



July 3, 2013

To: Mark Shaffer, FWS <[mark\\_shaffer@fws.gov](mailto:mark_shaffer@fws.gov)>  
Roger Griffis, NOAA <[roger.b.griffis@noaa.gov](mailto:roger.b.griffis@noaa.gov)>  
Arpita Choudhury, AFWA <[achoudhury@fishwildlife.org](mailto:achoudhury@fishwildlife.org)>  
Cc: Rowan Gould, Deputy Director, USFWS <[r\\_w\\_gould@fws.gov](mailto:r_w_gould@fws.gov)>  
Ron Regan, Executive Director, AFWA <[rregan@fishwildlife.org](mailto:rregan@fishwildlife.org)>  
Kate Freund, Office of the Science Advisor USFWS <[kate\\_freund@fws.gov](mailto:kate_freund@fws.gov)>

Dear NFWPCAS Management Team,

As Chair of the Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative's (LCC's) Steering Committee, I am writing to offer our strong support of the recently released *National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy*. This leadership body helps to direct the work of the Appalachian LCC in an effort to safeguard these ecosystems for the environmental benefits and services (e.g., cultural, recreational and economic) that they provide to the Americans people. As the Appalachian LCC begins its region-wide effort to respond to the impacts of a changing climate on ecosystems, we recognize that this 'common-sense approach' that has been outlined in the Strategy is well grounded and believe it will prove beneficial and greatly reinforce the work already initiated by our members.

I hope you will see from the summary attached how the many objectives and strategies outlined in the Strategy are either currently being employed or will be addressed in the near future, as outlined in The Appalachian LCC's 5-Year Work Plan. In addition, we have 6 currently funded research projects which share common strategic actions with those outlined and feel confident that the Appalachian LCC's vision is synergistic with this nation-wide effort. As a science-management partnership the Appalachian LCC will also be funding studies this year to document unique systems found primarily within our boundary (e.g., Karst formations), identify the unique biological diversity of truly global significance which is only found in our geography (e.g., aquatic fish and mussel diversity), and conduct a region-wide assessment of the threats as well as the environmental services offered by healthy, resilient and adaptive ecosystems. Please find the attached document which elucidates these commonalities in a general tiered approach. We encourage you to keep abreast of our efforts through our extensive on-line content management systems and collaborative partnership web portal at [www.applcc.org](http://www.applcc.org).

Sincerely,

David K. Whitehurst  
Chair, Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative  
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
Director, Bureau of Wildlife Resources  
4010 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230

Attachment: NFWPCAS AppLCC crosswalk.pdf