



SOUTH ATLANTIC
LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

Connections

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Steering Committee Conference Call

January 4, 2017

10 a.m.

<http://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?sigKey=mymeetings&i=445858781&p=&t=c>

Agenda

1. Steering Committee mid-year review
2. Discussion
3. Other items
 - In-person meeting location
 - Dates



Steering Committee mid-year review

Managing Mission, Expectations, and Priorities

Background

- Progress report to the Steering Committee
- Update on actions, activities, focal areas
- Allocation of capacity
- Opportunity for discussion and reflection

Outcomes

- Steering Committee is updated
- Direction and emphasis reviewed/affirmed
- Productive engagement among Steering Committee and staff
- Guidance for next six months

Steering Committee mid-year review

Questions for discussion

- “Rights” (right direction, right emphasis, right approaches, etc.)
- Recommendations/guidance for adjustment, modification?
- Affirmation on direction for next 6 months

Steering Committee mid-year review

2016-2017 Work Plan/Blueprint Implementation Strategy

- **Support** Blueprint uses for specific conservation actions
 - New resources
 - Organizational policy
- **Improve** the Blueprint
 - Indicators
 - Documentation
 - Targets
 - Corridors
- **Promote** the Blueprint
 - Group sessions
 - Presentations

Support Blueprint uses for conservation action

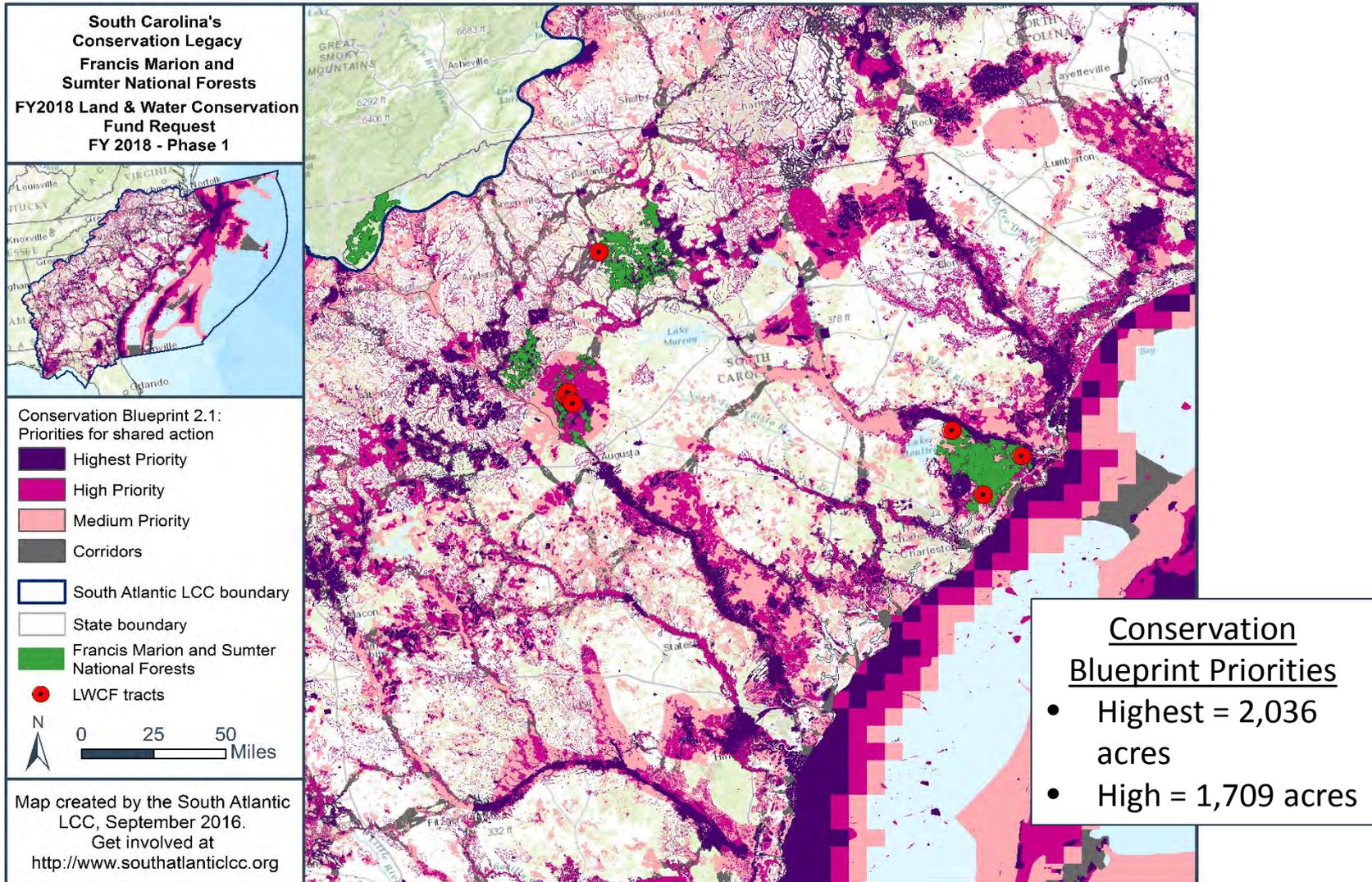
User support actions include:

