**2012 Steering Committee Guidance for Near-Term Focus of the Appalachian LCC: Based on 5-Year Work Plan Objectives**

***The following elements of the recently adopted 5-year Work Plan provide guidance on science needs and project activities that would support the AppLCC Steering Committee’s near and longer-term objectives. Reference also Steering Committee meeting decision, Dec. 14, 2012, Topic 4*** [***http://applcc.org/the-cooperative/sc/sc-past-meetings-and-materials/isc-call-for-december-14/isc-conference-call-notes-dec.-14***](http://applcc.org/the-cooperative/sc/sc-past-meetings-and-materials/isc-call-for-december-14/isc-conference-call-notes-dec.-14) ***to synthesize regional information to deliver support to development of SWAPs. In addition, Dec. 14th notes recorded that the Steering Committee specifically directed the AppLCC’s focus on a need to develop regional approaches to mitigation for energy development footprints (specifically discussed were natural gas, coal, and an emphasis on transmission lines); Tasks below which support this goal are denoted with an \*.***

**ELEMENTS OF 5-YEAR WORK PLAN:**

**Objective 1.7 - Develop and deliver landscape-level (scalable) planning tools.**

**Task 1.7.2 -** Identify specific needs for more effective and/or standard monitoring techniques/protocols across a large spatial scale (given the topography and endemism of the AppLCC landscapes). **\***

**Task** **1.7.3 -** Develop the framework for “next generation monitoring” and data sharing at a Landscape-level planning scale. **\***

**Objective 2.1 -**  **Conduct an overall threat assessment.**

**Task 2.1.2 -** Initiate threats assessment by impact [energy, urbanization and infrastructure, and climate change, etc.] that will be required to be combined and integrated to generate an overall threats assessment. **\***

**Objective 2.2 - Identify requirements to address the human dimensions components of land-use change, including preservation of cultural resources.**

**Task 2.2.1 -** Identify relevant information to portray the human dimensions (cultural and social resources) in landscape-level planning.

**Objective 2.5 -** **Establish a structured decision-making process for the ongoing integration of existing partner plans to deliver landscape-level conservation planning**

**Task** **2.5.3 -** Review and synthesize key information from existing conservation, land and resource management plans. **\***

**Objective 2.6 -** **Based on the underpinnings of resiliency, identify the management approaches to achieve, restore, or enhance system integrity, function, and**

**reflect the conservation prioritization and relative ranking of the systems.**

**Task** **2.6.2 -** Identify the components, function and relationships that define resiliency and management approaches to achieve, restore, or enhance system function. **\***

**Task 2.6.3 -** Identify and rank the core areas, components and interrelationships that help and reinforce resilience. Continuously refine the details and status describing those areas based on threats and opportunities to help facilitate coordination and planning prioritization. **\***

**Objective 2.7 -** Facilitate the use of natural resource indicators and surrogate species to inform landscape-level planning, identify and establish data needs and monitoring design that reflect management objectives and conservation targets.

**Task 2.7.2 -** Assemble or develop and adopt agreed upon vegetation of habitat classification systems and geospatially recognize areas of rare or unique ecosystems.

**Task 2.7.3 -** Assemble or develop and adopt agreed upon species classification and distribution data and geospatially recognize areas of rare and endemic species and unique habitats.

**Task 2.7.4 -** Identify appropriate natural resource indicators and candidate taxa or surrogate species, and develop explicit population objectives or natural resource appropriate targets.

**Task 2.7.5 -** Identify appropriate candidate taxa/species groupings (associated with habitat classifications under Task 2.7.2).

**Objective 2.8 -** **Project future landscape conditions, cumulatively/over time, based on best available science/scenarios, indicating probable patterns and changes.**

**Task 2.8.1 -** Consult with end-users/resource managers to determine what predictive tools are needed to support their work. **\***

**Task 2.8.2 -** Assess currently available predictive tools to determine if they meet needs identified under 2.8.1 [managers needs], and evaluate tool functions, model assumptions, etc. for applicability to AppLCC needs. **\***