

# Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks LCC

## Strategic Habitat Conservation

&

## Surrogate Species:

# Where Does the GCPO LCC Fit In?

Memphis, TN October 2, 2012

Greg Wathen – Coordinator

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# Objectives of this Presentation

- Quick introduction on the genesis of the network of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and Climate Science Centers.
- Description of the GCPO LCC's Mission, Functional Roles, and Structure.
- Share some perspectives on where we hope to go as a Cooperative, and how this might relate to the SHC/Surrogate Species conversation.

# The Genesis of LCCs



Sam Hamilton, Director

USFWS

September 1, 2009 –

February 20, 2010

“...Interior bureaus and agencies must work together, and with other federal, state, tribal and local governments, and private landowner partners, to develop landscape-level strategies for understanding and responding to climate change impacts.”



## Secretarial Order 3289

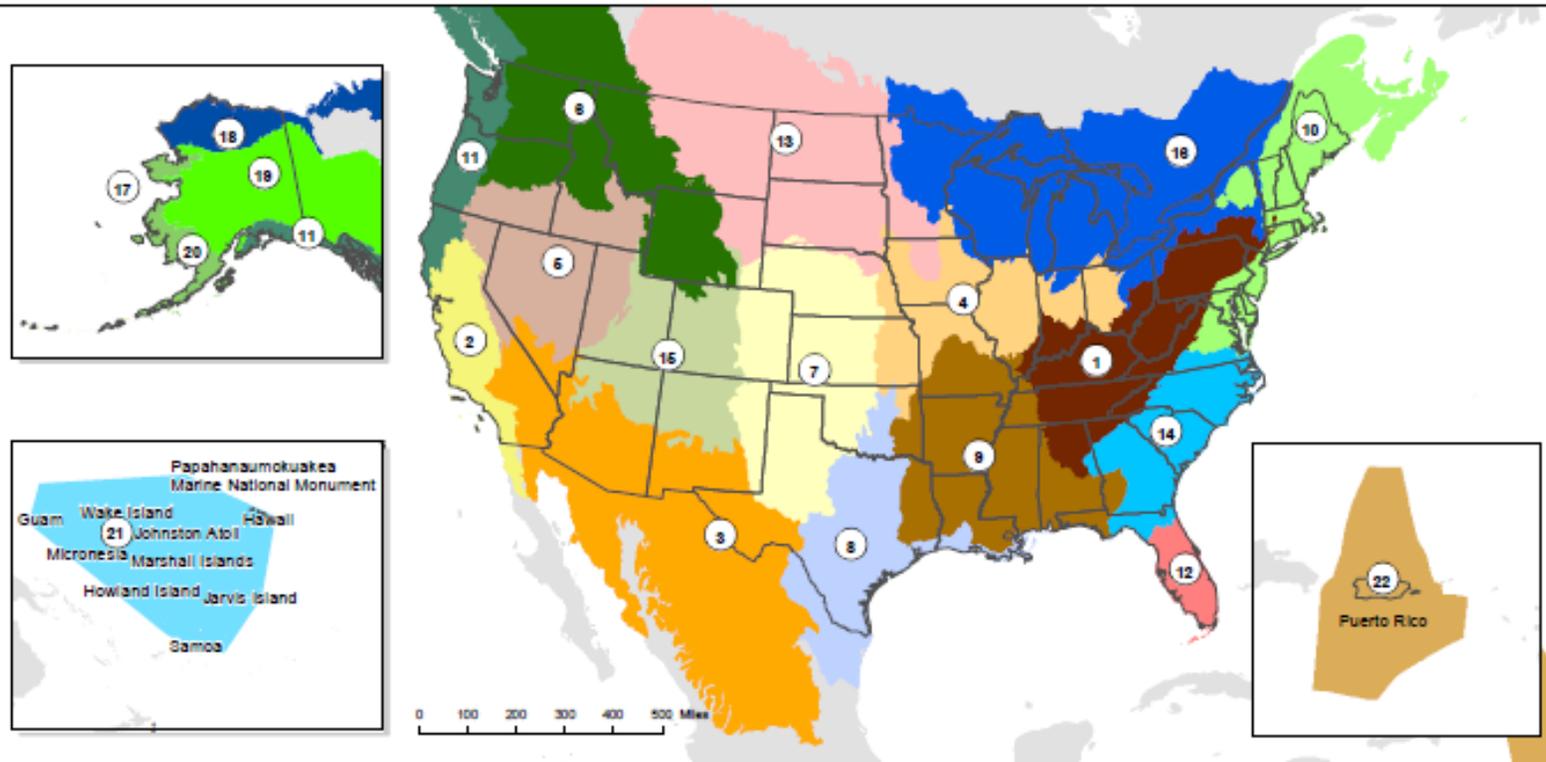
(c) Landscape Conservation Cooperatives. Given the broad impacts of climate change, management responses to such impacts must be coordinated on a landscape-level basis. For example, wildlife migration and related needs for new wildlife corridors, the spread of invasive species and wildfire risks, typically will extend beyond the borders of National Wildlife Refuges, BLM lands, or National Parks. Additionally, some bureau responsibilities (e.g., Fish and Wildlife Service migratory bird and threatened and endangered species responsibilities) extend nationally and globally. Because of the unprecedented scope of affected landscapes, Interior bureaus and agencies must work together, and with other federal, state, tribal and local governments, and private landowner partners, to develop landscape-level strategies for understanding and responding to climate change impacts. Interior bureaus and agencies, guided by the Climate Response Council, will work to stimulate the development of a network of collaborative “Landscape Conservation Cooperatives.” These cooperatives, which already have been formed in some regions, will work interactively with the relevant DOI Regional Climate Change Response Center(s) and help coordinate adaptation efforts in the region.

