[Full Report] Summary of AppLCC Web Survey *(Early Results_July 5th)*

1. The decisions and recommendations I make as part of my job, are primarily:

35.5% Multi-state
19.4% Statewide
25.8 Intra-state/regional
19.4% Project level

2. My organization is represented on the Appalachian LCC (AppLCC) Steering Committee.

50% Yes 28.1% N   21.9% Not sure

If yes, then
3. I am receiving regular updates from my Steering Committee member.

60% Yes   40% No

4. I am providing substantive input to my Steering Committee member.

40% Yes 60% No

5. What would you suggest that might enhance your ability to directly engage with AppLCC?

- Time and costs
- Expanded role for universities to interact with LCC
- Webinars to discuss various regional issues and as AppLCC studies are completed.
- Better feedback from committee on what is transpiring at meetings and direction of committee.
- Tangible products
- Leadership with conservation implementation experience
- Electronic prompts to view updates/latest news at LCC web site
- Better definition of my role and expectations
- That the AppLCC generate some data products that I can use
- Travel support
- Opportunities to participate
- More conversations about other regional efforts that might overlap. Specifically with the Central Appalachians Climate Change Response Framework (www.framework.org)
- Website with interactive maps and documents
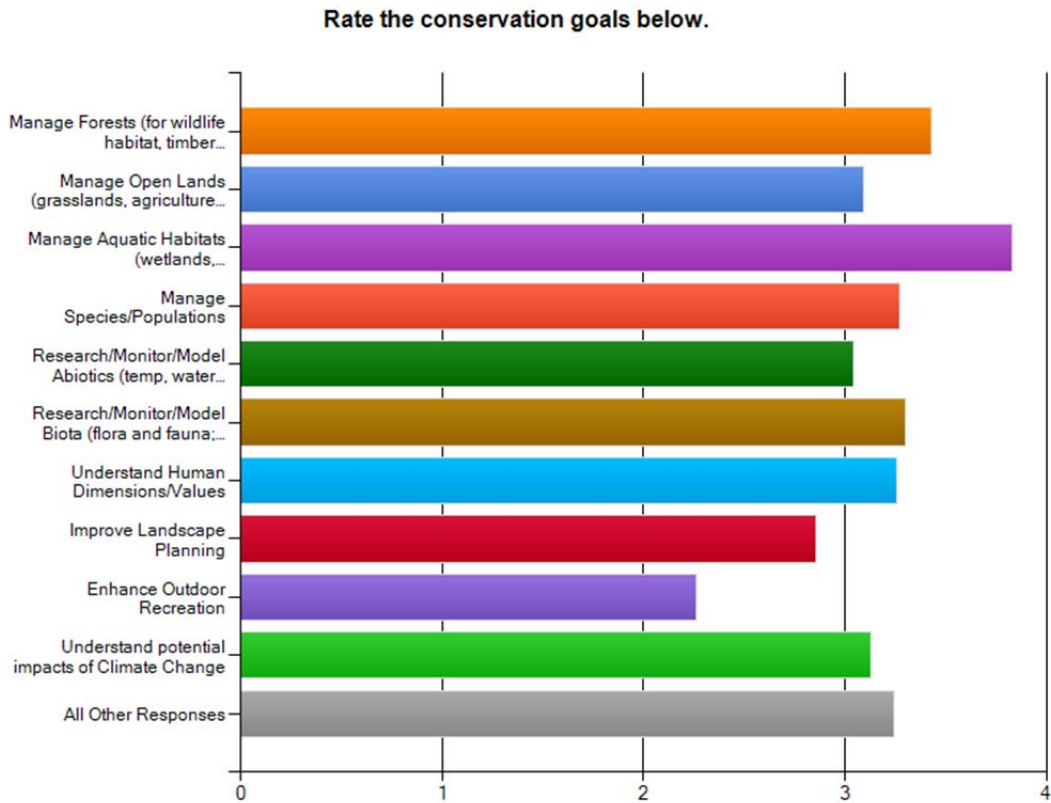- A robust communications platform

