



News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperative Names Steering Committee and Identifies Priorities

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and its many conservation partners convened in Austin, Texas, for the first meeting of the Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperative. The Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) is a collaborative, science-based response to large-scale impacts on land and water resources. The LCC encompasses portions of five states: Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, as well as Northern Mexico.

The area encompassed in the LCC is topographically complex and includes a diverse landscape of prairies, coastal environments and rangelands. The richness of the area supports a wide variety of habitat for many distinct species of native plants, fish, and wildlife, including many endemic species. The LCC seeks to address critical science needs and gaps in the area and connect them to conservation practices on the ground, building synergies with efforts already underway. This coordination helps ensure efficient use of limited conservation funding and resources.

The Austin meeting identified the priorities for the LCC and named a Steering Committee to develop and guide the priorities, goals and objectives for this newly-formed LCC. Representatives from the following organizations will serve on the Gulf Coast Prairie LCC Steering Committee: Gulf Coast Joint Venture, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fish, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Park Service, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership, Rio Grande Joint Venture, Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, United States Department Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey. In addition, the Gulf Coast Prairie LCC established advisory teams to formulate operations, and to identify and prioritize science needs based on partner input and an assessment of available science capacities.

The Gulf Coast Prairie LCC is one of 21 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives that collectively form a national network of partnerships working collaboratively across jurisdictions and political boundaries. The LCC's are designed to address landscape-scale changes and impacts to America's land, water, wildlife and cultural resources by sharing science capacity. LCCs complement and build upon existing science and conservation efforts such as fish habitat partnerships and migratory

bird joint ventures, as well as water resources, land, and cultural partnerships within the U.S. and across our international borders.

“This continual process of information sharing will help scientists and resource managers deal with uncertainties on the landscape and transform scientific knowledge into decisions and actions to safeguard fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats.” said Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southwest Regional Director.

To learn more about Landscape Conservation Cooperatives across the country including the Gulf Coast Prairie LCC, visit <http://www.fws.gov/science/shc/lcc.html>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

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