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LCCs and the National Park Service

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Southeast Coast Network / SA-LCC

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Outline

- Our organization & LCC Funding
- NPS and Landscape Conservation
- Our planning process
 - The basics
 - Climate Change “addons”
- Challenges and opportunities
- For more information...

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How we fit together

- 392 Parks
 - 272 With Significant Natural Resources
 - Each has a different specific mission
 - National Parks, Historic Sites, Battlefields, Monuments, Seashores...
 - Bottom-up organization

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1. Major cities
 2. State boundaries
 3. County boundaries
 4. Interstate highways
 5. U.S. Routes
 6. State Routes
 7. Water bodies
 8. National parks
 9. State parks
 10. Indian reservations
 11. State capitals
 12. Major rivers
 13. Major lakes
 14. Major mountains
 15. Major plains
 16. Major deserts
 17. Major forests
 18. Major wetlands
 19. Major estuaries
 20. Major bays
 21. Major gulfs
 22. Major straits
 23. Major canals
 24. Major bridges
 25. Major tunnels
 26. Major airports
 27. Major seaports
 28. Major railroads
 29. Major pipelines
 30. Major power lines
 31. Major telecommunication lines
 32. Major roads
 33. Major trails
 34. Major paths
 35. Major routes
 36. Major corridors
 37. Major axes
 38. Major lines
 39. Major boundaries
 40. Major divisions
 41. Major regions
 42. Major zones
 43. Major areas
 44. Major spaces
 45. Major places
 46. Major locations
 47. Major sites
 48. Major spots
 49. Major points
 50. Major dots



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NPS Mission

The service shall promote and regulate the **use** of parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the **scenery** and the **natural and historic objects** and the **wild life** therein and to provide for the **enjoyment** of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them **unimpaired** for the enjoyment of future generations.

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NPS OMNIBUS MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1998

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“The Secretary shall undertake a program of inventory and monitoring of National Park System resources to establish baseline information and to provide information on the long-term trends in the condition of National Park System resources...”

“The Secretary shall ... assure the full and proper utilization of the results of scientific studies for park management decisions.”



Natural Resource Challenge

- Restore NPS capacity to do science-based management
- Implement an Inventory and Monitoring Program
 - Ecological condition / health focused
- Do it for ALL parks with significant natural resources
- Actively engage external partners to do it
- Think long term
 - Long-term monitoring
 - Information management

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I&M Networks

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Expanded Science Capacity

- I&M Networks
 - Appalachian Highlands Network
 - Cumberland Piedmont Network
 - Appalachian Trail / Megatransect Program
- Prototype I&M Parks
 - Great Smokies NP
 - Mammoth Cave NP
- Science Learning Centers
 - Congaree NP
- CESUs
 - University of TN
 - Penn State
- National NR Program Center
 - Data management, etc.



NPS LCC/CC Initiative

- National Office is spearheading adaptation projects
 - Focus on downscaling models for planning
- All regional offices getting a climate scientist (SE to be based in Athens, GA)
- Several networks have received FY2010 base increases to coordinate with LCCs
 - Focus on coordinating monitoring and data management efforts within LCC framework
 - Networks selected by ecological theme
 - No new funding for ALCC networks (yet)



The Message We're Getting

- NPS and FWS I&M Programs will be closely integrated at the national level
- Make it happen at the network/LCC level too
- LCCs and CRCs are intended to help NPS planning efforts
 - Specifically to include cultural resource management
- **First heard about this in September**
- We still have little national guidance on *how*

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NPS & Landscape Conservation

- Not typically considered a landscape conservation agency
- Science-based resource management new(ish)
- We DO manage landscapes
- But... strong mandate to engage in partnerships to accomplish landscape-level goals
- Predisposed to LCC integration

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Side-by-side

	NPS	FWS
What	Scenery Natural and Historic Objects Wild Life	Fish Wildlife Plants Habitats
Where	Within park borders	Everywhere
Why	Enjoyment and Use	Benefit
Standard	No Impairment	Enhancement
For whom	Future generations	American people

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Planning!