6. Select your current employer from the list below.

50%-Federal 29.2%-State 12.5%-NGO 8.3%-University 0%-Tribal
Other - Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science is a partnership organization
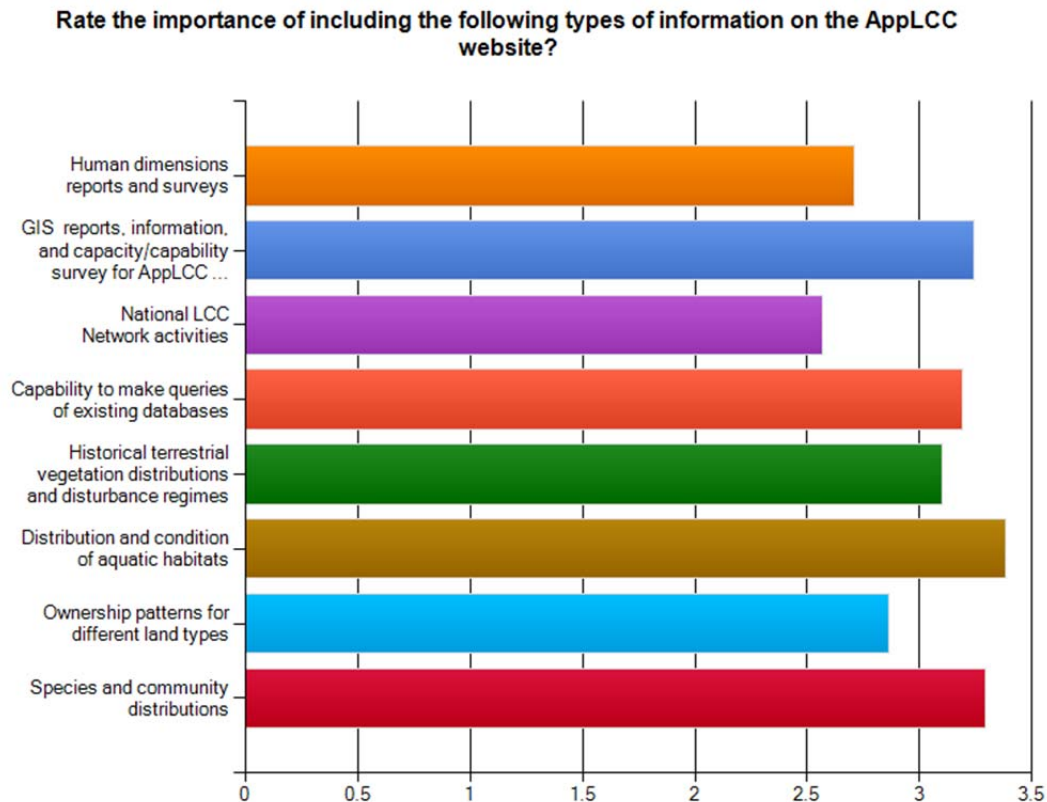
7. My experience includes...
N=23
(Check all that all apply.)

(21) I have been actively engaged with multi-state landscape-level planning.
(16) I have been actively engaged with multi-state landscape conservation delivery.
(18) I have been actively engaged with multi-taxa/ multi-system planning.
(14) I have been actively engaged in multi-taxa/ multi-system conservation delivery.

8. Rate the conservation goals below:

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9. Rate the importance of including the following types of information on the AppLCC website?

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10. What do you see as the 2-3 most important goals AppLCC needs to consider in the next 3 to 5 years?

