

LANDSCAPE SCALE CONSERVATION IN THE EASTERN REGION

Special points of interest:

- > Landscape Scale Definitions
- > Who, What, When, Where, & Why of Landscape Scale Conservation
- > On-going & Future Projects



Landscape Scale Issues

Include:

- ◆ Fire Risks & Fire Needs
- ◆ Water Quality & Quantity
- ◆ Fish & Wildlife Population Needs
- ◆ Recreation & Tourism Needs
- ◆ Climate Change

Definitions

Landscape: may be defined by a combination of geography and resource issues and opportunities, and may be of varying scale and scope. These give rise to communities of interest and a family of local, state, and federal resource agencies, tribes, and other landowners bound together by mutual interest in outcomes within the landscape.

Landscape Scale Conservation: is a framework to conceive, plan, finance, and manage projects with significant conservation value—ecological, economical, and social. The broad concept of Landscape Scale Conservation includes three basic features:

- Contributes to landscape goals or outcomes
- Connects separate but related actions and integrates internal programs
- Involves strong partnerships, a shared vision, and cross-boundary engagement with local communities and other landowners.

Why We Do This

- When it comes to landscape issues, one organization can't do it all
- We are leaders in landscape scale conservation—it has been a focus of the Eastern Region forests and prairie for the last several years and is often a way of doing business; example:
 - ◇ In 2009, leadership from R9 National Forest System, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry, Northern Research Station, and Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters signed a position paper titled — "[Landscape Scale Conservation in the Northeast and Midwest](#)." This paper made a commitment that "Landscape Scale Conservation shall be a foundational concept of Forest Service and state forestry agency behavior and actions across the Northeast and Midwest."
- Supported by Leadership:
 - ◇ Chief of the Forest Service's take: "Our goal is to serve our communities, both rural and urban. This includes working with partners for healthy, resilient forests and rangelands on federal, state and private lands."
 - ◇ Four of Our Eastern Region's Courageous Conservation Goals are landscape-scale oriented: Protecting Ecosystems across Boundaries, Connecting Citizens to the Land, Walk the Talk for Sustainability, and Revolutionize Effectiveness and Efficiency.
 - ◇ Two of the Regional Forester's FY 2013 priorities directly involve landscape scale conservation: Accelerated Restoration & Partnerships.

How are We Supporting This?

- By encouraging plans and programs that achieve landscape-scale efforts; such as:
 - ◇ Priority watershed projects under the Watershed Condition Framework, restoration efforts of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program, and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (National Initiatives)
 - ◇ Accelerated Restoration and Partnerships (National & Regional 2013 Priorities)
 - ◇ Leech Lake Pines Collaborative (Chippewa NF) and the Integrated Resource Projects (Green Mountain NF); both Unit-led
- By creating a Regional Landscape Scale Conservation (LSC) effort to serve as a national model and influence national policy.
- By identifying strategic investment opportunities to advance landscape conservation in the Region

Who is Working For You

Landscape Scale Conservation Team—Members:

- ◇ **Pam Dryer**, Planning, Appeals, Litigation & Landscape Scale Conservation (Team Lead)
 - **Ted Geier**, Air, Water, Lands, Soils & Minerals
 - **John Rothlisberger**, Renewable Resources
 - **Greg Nowacki**, Renewable Resources
 - **Claudia Mielke**, Recreation, Wilderness & Heritage
 - **Terry Gallagher**, Fire & Aviation Management
 - **Juan Rios**, Engineering
 - **Bob Carr**, Information Management
 - **Leah Anderson**, Public & Government Relations
 - **Stephen Handler**, Northern Research Station
 - **Phillip DeSenze**, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

Future and Ongoing Projects in the Eastern Region

On July 17, 2012, the Regional Forester requested LSC project proposals from the field for the following purposes:

- Inventory of projects will allow the Region to be responsive to potential funding opportunities that occur at the National and Regional level
- Identify investment needs that can further LSC efforts; such as capacity building, training or technical assistance
- Enhance efforts to continue to promote model LSC work internally & externally
- Enhance Regional relationship with Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry and promote collaboration with State Foresters.

In developing project proposals, units were asked to use the following criteria: 1) contribution to landscape efforts; 2) internal integration; and 3) partnerships & community engagement.

25 project proposals were received from twelve forests. These projects included development of new collaboratives, additional support of ongoing landscape initiatives, and specific funding for projects within existing landscape initiatives. The requests included financial support for planning (NEPA), inventory, project implementation, monitoring, partnership development, and outreach. There was a myriad of focus areas such as red spruce restoration in the Central Appalachians, watershed restoration in the south central Lake Superior basin, and oak-hickory restoration in the central hardwoods. For more information on these proposals, Forest Service personnel can access them on the O Drive: <O:\NFS\R09\Project\LandscapeScaleConservation\Projects>.

Want to learn more about LSC? Visit the R9 external website at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r9/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5349731>