and cultural heritage and tribal lands and resources from the dramatic effects of climate change that are already occurring – from the Arctic to the Everglades. The realities of climate change require us to change how we manage the land, water, fish and wildlife, and cultural heritage and tribal lands and resources we oversee. For example:

- New water management imperatives associated with climate change may require restoration of natural systems and construction of new infrastructure to reduce new flood risks or to capture early run-off.
  - Strategies to address sea level rise may require acquisition of upland habitat and creation of wetlands and other natural filters and barriers to protect against sea level rise and
  - Shifting wildlife and habitat populations may require investments in new wildlife corridors.
- and more severe droughts will require innovation and more effective ways of managing the Department's resources.

# A national and international seamless network....

## Landscape Conservation Cooperatives



### Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

- |   |                                   |                                     |                                  |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Appalachian                              | 7. Great Plains                   | 13. Plains and Prairie Potholes     | 19. Northwestern Interior Forest |
| 2. California                               | 8. Gulf Coast Prairie             | 14. South Atlantic                  | 20. Western Alaska               |
| 3. Desert                                   | 9. Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks | 15. Southern Rockies                | 21. Pacific Islands              |
| 4. Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers | 10. North Atlantic                | 16. Upper Midwest and Great Lakes   | 22. Caribbean                    |
| 5. Great Basin                              | 11. North Pacific                 | 17. Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands | Unclassified                     |
| 6. Great Northern                           | 12. Peninsular Florida            | 18. Arctic                          |                                  |

Albers Equal Area Conic NAD83  
Produced by FWS, IRTM, Denver, CO  
Map Date: 12/14/2011

