



## **Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative Trans-Boundary Collaboration Meeting held in Aguascalientes, Mexico**

The Service's Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) held its first ever International partnership meeting in Mexico, July 8-10, 2014 for the first time. The Desert LCC is an international partnership that brings together managers, stakeholders, communities and others to collectively address landscape conservation in the major desert and mountain regions of the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico. Seventy-nine people from the U.S. and Mexico met at the Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes to build an international foundation for the Desert LCC partnership by engaging representatives from existing and potential partners within the Desert LCC geography in Mexico.

We discussed the science, data sharing, and communication needs of Mexican and U.S. partners as they relate to addressing climate change and other large scale ecosystem threats, climate-smart landscape conservation design, developing international pilot projects for conserving aquatic, riparian, and grassland ecosystems, and solutions to the challenges of conducting collaborative, trans-boundary conservation. Outcomes of the meeting include bi-national project ideas and specific action items, such as recruiting critical partners from Mexico, overcoming language and communication barriers, and developing consistent monitoring and data sharing methodologies amongst our bi-national partners. At this meeting, the Desert LCC took a big step forward in developing an international partnership that allows us to inform and coordinate conservation efforts for priority ecosystems in the U.S. and Mexico, allowing us to make a greater collective impact than any one organization could make alone. Meeting participants from Mexico and the U.S. have already begun acting on the outcomes of the meeting and will be advancing them further at the Desert LCC's annual planning meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico, August 26 – 29, 2014.

Learn more about the Desert LCC on our website (<http://www.usbr.gov/dlcc/>) or Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/desertlcc>).



Banner image and group photo by Tahnee Robertson, Southwest Decision Resources



The group took a field trip to the Cienega de Mata area of Jalisco to learn more about the conservation and management of grassland ecosystems of the area. Photo by Aimee Roberson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service