

Landowner Conservation Associations (LCAs)

Introduction

Definition: A Landowner Conservation Association (LCA) is a group of landowners who have an ongoing working relationship to share resources (time, equipment, knowledge, financial, etc.) to efficiently achieve conservation goals that might otherwise be unattainable.

Goals of an LCA:

1. To increase capacity among landowners to manage wildlife habitat on their land
2. To encourage on-going conservation activity and a continuing relationship among landowners
3. To increase conservation efforts across the landscape

Benefits to Landowners Working as a Group:

1. Receive higher priority for technical assistance from a professional wildlife biologist than requests from a FWC biologist
2. Gain more responsive services and purchasing power from vendors for services and commodities such as herbicides, seedlings, and burning assistance
3. Participate in a comprehensive habitat management plan designed to achieve goals on a larger scale than an individual property as desired by a larger group
4. Develop knowledge through educational events, neighbors, and informational material
5. Increase local stewardship of the land
6. Earn credit for accomplishments to earn FWC Wildlife Habitat Recognition for wildlife habitat improvements made on the properties
7. Better manage local wildlife populations
8. Know neighbors better, meet new people, share common interests, and are part of a greater effort
9. Increase community awareness which can reduce vulnerabilities such as poaching and trespassing

Conservation Outcomes:

1. Increases areas of suitable habitat affording opportunities for larger-scale population management
2. Focuses habitat management on realistic home ranges of animals
3. Improve habitat connections and reduce impacts from habitat fragmentation
4. Enhances habitat diversity
5. Provides forum for management that can result in a properly functioning ecosystem

Value to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Partners:

1. Improve staff efficiency by working with a group of landowners instead of working with landowners individually
2. Increased audience reach through education, outreach and training opportunities
3. Increased conservation on private lands
4. Achieves goals of the Agency's Landscape Conservation Initiative
5. Developing LCAs provides a unique opportunity for innovative thinking and professional growth
6. Planning and organizing meetings to establish LCAs (e.g., provide LCA introduction during a workshop, spearhead other organization/agency involvement, facilitate a focused meeting with interested landowners, encourage a social/icebreaker event, coordinate a common objective workshop, promote landowner-led opportunities to organize themselves)
7. Serve as a connection to other natural resource professionals working on shared regional conservation objectives