# The LCC Network

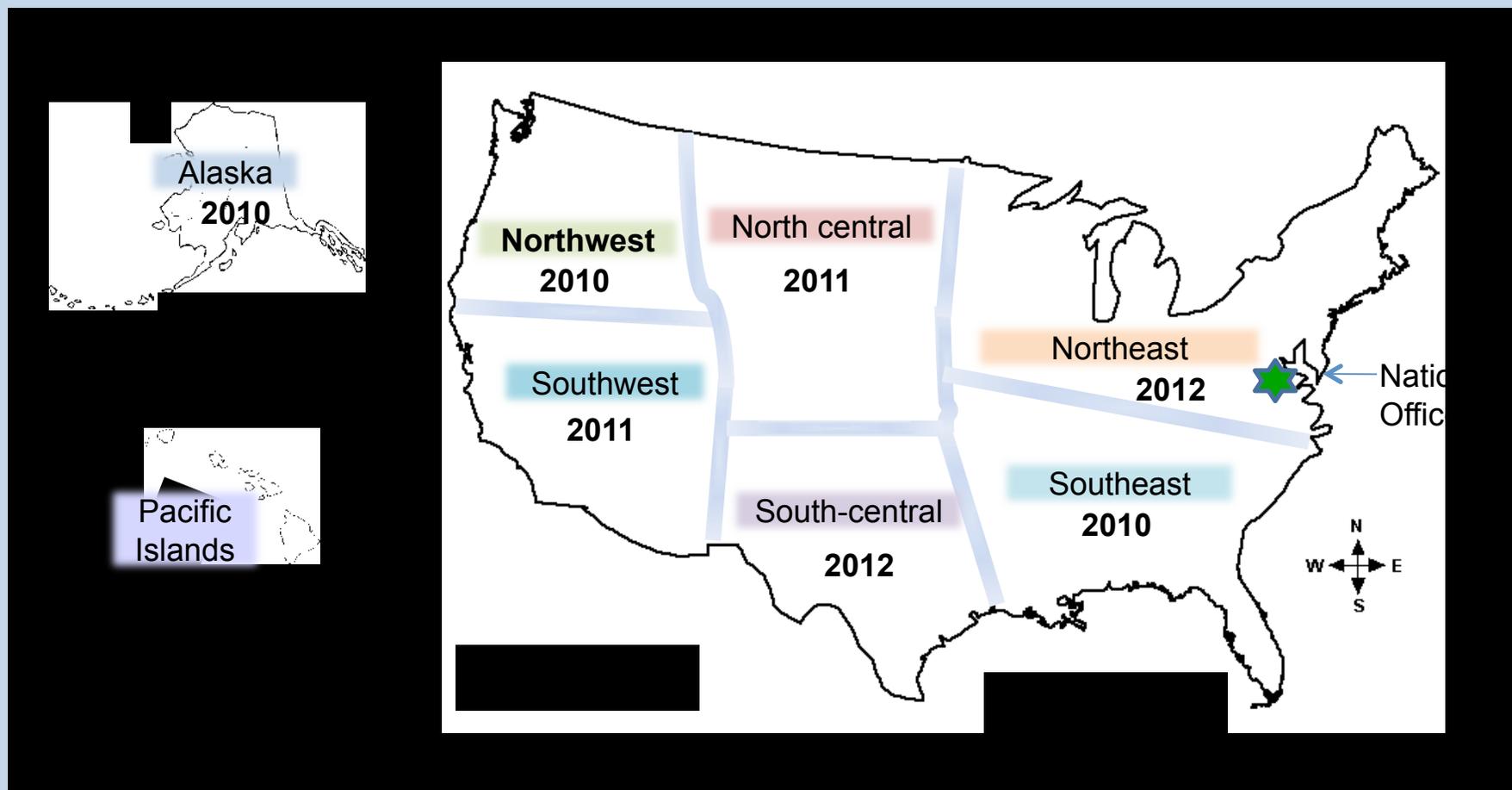
## **Vision**

*To sustain natural and cultural resources valued by society for current and future generations.*

## **Mission**

*To function as a network of cooperatives that provide the forum for developing a shared vision of landscapes that sustains natural and cultural resources, cooperates in its implementation, and collaborates in its refinement.*

# NCCWSC National & DOI Regional CSCs



“Fuzzy Boundaries”

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# GCPO – The Geography



## Cultural Resources

Forested Wetlands, Bayous, and

Emerald Coast

# The GCPO LCC and our Mission:

The Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks (GCPO) Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GCPO LCC or Cooperative) is a self-directed partnership of federal, state, and private organizations dedicated to the conservation of the natural and cultural resources within the GCPO LCC geography. To achieve its mission, the GCPO LCC will undertake the applied conservation science needed to inform its partners of Strategic Habitat Conservation priorities for the GCPO LCC geography. Further, the GCPO LCC will seek to engage other landscape conservation partnerships within the GCPO geography as full partners in the mutual development and implementation of GCPO LCC priorities.

