

# APPALACHIAN

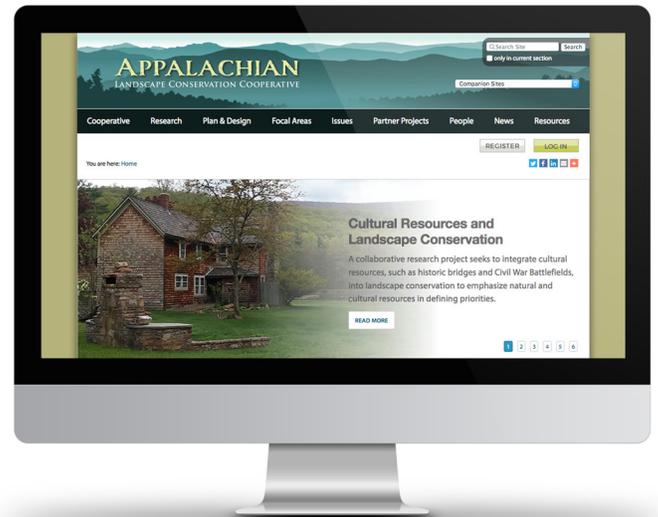
## LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

## Web Portal Tool Connects Partners Delivering Conservation as Connected Landscapes

A crucial role of the Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) has been to bring together federal, state, and local organizations to facilitate dialogue and identify shared interests and aligned priorities. The LCC-model of collaborative landscape conservation has also served to foster dialogue with other sectors and non-traditional partners like the energy industry, departments of transportation, and county land-planners. Working at a landscape-scale means covering a lot of ground, a lot of meetings, and working with partners to prioritize next steps – to working at a regional or landscape-scale, beyond the capacity, resources and boundaries of any one organization. But because this is a new approach to conservation in the 21st Century, landscape-scale collaborative conservation most often means listening and identifying the barriers that keep potential partners from collectively moving forward.

### Where to start?

There is a lot of information and tools to access on the Appalachian LCC Web Portal. A great place to start is the **Get Started Orientation Videos**, accessible from the homepage. This area provides a series of short videos on the “Big Questions” of landscape conservation planning and design as well as a series on our “Key Science Investments” that can benefit the work of the conservation community. <http://applcc.org/resources/overview-science-investments>



### SERVING THE AUDIENCE – CUSTOMIZED INFORMATION

Barriers exist. Often it is the lack of information preventing them for identifying a potential **partner network**, sharing resources to **achieve efficiency**, and learning from one another to be **more effective**:  
...“**Who else is working across the landscape?**”  
...“**What expertise exists that we could possibly tap into that is lacking in our organization or partnership?**” ...“**Has anyone else tried this approach and with what results or lessons learned?**”... and  
“**What tools, maps, data, or funding resources are available that could help in our conservation planning, decision-making and prioritization?**”

A more strategic and elegant approach to overcoming the barriers has been through the development of the Appalachian LCC web site – as a Conservation Web Portal – a tool for resource managers and stewards to network, share, and market conservation success – linking outside communities to the achievements and value of services delivered by the conservation community.

## A COLLABORATIVE WORKSPACE – NETWORKING

The Appalachian Web Portal is a vital tool in this endeavor, assembling key communication resources, learning systems, and geospatial decision-support tools for the conservation community to use in coordinating planning, disseminating regional information, and delivering on-the-ground conservation. This integrated Knowledge Management System allows users to access information needed to engage and network with colleagues, upload and store data, and work through private workspaces to share preliminary products. It also provides up to date news and information about the Appalachian partners' activities, ongoing research progress, job and funding opportunities, and major publications.