1. Completion of a climate change vulnerability assessment and creation of a USER-FRIENDLY database for water quality and quantity info.
2. Networking relevant researchers with practitioners in the Apps. Relevant capacity on both sides exists - it's just not communicating effectively.
3. Improved interdisciplinary communication & focal point for dissemination of regional information
4. Managing terrestrial and aquatic resources together so as to recognize their interrelationships.
5. To fully develop the science capacity in the Science Centers so that they can become resources.
   Provide science and data support to the existing Habitat Partnerships.
6. Consideration of watersheds and major drainage basins as the basic units of inquiry and management.
   Development of tools to assess water supply and demand in the context of population growth, land use changes, and climate variability.
7. Communicating to public and leadership the environmental impacts, relative to climate forcing, of energy extraction and use.
8. Conservation delivery (project implementation rather than planning)

Address greatest landscape level threats (e.g., energy development) and promote science/research to explain mechanisms by which the threats affect the landscape and biota.

9. Create a corridors/connectivity framework AND PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION for the AppLCC area (e.g. acquisition, easements, habitat restoration targets and goals).
10. Climate and human population changes
    Species of priority conservation
11. Planning to manage regional resources in hostile political and economic environments.
12. Implement systematic conservation planning, informed by Appalachian goals, and inclusive of stakeholder input
13. Identification of the most effective monitoring techniques across a large spatial scale
    Impacts of projected changes in land use / water use on restoration potential.
    Relationship between focal species and socioeconomic benefits.
14. Take steps to explore the most effective ways to reduce or address the impacts to biodiversity and ecosystem stability/resilience across the ALCC that are caused (a) initially by the extraction of fossil fuels and (b) then again by the burning of such fuels.
    Better engage USFWS field offices in day-to-day ALCC efforts.
15. Completion/identification of transferrable studies and methods for the needs that have already been prioritized by the LCC
16. Communication among partners, data and tool integration (no more one-off projects), synthesis of partner research and implementation, champion partner-instigated projects.
17. Manage Forests (for wildlife habitat, timber production/silviculture, fire management, etc.), including understanding how management may need to be reconsidered under climate change.
18. Integrated GIS layers that go across state boundaries

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11. What objective criteria should AppLCC use to prioritize the 3-5 year work plan? (Objective criteria are "filters" that will help determine highest to lowest priority effort and actions.)

1. Endemic species
2. Regional significance
3. Costs
4. Likelihood of success
5. Application to impending decisions and policies
6. Interdisciplinary and/or landscape approach
7. Need should trump cost and time frame.
8. Support efforts that have relevance across LCC 'boundaries
9. Efforts to collect original data that can be used to calibrate/validate/extend models/analyses based on 'found' or extant information.

10. Special emphasis on keystone species/habitat such as brook trout, red spruce, and American chestnut.
11. Habitats at greatest risk
    Taxa or guilds at greatest risk
12. Does this goal have tangible conservation benefits?
    How many partners list this goal in their short-term plans?
13. Will efforts enhance efforts to keep wildlife from becoming endangered?
14. Will efforts provide data that can be immediately applied to conservation across the LCC area?
15. Will efforts provide a "story" that can be easily understood by the public?
16. Activity will result in one-the-ground tools to assist managers.
17. How likely is it that the action or effort will lead to significant improvements in the health of ecosystems across landscapes?
18. The criteria that have already been selected in the LCC workshop held last fall in Blacksburg

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12. How should AppLCC measure success? (Please list any specific Indicators, measures, and metrics)

1. Metrics need to be specific to the project. In the case of a database, it could be the # of user downloads and # of citations.
2. External (non-LCC sourced) funding for collaborations between relevant researchers and practitioners.
3. Successful completion
4. Relevancy of findings for impending regional decisions/policies
5. Dissemination of results to a broad audience
6. Full partnership participation and integration of all biota.
7. Use of products by decision makers
8. Number of populations with downward trend halted or reversed
9. Landscape area enhanced, through cooperative efforts, for conservation
10. Acres of target habitat evaluated for risk.
    Miles of stream evaluated for risk.
    Acres and miles treated for adaptation.
11. Number of acres of land acquired or put in permanent easement within the priority AppLCC conservation areas.
12. The AFWA has recently completed a set of measures for State Wildlife Grant projects. They were designed to help the public and policy makers understand the value of conservation actions. These measures could be adapted to LCC efforts.
13. On the ground conservation success
14. Objective metrics derived from satellite imagery
15. In the short term #s of new acres in easements, satisfaction of cooperators, socioeconomic measures of communities
16. Funds are spent on efforts that meet clearly identified management needs.
17. Are the products being developed used?
18. Number of people contributing data and tools.