# The GCPO LCC and our Mission:

- Mission of the GCPO LCC
  - The mission of the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative is to articulate the shared vision for sustainable natural and cultural resources in the face of a changing climate and other threats, foster a cooperative capacity within the collective conservation community to effectively meet the challenges of achieving that vision, and facilitate the refinement of that vision through targeted evaluation over time

## Steering Committee

Alabama DCNR

American Bird Conservancy\*

Arkansas GFC

Auburn University\*

The Conservation Fund\*

Dept of Defense – Army Corps of Engineers

Ducks Unlimited

Florida FWCC

Kentucky DFWR

Louisiana DWF

Mississippi DWFP

Mississippi State University

Missouri DC

National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative

Oklahoma DWC

Tennessee WRA

Texas DPW

The Nature Conservancy

US Forest Service

US Fish & Wildlife Service

US Geological Survey

• Non-voting members

# Building the Cooperative

The Gulf of the St. Lawrence Corridor Landscape Conservation Cooperative is overseen and directed by a Steering Committee (Committee). The Committee offers representation of interests in organizations and interests in organizations, the mission of the Cooperative. Facilitate active participation of all of accepted responsibility for the cooperative, the conservation goals of the Cooperative. Regardless of the membership level, it is a shared responsibility of the Cooperative. Adaptation/Science Management Team and subordination to the organization's mission, authorities, and budgetary capabilities.

## Steering Committee

Alabama DCNR  
American Bird Conservancy\*  
Arkansas GFC  
Auburn University\*  
The Conservation Fund\*  
Dept of Defense – Army Corps of Engineers  
Ducks Unlimited  
Florida FWCC  
Kentucky DFWR  
Louisiana DWF  
Mississippi DWFP  
Mississippi State University  
Missouri DC  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative  
Oklahoma DWC  
Tennessee WRA  
Texas DPW  
The Nature Conservancy  
US Forest Service  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
US Geological Survey

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# Building the Cooperative

**GCPO LCC Advisory Council**

In order to facilitate coordination and integration with existing landscape conservation partnerships (Black Belt Conservation Coalition, Atlantic Partnership, etc.) a GCPO LCC Advisory Council is established to provide advice and recommendations to the Steering Committee on conservation issues, strategies, and initiatives of mutual interest to the conservation community of the GCPO LCC. The Council will provide a forum for: 1) formal collaboration on projects of mutual interest; 2) sharing resources and assets to meet mutual goals and objectives; 3) making recommendations on priority projects, strategies, and initiatives for the collective GCPO LCC conservation community.

Black Belt Conservation Coalition  
Atlantic Partnership  
Central Hardwoods Joint Venture  
East Gulf Coastal Plains Joint Venture  
Gulf Coast Joint Venture  
Gulf of Mexico Alliance  
Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture  
Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee  
Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership  
Southeast Bat Diversity Network  
Southeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptilian Conservation



## GCPO LCC Conservation Science Staff

### Conservation Science Staff

**Greg Wathen, Coordinator (TWRA)**

**Dr. John Tirpak, Science Coordinator  
(USFWS)**

**Dr. Michael Osland, Research  
Ecologist (USGS)**

**Karen “Gregg” Elliott,  
Communications Specialist**

**Laurie Rounds, NOAA-LCC Liaison**

**Taylor Hannah, SCEP Student, Univ. of  
TN at Martin**

**Alexis Londo, GIS Coordinator,  
Mississippi State University**

**Aquatics GIS Position, Baton Rouge,  
LA (FWS)**

**Advanced Applications Specialist,  
Univ. of Louisiana-Lafayette**



# Functional Roles of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

- Offer partners a landscape perspective for their conservation activities
- Develop explicit linkages across existing conservation partnerships that span multiple taxa and habitats
- Help incorporate future change into conservation planning (e.g., urbanization, sea-level rise)
- Pull these pieces together to help conservation partners define and design sustainable landscapes
  - Conservation Adaptation Strategy



