

North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

USFWS Budget Report to Steering Committee, August, 2011

Fiscal Year 2011

National

\$28 Million

Northeast Region

\$3.26 Million

North Atlantic LCC

Category	Cooperative Landscape Conservation	Adaptive Science	Total
Appropriated Funds	\$1,011,944	\$1,043,142	\$2,055,086
Salaries	\$365,000		\$380,000
Operations & Travel	\$240,000		\$240,000
Coop. Agreement with WMI for contracts and projects	\$400,000	\$1,043,142	\$1,443,142

Appalachian LCC

Category	Cooperative Landscape Conservation	Adaptive Science	Total
Appropriated Funds	\$592,134	\$610,390	\$1,202,524

Notes

Appropriated funds are total appropriated (\$2,208,000 for North Atlantic) - 6% administrative costs from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Salaries include one dedicated position for the North Atlantic LCC – LCC Coordinator (Andrew Milliken) - and six shared positions in the Science Applications Program – Assistant Regional Director (ARD), Science Applications (Ken Elowe), Regional Scientist (Rick Bennett), Communications Coordinator (Megan Nagel), GIS Specialist (BJ Richardson), ARD Secretary (Karen Gallant), Secretary (Heather Zackaricz). Also includes temporary and term staff. For FY 2011, shared salaries are pro-rated to reflect the amount of funds each LCC in the northeast receives (approximately 63% charged to North Atlantic LCC and 37% charged to Appalachian LCC).

Dedicated North Atlantic LCC Science Coordinator will be hired fall, 2011.

National LCC Budget History and Projections

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2010</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2011</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2012</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2012</u>
<i>Status</i>	<i>Appropriated</i>	<i>Appropriated</i>	<i>President's Budget</i>	<i>House Appropriations Mark</i>
Amount	\$20,000,000	\$28,000,000	\$37,483,000	\$20,000,000
# LCCs supported	at least 9	at least 14	at least 18	see language below

Fiscal Year 2012 House Interior Appropriations Mark and Language

Committee recommends \$20,000,000 for the cooperative landscape conservation and adaptive science initiative, \$10,970,000 below the fiscal year 2011 enacted level and \$17,483,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recognizes a limited Federal role in science-based, landscape-level conservation of our nation's natural resources, including fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. The concept is not new; in fact it has been underway for some time in other agencies such as the Forest Service and the National Park Service, and in other Fish and Wildlife Service programs such as bird joint ventures and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. How these and other efforts fit together is of grave concern to the Committee.

The Fish and Wildlife Service continues to struggle in developing this initiative. Fundamental, unanswered questions pertaining mostly to roles and responsibilities of partners and existing programs have been asked by too many for too long. Furthermore, Service partners are overwhelmed by the increasing volume of Service partnership efforts at a time when State, local, tribal, and non-profit organization budgets are flat or decreasing. Despite the Committee's concerns about how the Service has been implementing this initiative, the Service has made a strong case to this Committee as to why the initiative is necessary. The Service's current business model, containing an abundance of authorizations and programs, is not working as well as it could. Programs are stove piped. Habitats are being lost. The health of most species for which the Service has a trust responsibility is either unknown or poor. In this budget climate more than ever, new initiatives such as this must either be achieving economies of scale, or must be offset, or both. By proposing to cut the budget for climate change planning and adaptive science capacity, this Committee is directing the Service to: (1) more fully develop the initiative in a limited number of areas; and (2) combine the initiative with bird joint ventures and national fish habitat partnerships. The Committee urges the Service to take into account these directives as it develops and submits its fiscal year 2013 budget request.