- General Management Plans
- Resource Management Plans
 - Vegetation Management Plans
 - Wildlife Management Plans
 - Off Road Vehicle MPs
 - Museum / Facilities / Visitor Use / Outreach...
- Resource Stewardship Strategies
- CC Vulnerability Assessments and Adaptation Plans
- Science-Supported by
 - I&M Program
 - Resource Condition Assessments



Resource Stewardship Strategies

- New planning process to replace resource management plans as of 2001
- NPS's implementation of the DOI Adaptive Management Framework
- Integrates Natural and Cultural Resource Planning
- Still in pilot phase...
 - Two so far underway in the SE; none complete.

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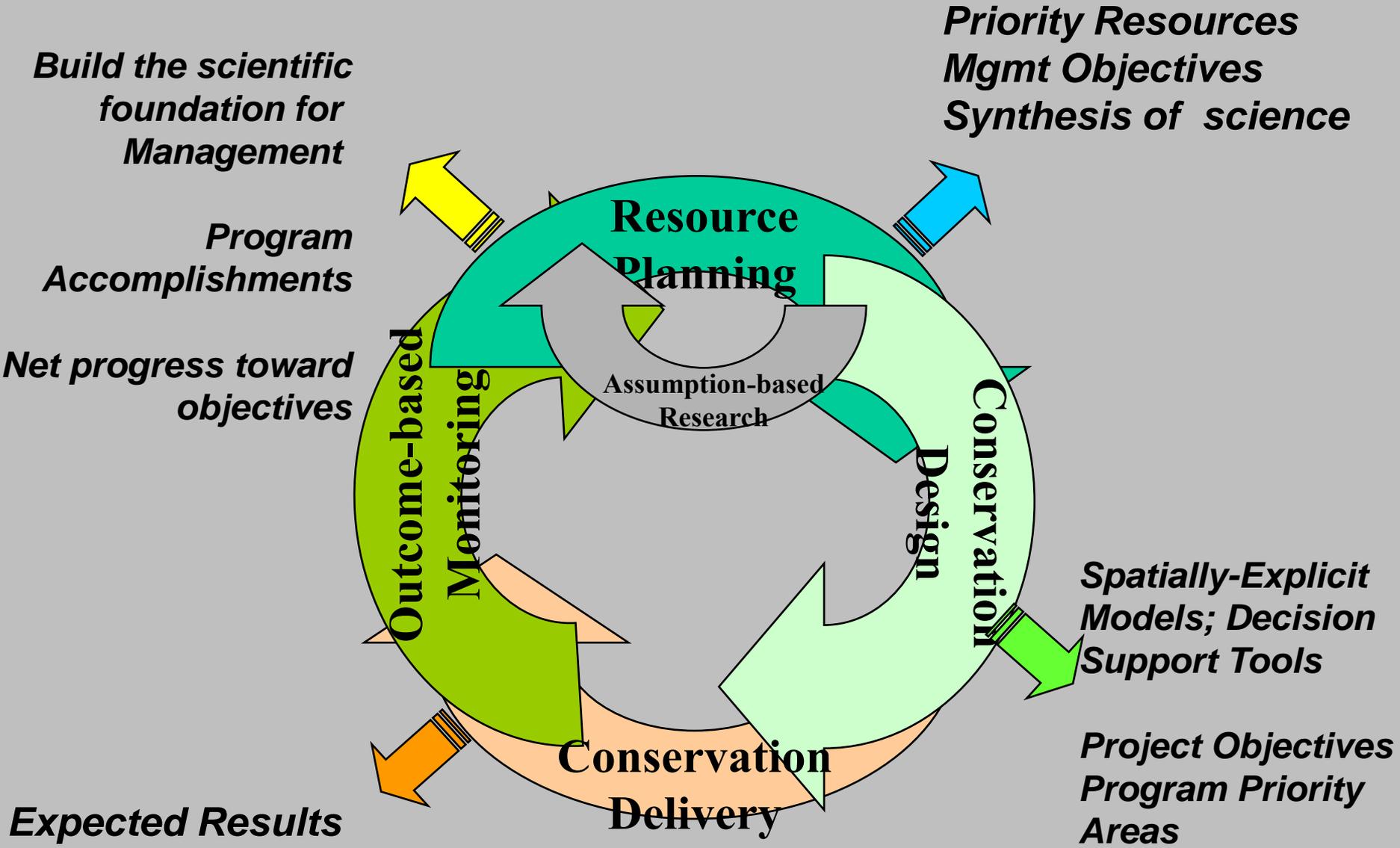


