



## **Characteristics of LCC Landscape Conservation Designs Version 1.0 (2016-2018)**

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**Introduction:** Landscape conservation design (Design or LCD) is of broad importance for achieving the goals of the Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) Network. This document identifies the key *Characteristics* of LCC landscape conservation designs. These *Characteristics* were developed by the LCC Design Team\*, revised based on feedback from all LCC Coordinators and Science Coordinators, and adopted at the 2016 LCC meeting in St. Louis. These *Characteristics* reflect current information from the scientific literature and conservation practitioners about attributes important for relevant and useful landscape conservation designs. As such, the LCC Network supports landscape conservation designs that demonstrate these *Characteristics*.

### **Characteristics of LCC Landscape Conservation Designs**

#### **Characteristic 1: Collaborative / Multi-sector / Partner-Driven**

Description: The partnership is cross-jurisdictional and multi-sector and operates using collaborative, partner-driven processes.

#### **Characteristic 2: Shared Goals**

Description: Partners collectively develop a shared vision, shared goals, and fundamental objectives for long-term, landscape-scale conservation in the subject geography.

#### **Characteristic 3: Holistic / System Level**

Description: The Design reflects a holistic or systems-level look at the landscape over a specified time frame.

#### **Characteristic 4: Conservation Features**

Description: The partnership identifies conservation features (such as elements of biodiversity, ecosystem processes, human well-being targets, etc.) as the most valued and/or urgent elements around which the Design is constructed. Identifying conservation features allows partners to link goals to specific factors driving change and to propose strategies to monitor these features as measures of progress towards goals.

### **Characteristic 5: Desired Future Conditions**

Description: The Design includes a spatial and/or narrative expression of the desired future trajectories or conditions of the landscape.

### **Characteristic 6: Assessment / Situation Analysis**

Description: The Design includes an assessment of current and projected future conditions of the landscape, of the factors driving change (e.g., climate change, land use, etc.), and of the economic, social, and/or ecological trends and opportunities affecting shared goals and desired future conditions within the landscape.

### **Characteristic 7: Strategies**

Description: The partnership collaboratively provides recommendations on strategies to achieve the vision, goals, and objectives of the Design.

### **Characteristic 8: Iterative / Adaptive**

Description: The Design products and processes are developed and managed iteratively, incorporate uncertainty, are adaptive to events and responsive to change, and are periodically evaluated and refined.

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