**Southeast Conservation  
Adaptation Strategy: A SEAFWA Briefing**

**Collaboratively Defining a Future  
Conservation Landscape in the  
Southeastern US**

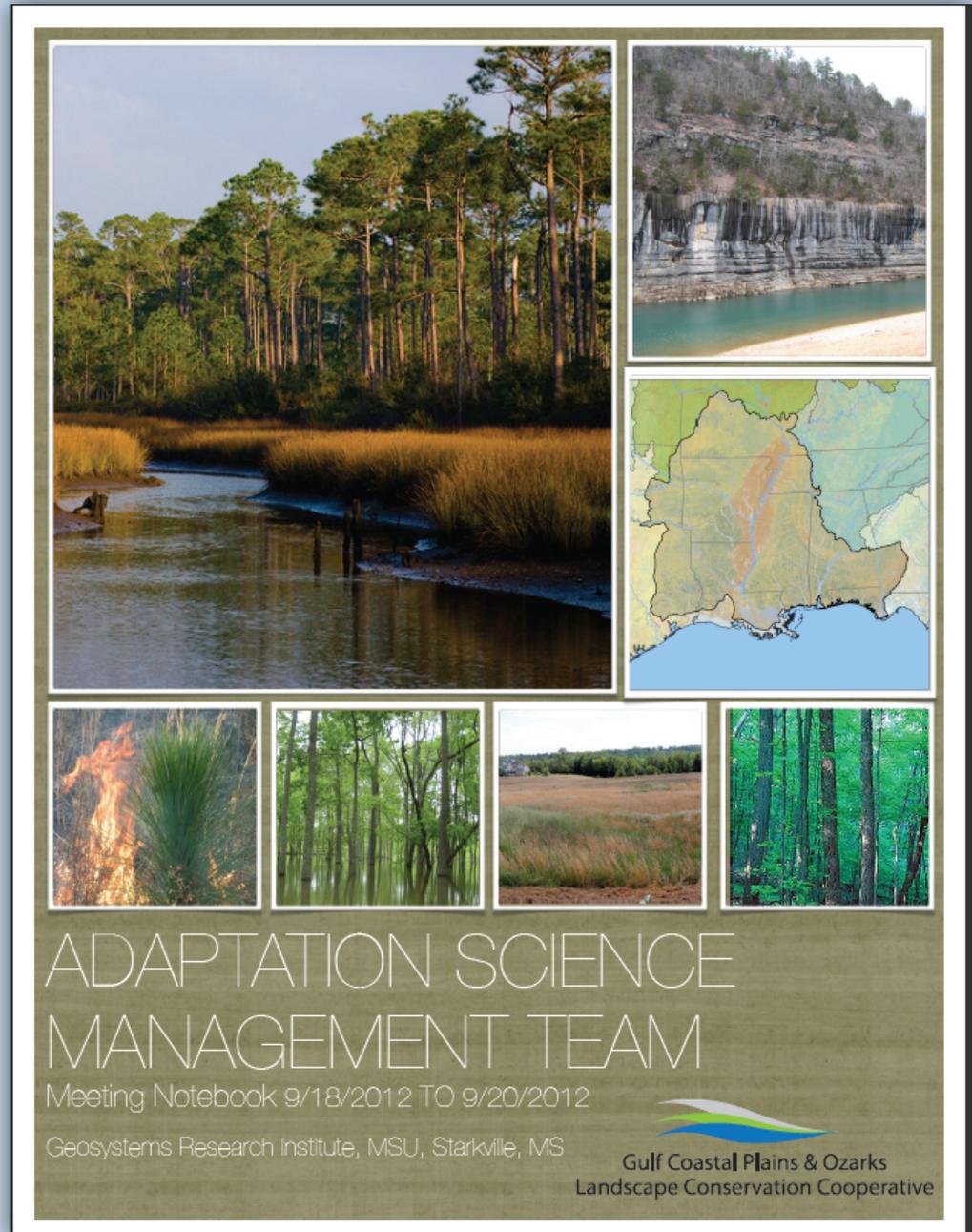
Like marshes, mangroves protect coastlines/  
[Kristine Paulus/FlickrCC](#)

Sections of the northern Gulf coastline within the  
GCPO may become the last holdouts of salt marsh  
in the Gulf of Mexico/GCPO LCC

High densities of shrimp and blue crabs use  
northern Gulf marsh surfaces/[Maricé Casas/FlickrCC](#)

# Adaptation Science- Management Team

- First meeting held Sept 18-20, 2012, in Starkville, MS.
- Workshop was geared towards developing a Conservation Framework for the GCPO LCC, with SHC as a foundational principle.
- ASMT members initiated conceptual conservation models for the 5 major subgeographies of the GCPO LCC.
- ASMT members supported the use of surrogate species to guide refinement of ecological endpoints, and offered to assist FWS in leading the effort to identify appropriate surrogate species.