- Assistance in interpreting Blueprint priorities
- Staff support for relating Blueprint priorities to locations and actions
- Assisting development of proposals, mapping, related visuals
- Narrative preparation
- Letters of support

Staff activities:

- 17 user support efforts underway currently
- 4 complete since June
- 5 more developing, 5 more anticipated
- 5 letters of support for specific proposals
- Range of assistance requests

SC USFS funding request and Land Ownership Adjustment Strategy



SC USFS funding request: LWCF



September 8, 2016

Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I am writing on behalf of the Steering Committee of the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) in support of the FY2018 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) proposal, *South Carolina's Conservation Legacy*, being submitted by the U.S. Forest Service. The South Atlantic LCC is a partnership of federal, state, nonprofit, and private organizations dedicated to conserving a landscape capable of sustaining the nation's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

South Carolina's Conservation Legacy aligns implicitly with the mission of the South Atlantic LCC and was prepared using a collaborative approach to identify areas of ecological significance in light of the threats of urbanization, population growth, and development. Significantly, more than 3,500 acres identified for acquisition in the *Legacy* proposal are also specifically identified as highest or high priority for conservation action in the South Atlantic LCC Conservation Blueprint. The South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint is a living spatial plan to conserve natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. Blueprint 2.1 identifies priority areas for shared conservation action based on ecosystem indicator condition and connectivity. More than 400 people from over 100 different organizations have actively participated in its development to date. Alignment of the *Legacy* proposal tracts with Blueprint priority areas exemplifies a complementary landscape-scale approach to conservation that links local actions with conservation outcomes that contribute at a broader geographic scale.

The Steering Committee of the South Atlantic LCC is pleased to express its endorsement of this proposal and offers its continued support of the natural and cultural resource conservation efforts of the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mallory G. Martin".

Mallory G. Martin
Coordinator, South Atlantic LCC

STEERING COMMITTEE





SC USFS funding request: LWCF

- **Watershed Protection/Climate Change:**
 - The watershed condition in the Piedmont received a grade of D in the 2015 "State of the South Atlantic" assessment by the South Atlantic LCC. Increased protection in this region could help ensure clean water for the rapidly growing cities in this area.
 - A recent TNC assessment identified the proposed Enoree tracts as climate resilient biodiversity hotspots. They are also on "underrepresented settings" that are poorly represented by current protected areas. TNC and OSI are now focusing land protection on underrepresented resilient hotspots in the Piedmont (and elsewhere).



Ongoing Blueprint user support efforts

Specific requests for Blueprint user support include:

- **Tall Timbers Research Station:** to refine prioritization of focal areas in the South Atlantic geography.
- **David Viker (FWS):** to use the Blueprint as the foundation for Landscape Conservation Design (LCD) for Refuge planning in the South Atlantic.
- **Debby Scerno (USACE):** to help prioritize operational actions and budgets at facilities in the South Atlantic region.
- **Chris Goudreau (NCWRC):** to evaluate and communicate the importance of potential tracts in NCWRC's land acquisition process.

Barriers to Blueprint uses for conservation action

Top 3 immediate barriers to Blueprint Use:

- Ease of finding “their part” of the Blueprint without staff assistance
- Lack of targets for specific species
- Effort needed to predict impacts of conservation actions on water quantity and quality

Questions regarding "Support"

Improve the Blueprint

Support existing (June 2016) blueprint improvement projects

- Improve Blueprint documentation (Hilary)
- Simple viewer update (Louise)
- Update indicators (Amy)
- Improve corridors (Amy)
- Targets (Rua)

Improve – Indicators & Corridors

Update indicators (Amy)

- Minor revision year
 - Resilient Biodiversity Hotspots
 - Beaches & Dunes
 - Marine Birds?
 - Extent indicators (forested wetlands, freshwater marsh, maritime forest)



Improve corridors - January 2017 (Amy)

- Blueprint 2.2 will use same methods as Blueprint 2.1
- Exploring options for future Blueprints
 - Corridor teams?
 - New software?

Improve – Targets

- Progress so far
 - Process for revision and a plan to incorporate targets into LCC products complete
 - Started scoping targets within forest wetland ecosystem
 - “Low hanging fruit” for updates
 - Forested wetland birds
 - Permeable surface
 - Riparian buffers
 - Network complexity

Questions regarding “Improve”

Promote the Blueprint

Least allocation of capacity

- Provide specific group sessions and trainings
- Formal presentations at larger meetings/conferences
- Specific promotion at the National Fish Habitat Partnership board meeting
- Additional opportunities Geo. Wright Society, Land Trust webinar
- Steering Committee member promotions – Rick Durbrow
- Regional initiatives, e.g., SECAS
- Partnerships across geographies, e.g., SERPPAS
- Cross-LCC initiatives, North Atlantic LCC

Questions regarding "Promote"

Steering Committee mid-year review

Questions for discussion

- “Rights” (right direction, right emphasis, right approaches, etc.)
- Recommendations/guidance for adjustment, modification?
- Affirmation on direction for next 6 months

Steering Committee mid-year review

Tweaks/considerations for next 6 months

- **This is blank to fill in based on SC feedback**

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