

# REGIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION



## Landscape Conservation Joint Task Force

& Regional Priorities



State Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) have been collaborating at large scales for decades through national and regional partnerships. In 2018, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies passed a resolution that acknowledged the importance of collaborating at landscape scales, the need for durable partnerships, and the special relationship between the states and the Service due to their unique roles and authorities over fish and wildlife. The [resolution](#) set in motion policy work to support and strengthen fish and wildlife association regional collaboration. These are exciting times as we see unparalleled progress on landscape-scale conservation. For the first time, the states and Service have collaborated to develop shared landscape conservation priorities in each of the four regional fish and wildlife associations. This is a significant achievement that enables a conservation business system that can channel national conservation investments through regional landscape collaborative efforts to address the highest priority conservation needs at the scale necessary to meet the magnitude of the challenges.

### LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION JOINT TASK FORCE

The Association and Service started the Landscape Conservation Joint Task Force in December 2021 to enhance coordination between leaders of the Service and state fish and wildlife agencies in support of regional, collaborative, landscape-scale conservation. The Task Force is co-chaired by the President of the Association and the Director of the Service and includes members of the Service's Directorate and Association's Executive Committee. The Service's Science Applications program provides essential funding, coordination, science, and capacity to support the Task Force and regional collaborative efforts that translate into on-the-ground action that achieves landscape-scale results.

# REGIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

## REGIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

The Landscape Conservation Joint Task Force worked with the four regional associations to define their highest landscape conservation priorities to support the goals of the America the Beautiful Challenge. States and FWS in each region articulated these priorities within a short timeframe to meet the schedule of the America the Beautiful second request for proposals via multiple meetings of staff and leaders, underscoring the urgency that they feel to ensure the future of the full range of America's biodiversity. These regional priorities also reflect the strong commitment to their regional collaborative landscape conservation structures as vehicles for guiding and facilitating the science, investments, and conservation efforts to leverage resources across partners and target conservation work to meet shared needs.

## Regional Fish and Wildlife Association Landscape Priorities

### NORTHEAST LANDSCAPE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

- Atlantic Coast: Coastal Resiliency and Coastal Habitat Restoration
- Appalachian Corridor Highlands and Streams

### SOUTHEAST CONSERVATION ADAPTATION STRATEGY (SECAS)

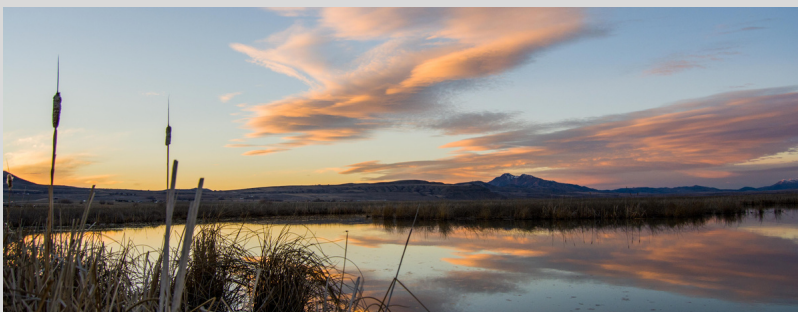
- Restoring Southeast Grasslands
- Restoring Southeast Aquatic Connectivity

### MIDWEST LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE (MLI)

- Functional and Connected Grasslands
- Aquatic System Health
- Interconnected and Dynamic Woodlands

### WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

- Supporting Multijurisdictional Corridor and Landscape Connectivity Efforts
- The Sagebrush Biome



These priorities were informed by landscape design work and the best available science as part of the [Northeast Landscape Wildlife Conservation Committee](#), the [Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy](#), the [Midwest Landscape Initiative](#), and the [Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies \(WAFWA\)](#) partnerships. These priorities also reflect the input from the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, Fish Habitat Partnerships, and other collaborations.



PRODUCT OF THE AFWA LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION JOINT TASK FORCE

