices.• Incorporate traditional knowledge in Great Basin LCC strategies, programs, and priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scientists, tribal governments and communities have met together and have a shared understanding of how conservation goals align as evidenced by greater participation by tribal organizations in the Great Basin LCC Steering Committee and Great Basin LCC-sponsored activities.

Objective 2:

Support exchanges of traditional knowledge and contemporary science with tribes to enhance land management, conservation and cultural preservation.

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share contemporary science and contemporary conservation practices with Great Basin tribes and seek to learn from traditional knowledge and conservation practices.• Share practices and be a resource for tribal land managers (e.g., through events such as the Climate Adaptation Trainings).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of areas where traditional knowledge can be integrated into conservation work and vice versa• More tribes participate in Great Basin LCC-funded science and traditional knowledge projects.

Objective 3:

Partner with tribes to identify and implement effective and appropriate ways to incorporate traditional knowledge into Great Basin stewardship.

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with tribes to identify and apply protocols to ensure respectful and appropriate use of traditional knowledges and practices.• Identify and share best practices from funded tribal projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are documented best practices for incorporating traditional knowledges into conservation practices in the basin that are made available to conservation partners in the basin.• There is a robust system to protect traditional knowledge in accordance with tribes' requirement

Objective 4:

Develop a process for the exchange of contemporary science and traditional knowledge that can be supported by both the tribes and non-tribal scientists

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet with partnering tribes and contemporary scientists interested in working with tribes to identify and document a process for exchanging information that works for all parties.• Share this process with the conservation community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a clear process, agreed to by partnering tribes, for how to exchange contemporary science and traditional knowledges, while safeguarding the confidentiality of certain knowledges (as defined by tribes.)



Photo courtesy of Patrick Alexander

Schell Creek Range, Nevada

Goal 4 (Information sharing):

Communication and understanding about science, management and cultural resources are enhanced and this information is accessible and discoverable by broader conservation community.

Objective 1:

Enhance access to discoverable scientific information about natural resources and understanding the importance of cultural resources of the Great Basin.

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Summarize and synthesize relevant research findings.Utilize online science delivery systems to allow easy access to published science products and other science information.Support planning and implementation of the annual Great Basin Consortium Conference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Summarize and synthesize relevant research findings.Utilize online science delivery systems to allow easy access to published science products and other science information.Support planning and implementation of the annual Great Basin Consortium Conference.

Objective 2:

Regularly update natural and cultural managers on key findings from Great Basin LCC-supported projects.

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Require principal investigators of Great Basin LCC-funded projects to provide research data, project summaries, key findings, publications and other related information.Host regular webinars to communicate outcomes from Great Basin LCC-supported projects.Communicate findings from LCC-supported projects on the Great Basin LCC website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information from Great Basin LCC-supported research is readily available and accessed as evidenced by website metrics, participation by organizations in Great Basin LCC activities, requests for additional information, positive feedback from webinars, etc.

Objective 3:

Keep all partners informed on relevant activities of the Great Basin LCC.

Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Send quarterly e-newsletters to the conservation community.Maintain and regularly update the Great Basin LCC website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Partners know of and share information about the work of the Great Basin LCC.

Evaluation

Ongoing evaluation of the Great Basin LCC’s efforts is critical to achieving the goals and objectives of this plan. The table below outlines suggested evaluation methods and metrics for each goal.

Goal 1 Landscape focus	Goal 2 Collaboration	Goal 3 Tribal partnerships	Goal 4 Information Sharing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observational data • Number of attendees at events • Post-event surveys • Number and type of requests for information • Regional efforts the Great Basin LCC is asked to participate in • Web surveys • Analytics on information, tools and technical products • Types and number of proposals received and projects funded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observational data • Participation in webinars, workshops, conference, etc. • Analytics on web-based tools and website use • Number and type of requests for staff participation • Staff time on collaborative landscape-scale efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observational data • Number of tribes inviting the Great Basin LCC to attend meetings and events • Number and type of tribal outreach contacts • Steering committee tribal seats filled by active participants • Number of traditional knowledge projects funded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytics for communications (newsletters, website, webinars, etc.) • Number and content of webinars • Number and type of presentations on Great Basin LCC and affiliated work • Partner surveys