

Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC Adaptation Science Management Team

Charter

Purpose:

The GCPOLCC Adaptation Science Management Team (hereafter, “ASMT” or “Team”) will serve as the technical forum for coordination and communication among LCC partners in matters pertaining to the achievement of the GCPOLCC’s mission. The Team serves at the nexus of science and management and provides the Steering Committee and Partnership Advisory Council insights into the proper balance of scientific rigor and operational reality in achieving its priorities – particularly development and implementation of a Conservation Adaptation Strategy in support of sustaining trust resources in light of current and anticipated stressors within the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks geography. The Team also serves as core capacity for coordination of achieving technical tasks on behalf of the GCPOLCC Partnership.

The Team is empowered to:

- 1) Identify the technical challenges inherent in achieving the broad mission and specific priorities identified by the GCPOLCC Partnership; outline solutions for overcoming these challenges and provide recommendations to Steering Committee and Partnership Advisory Council on preferred approaches, tasks, timing, and projects.
- 2) Provide a framework for a regional Conservation Adaptation Strategy, oversee its development, and periodically review and refine it to maintain its relevance.
- 3) Develop and implement a process for soliciting science needs to inform a Conservation Adaptation Strategy.
- 4) Develop and implement a process for prioritizing science needs that facilitates the development and refinement of a Conservation Adaptation Strategy by addressing key uncertainties.
- 5) Identify additional science capacities needed within the GCPOLCC Partnership to guide development, implementation, and refinement of a Conservation Adaptation Strategy.
- 6) Organize ad hoc or standing sub-committees and teams deemed necessary in accomplishing its purpose and/or meeting any additional charges from Steering Committee.

Membership:

Membership on the Team will seek to reflect a cross-section of the geographic, resource, functional, and organizational perspectives present within the GCPOLCC conservation community (Appendix 1). Effective group size precludes each partner from being represented for each functional role specific to each resource within each geography. Therefore, representatives that reflect multiple perspectives will be relied on to ensure all partners are franchised on the ASMT. Additional standing members that reflect the necessary skill sets and technical expertise required to effectively accomplish the Team's mission will be solicited through an open nomination process (self-nomination acceptable). Membership is open to all individuals associated with an organization or agency currently serving as an Executive Member or Cooperating Member on the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee must approve all Team members. The Standing Members of the Team so appointed are empowered and encouraged to enlist other such members as deemed appropriate to the creation and operation of ad hoc or standing subcommittees.

Officers:

The Team will select a Chair from among its members. The Chair will work with the LCC Science Coordinator to plan and conduct meetings, prepare and disseminate notes and other documents from and to the Team, and report recommendations to the Steering Committee and Partnership Advisory Council.

Process:

The ASMT will operate under the broad guidance and direction of the Steering Committee and with operational oversight provided on behalf of the Steering Committee from the LCC Coordinator and Science Coordinator. Standing members retain voting privileges; simple majority rules. The ASMT should operate with an annual work plan that identifies priorities consistent with the biological direction provided by the development and implementation of a Conservation Action Plan, the purpose of the GCPOLCC, and the mission, authorities, and responsibilities of the GCPOLCC's member agencies and organizations.

Reporting

Responsibilities

And Relationships:

The Team will submit an annual report through the GCPOLCC Coordinator and Science Coordinator to the GCPOLCC Steering Committee at least 10 days prior to the Steering Committee's Spring/Summer meeting. Report topics should include progress and activities associated with the current year's work plan and priorities, issues, findings or recommendations, and proposed work plan for the ensuing 12 months.

Appendix 1: A snapshot (and subset) of the geographic, resource, functional, and organizational perspectives within the conservation community of the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks.

Geographic perspectives:

Interior Highlands/Missouri/Ohio/Upper Mississippi
West Gulf Coastal Plain/Arkansas-Red-White/Texas-Gulf
East Gulf Coastal Plain/South Atlantic-Gulf/Tennessee/
Gulf Coast/South Atlantic-Gulf
Mississippi Alluvial Valley/Lower Mississippi

Resource perspectives:

Birds
Fish
Amphibians
Reptiles
Mammals
Insects
Crustaceans
Mollusks
Plants
Cultural resources

Functional perspectives:

Manager
Scientist

Organizational perspectives:

State
Federal
Non-profit
Partnership