Should look familiar

- Structured process
- Identify key resources and values
- Develop indicators, management targets, and standards
- Create and implement strategies to manage resources
- Research, Monitor, and Adapt

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Resource Stewardship Framework



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Side-by-side

	NPS	FWS
Planning	All Resources and Values Scenery Natural and Historic Objects Wild Life	Biological Fish Wildlife Plants Habitats
Assessment	Inventory & Monitoring Condition Assessment	Refuge I&M Program
Conservation Design	Strategies	
Conservation Delivery	Project Implementation	
Outcome monitoring	Park-based monitoring	Project Monitoirng
Research		



Two approaches

- Landscape-scale approach to conservation of trust resources

Vs.

- Conservation of the landscape for the benefit of trust resources

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Aldo Leopold, 1944

“There are two kinds of conservationists, and two systems of thought on the subject. One kind feels a primary interest in some one aspect of land (such as soil, forestry, game, or fish) with an incidental interest in the land as a whole.

The other feels a primary interest in the land as a whole, with incidental interest in its component resources.

The two approaches lead to quite different conclusions as to what constitutes conservative land-use and how such use is to be achieved.”



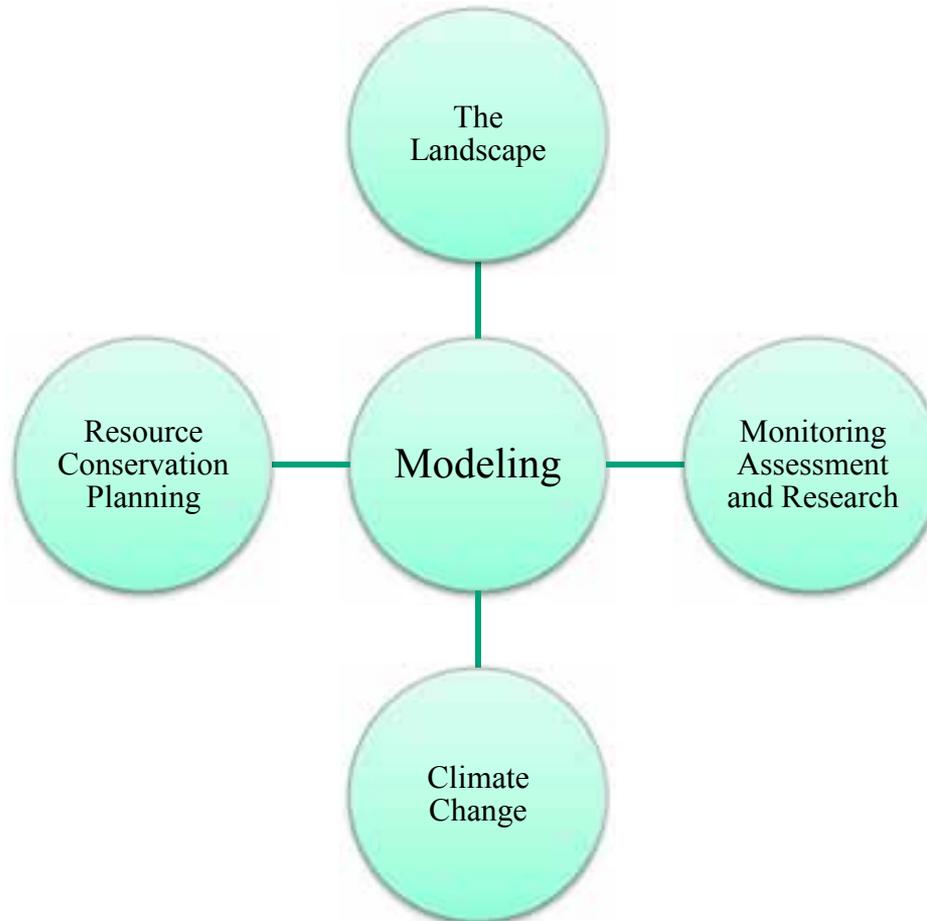
Questions

- What definition of Landscape Conservation are we designing the LCCs around?
- Is the SHC planning process an appropriate tool for NPS?
- How relevant are the LCCs to park operations?