13. What barriers do you see to integrating modeling results to answer questions and apply results within AppLCC and between partners?

1. Cost and participation of private landowners.
2. Personal and discipline bias
3. Distrust of motivating factors
4. Lack of understanding beyond one's own discipline or location.
5. Ground truthing and actually applying the results practically in the field.
6. Scientists have favorite models and are loathe to use someone else'.
7. Partners have disparate needs and responsibilities.
8. Inviting the different interests to collaborate on LCC activities will enhance trust and confidence that outcomes are accurate
9. Lack of common language
   Differing goals and priorities
10. Validate models and share results of this validation.
11. Lack of modeling expertise within partner organizations.
12. Distrust of models by elected officials and the public and moneyed interests.
13. Too many report-oriented exercises that do not translate to practical application
14. LCCs should pay attention to the vast amount of work being done at the interface of science and implementation.
15. Does the scale transfer to a realistic management unit/action, and if so, is it even possible for managers to use/do it.
16. Sociopolitical and economic concerns cause executive and legislative leaders to disagree on issues and delay action.
17. The science that needs to be done to help the LCC meet the goals that have already been prioritized is not well understood by the user community.
18. Resolution (scale), data consistency, data quality, statistical methods, data repository access, tool compatibility, API availability, tool source code availability,
19. Model results should be synthesized and evaluated by local experts who know how those results might apply on the ground.

14. How can the AppLCC facilitate data sharing among its cooperators in such a way that your ability to meet organizational goals would not be compromised, or might even be enhanced?

1. Build trust among partners
2. Posting services and resource data on AppLCC website; SharePoint, holding webinars, posting results of studies on website; and hosting interdisciplinary blogs on regional issues
3. LCCs should contact state administrators at Chief level (Game, Nongame and Fisheries) to keep them apprised of activities.
4. Make data/results easily accessible on web site,
5. Support ($) for technical personnel is always appreciated.
6. Establish common language and methods at the highest levels to the point that the common language and methods are fully embraced by all

stakeholders.

7. Foster inter-agency and multi-state databases that are password protected and searchable.
8. Facilitate multi-partner discussions of models and data so we all understand what is being provided and how it can be integrated into our efforts.
9. Ground truthing and surveys that provide better status assessments of species of conservation concern
10. Business of being a data clearinghouse is expensive and continuous process.
11. Focus on open source tools. Develop or join a code repository.

15. Are you currently involved in an AppLCC Community of Practice? 6 Yes/12 No

16. Do you have any specific recommendation for creating an even more effective AppLCC Community of Practice or broader stakeholder outreach?

1. Conversation between researchers and end-users in the December Blacksburg meeting was a struggle. As a researcher, I was troubled by how unaware many of the end-users present were regarding where the scientific frontiers are. They were often about 20-30 years out of date. Viewed from the other side of the table, my guess is that the end-users were frustrated that researchers like me were not adequately focused on their priorities (which seemed to mean specific EOs!)
2. Hosting webinars, studies, and hosting interdisciplinary discussion groups on regional issues.
3. Join efforts with existing regional initiatives (e.g. Joint Ventures, TNC efforts, multi-state SWG efforts) instead of trying to re-invent the wheel.
4. Avoid standing committees. Only bring people together (in person or via webinar) when there is some specific task that needs to be accomplished.
5. Publish more information for the everyday citizen, not just the technical scientist. We need the Common Man more than anyone else to aid us in our efforts.
6. Broadening the stakeholder outreach may make the Community of Practice less effective, not more. The resources that are available need to match the Community of Practice and the goals that are taken on.
7. I would like to be involved because I am coordinating the Central Appalachians Climate Change Response Framework that overlaps with the AppLCC (see www.climateframwork.org).