<http://applcc.org/cooperative/our-organization/partners-partnerships>



### COLLABORATIVE PRIVATE WORKSPACES:

The Web Portal also provides secure and private Work Spaces to facilitate efficient sharing of ideas, datasets, publications, and more with others working on a specific conservation task or shared goal. These spaces have been used by technical oversight teams to review progress and provide feedback on ongoing research projects and by regional partnerships to create, review, and finalize a series of maps using raw data. <http://applcc.org/people/appalachian-lcc-work-space>

**EXPERTISE DATABASE:** As the spatial scale one works at increases so does the number of stakeholder types and members of the conservation community. The AppLCC Web Portal's Expertise Database helps to decrease this challenge and boost efficiency of identifying and networking with colleagues with similar expertise

and research interests in order to collaborate on funding opportunities and projects. The database allows members to list their organization, position, and areas and regions of expertise on their profile page to create a dynamic, searchable member directory for the Appalachians.

<http://applcc.org/Members>

### NETWORK AND COMPANION SITES:

Within the Web Portal resides several partner websites (what we call companions sites), which allow end users to easily access additional partnerships which use their sites to house ongoing project information, send out funding announcements and solicit proposals, and disseminate research products to resource managers. Examples of companion sites include the North Atlantic LCC, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) and the Southeast Aquatic

Resources Partnership (SARP). The Web Portal also provides an area for Network's within the region to develop their own companion site while reducing the cost of website development and maintenance. These 'nested' Network sites can be used in a variety of manners such as acting as a clearinghouse for all sorts of information, providing a Group Work Space with Google Doc integration capability, as well as act as a public facing website to share the messaging of the Network and recruit new Network members and stakeholder types.

<http://applcc.org/projects/trb>

### VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

<http://applcc.org/people/voices-from-app-community>  
<http://applcc.org/projects/trb/engagement/videos-around-the-basin>

## LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER – CO-GENERATION OF SCIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

**FUNDED RESEARCH TOOLS AND INFORMATION:** The Appalachian LCC funds research to strategically advance the needs of the conservation community in addressing the top science questions challenging conservation efforts within the region. Find here the vital information, critical data and maps, and decision- support tools helping to achieve landscape conservation. <http://applcc.org/research>

**PARTNER RESEARCH AND PROJECT SEARCH:** In addition to sharing AppLCC funded research on the AppLCC Web Portal, end users can share information on a past or current research or conservation project of their own. This helps to enhance the visibility of the Who, What and Where of research and conservation efforts throughout the region. <http://applcc.org/research> and <http://applcc.org/projects/>

## SHARING AND LEVERAGING RESOURCES – ACCESS TO TOOLS, DATA, MAPS

**OUTSIDE RESOURCE LINK – CONSERVATION PLANNING ATLAS:** We refer to the AppLCC.Org website as a "Portal" as it also links to resources outside the main web site. It connects the user to other funded services such as the map viewer and data download services through its "Conservation Planning Atlas (CPA)". This is a geospatial support services available through a contract to DataBasin, a platform for data discovery, sharing, and collaboration for stakeholders throughout the region. With the Appalachian-CPA, users can search for spatial datasets, create custom visualizations, use collaborative tools in groups, and learn more about conservation science and design in the region. Datasets from our funded research, as well as those entered by many of the partners, are hosted on the CPA. <https://applcc.databasin.org>

## ON-LINE TRAINING – STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Appalachian LCC staff and collaborative researchers have created this online learning system to enhance our reach in training the conservation community on key landscape conservation resources. It consists of self- paced "how to" tutorials and more structured classes, highlighting the intended uses of decision-support tools and other products. The user can work at their own pace through step-by-step demonstrations that apply the tools to specific natural resource issues. Once completing the course, users are encouraged to reach out to LCC staff to work with or discuss how to incorporate these products in their own work. <http://applcc.org/plan-design/training-online-learning>



### CURRENT ONLINE COURSES INCLUDE:

*Conservation Planning Overview ... Appalachian NatureScape ... Assessing Future Energy Development and Forecast Modeling ... Assessing Vulnerability of Species and Habitats to Large-scale Impacts ... Classification and Mapping of Cave and Karst Resources ... Ecosystem Benefits and Risks ... Riparian Restoration to Promote Climate Change Resilience.* <http://www.scienceapplications.org>

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