

**Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative**  
**March 12, 2010**

**What is an LCC?**

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) are applied conservation science and management partnerships between the Interior Department bureaus, as well as other federal agencies, states, tribes, NGOs, universities and stakeholders within a geographically defined area.

LCCs inform resource management decisions to address landscape-scale stressors including habitat fragmentation, genetic isolation, spread of invasive species, and water scarcity—all of which are accelerated by climate change.

LCCs provide scientific and technical support for conservation at the landscape scale. They support biological planning, conservation design, prioritization and coordination of research, and designing coordinated inventory and monitoring efforts.

**What is the Great Basin LCC?**

The Great Basin LCC would be a broad collaboration of Federal and State Agencies, established partnerships, and other stakeholders to coordinate efforts to:

- Prioritize, conduct and synthesize research needed for informed resource management decisions.
- Coordinate ecoregional assessments, regional monitoring, data standards, and maintain baseline data.
- Assist in developing restoration partnerships.
- Assist in prioritizing restoration actions.

The BLM is the lead for this LCC would provide the over arching coordination of collaborative conservation efforts in the Great Basin for DOI bureaus. This will be accomplished in a way so the momentum of existing efforts is not lost.

**What is Objective of Great Basin LCC?**

The objective is similar to those of GBRI, the Tri-State Healthy Landscapes effort (formerly HLI), and the Northern and Central Great Basin Ecoregional Assessments. That is to protect, restore, and enhancing existing native plant communities within the Great Basin, with an emphasis on sagebrush habitat, followed by strategically restoring habitat connectivity.

**Existing Collaborative Efforts:**

Some of the existing collaborative programs that could function within the Great Basin LCC umbrella are:

- **Great Basin Research and Management Partnership.** This group was organized in 2006 to facilitate collaboration among 20 organizations and stakeholders to solve the

**Exhibit C-9 - LANDS**  
**Document consists of 2 pages.**  
**Entire Exhibit provided.**  
**Meeting Date: 03-18-10**

Great Basins ecological and socio-economic issues through the integration of research and management.

<http://greatbasin.wr.usgs.gov/gbrmp/>

- **Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit.** This consortium of 7 federal agencies and 11 universities provides research, technical assistance and education to federal land management, environmental and research agencies.  
<http://www.ag.unr.edu/gbcesu/>
- **Great Basin Environmental Program.** This University of Nevada, Reno program is an environmental management initiative modeled after the Chesapeake Bay Program and will establish partnerships and integrate efforts with federal agencies, state agencies, NGOs and the private sector to address critical ecosystem issues.  
<http://www.cabnr.unr.edu/GBEP/>
- **Utah Partners for Conservation and Development.** This is a statewide partnership of natural resource agencies and organizations committed to restoring Utah's range and forests by leverage resources to increase project effectiveness.  
<http://www.utahpcd.info/index.html>
- **Nevada Partners for Conservation and Development.** Using the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development as a model, this newly formed partnership of natural resource agencies and organizations is committed to restoring Nevada's rangelands by leveraging resources to increase project effectiveness.
- **Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition.** This is a community based coalition with 46 business and organization partners supporting the restoration and maintenance of the Great Basin in Nevada. The coalition works closely with its federal partners (BLM, USFS, NPS and F&WS) to assess resources, implement and monitor restoration projects.  
<http://www.envlc.org/index.html>
- **Great Basin Native Plant Selection and Increase Project.** This is a cooperative native plant development program funded by the BLM's Native Plant Program and administered by the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station. Over 20 cooperators, including the private seed industry, are contributing to this project.  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/research/shrub/greatbasin.shtml>

#### **Organizational Team:**

BLM is in the process of developing a team to organize and develop the Great Basin LCC. This will be a collaborative effort of State and Federal Agencies, NGOs, and others. BLM will send out letters of invitation to join this effort in the near future.