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## Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy: A SEAFWA Briefing

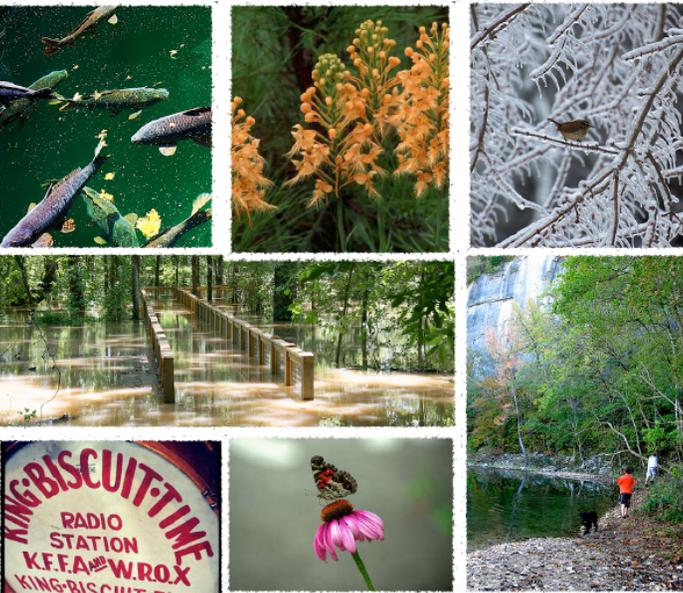


Collaboratively Defining a Future  
Conservation Landscape in the  
Southeastern US



# GCPO LCC Steering Committee Meeting SEAFWA – Hot Springs, AR

**SECAS, Surrogate Species, and SHC:  
Connecting the Dots in the GCPO LCC**



**Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks  
Landscape Conservation  
Cooperative  
Steering Committee Meeting**

October 9, 2012  
Southeast Association of Fish &  
Wildlife Agencies, Hot Springs, AR

**Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC**  
Conserving Fish and Wildlife Through Science, Technology, and Partnerships

Main News & Opportunities My Page About Connect Events Links Networking Tools

**Latest Activity**

Gregg Elliott posted blog posts  
Mississippi River Corridor - Tennessee, Inc - the Little Organization that Could  
New Free Tools for Stream Ecosystem Modeling Available  
2 minutes ago

Gregg Elliott posted an event  
Gulf Coast Joint Venture fall 2012 Board Meeting at Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex Headquarters  
October 30, 2012 to October 31, 2012  
21 minutes ago

Blair Tirpak updated their profile  
15 hours ago

Gregg Elliott posted an event  
East Gulf Coastal Plain

**Photos**



+ Add Photos View All

**What's been happening lately in the GCPOLCC?**

The fall meeting of the GCPO LCC's Steering Committee will be held in conjunction with SEAFWA in Hot Springs, AR on Oct. 9th. Background materials are available.

The first meeting of the GCPO LCC's Adaptation Science Management Team was held Sep 18-20 at MSU. Background materials are available, and you can download a Rapid Review of the results.

The GCPO LCC has a new factsheet available! In addition, our projects page has 6 factsheets about some of our top priority projects.

**Greg Wathen**  
Sign Out  
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Alerts  
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Settings

**Awaiting Approval**  
1 New Member

**Check out the latest News!**

**The GCPO Monitor:**  
July/August 2012  
June 2012  
May 2012  
Mar/April 2012  
Feb 2012  
Jan 2012  
Dec 2011  
Oct/Nov 2011  
Sep 2011

**Key Documents:**  
Factsheet (July 2012)  
2011 Annual Report  
LCC FAQs (2012)

[www.gcpolcc.org](http://www.gcpolcc.org)