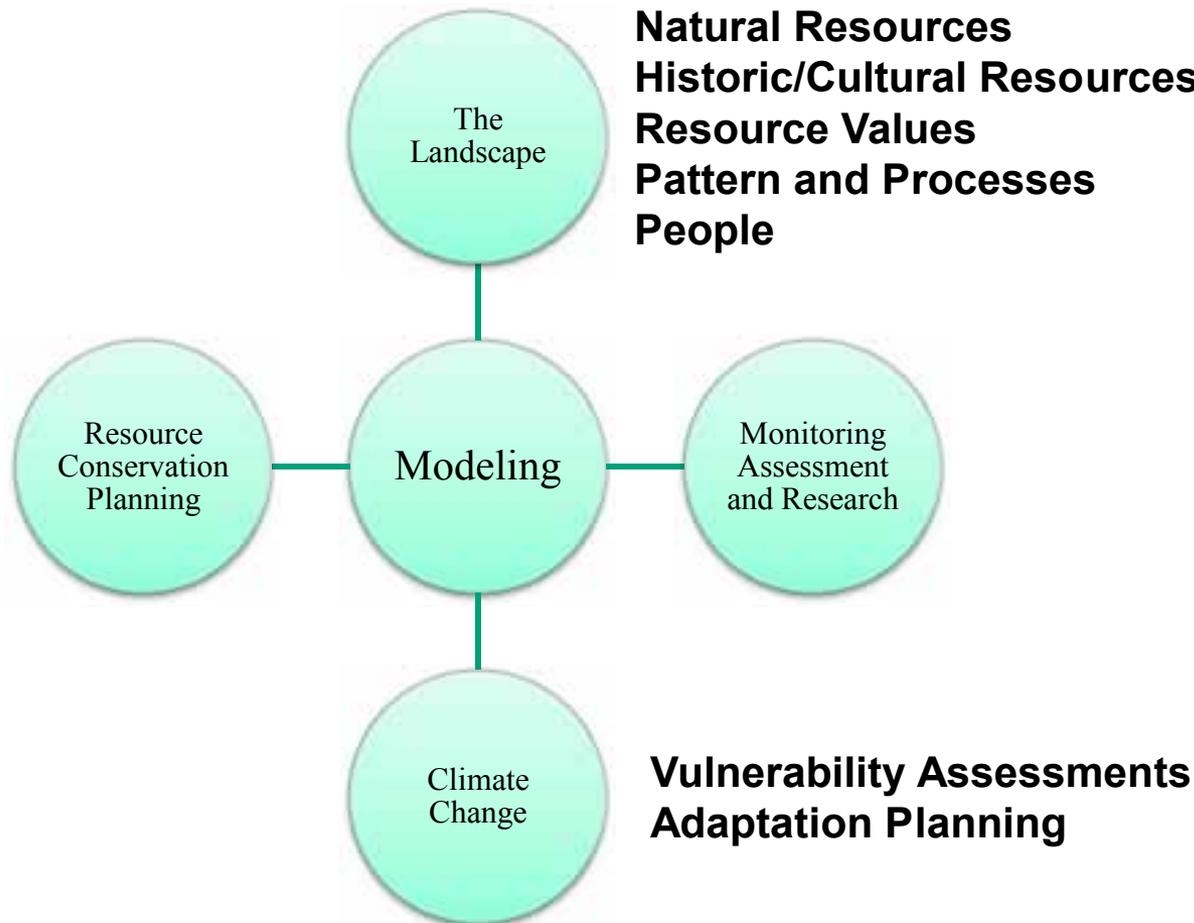
What does this mean for LCCs?

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What does this mean for LCCs?





The Opportunity...

- Think big on defining the landscape, and let partners take different roles in how to implement it
- Adapt the SHC process to accommodate other conservation efforts
- Result will encourage integrated, cross-discipline, coordinated adaptive management at the landscape scale