

LAC Goal, Strategies, and Action Items for MFRC Strategic Plan

Updated at the 10/26/20 LAC meeting

Goal:

Catalyze and coordinate cross-boundary forest management activities to accomplish widely agreed-upon landscape-scale objectives.

Key Objectives:

Improve the climate-resiliency and productivity of forests for wide-ranging goods and services, including habitat, forest industry, recreation, traditional/cultural value, water quality, and greenhouse-gas mitigation. The landscape program will help to:

- 1) Define measurable objectives and targets based on SFRA Language, guidance in landscape plans and regional committee input, and the Council Strategic Plan;
- 2) Identify a clear private lands strategy including communications, as well as engagement of providers of private lands assistance;
- 3) Identify potential priority locations on the ground where plan objectives could best be met;
- 4) Facilitate identification and application for funding for implementation (Council to play an assisting role; Council can potentially provide seed funds);
- 5) Monitor results; and
- 6) Report results to the council and to wider MFRC stakeholders in ways that communicate the impact and utility of the Landscape Program.

Strategy #1:

Set metrics for the Landscape Program, whether quantitative or qualitative, in accordance with statewide goals; improve monitoring of landscape program outcomes and successes.

Action 1A: Articulate region-specific, landscape-level priorities with metrics to monitor.

Action 1B: Track and evaluate outcomes.

Examples of objectives to be completed over the next 5-10 years

- Partners will plant X trees to address economic, ecological and social goals, increase climate resilience, and mitigate carbon emissions.
- Partners will conduct X acres of forest habitat management based on LSOHC funding.
- Partners will reduce understory fuel over X acres (with benefits to the bioeconomy).
- Partners will implement prescribed fire as appropriate on their landscape.
- Partner activities will help sustain or increase forest-related jobs over the next 10 years.
- Partner activities will help maintain or increase a healthy tourism industry in forested regions of the state.
- Partners will help maintain large unfragmented landscapes of working forests.

Strategy #2:

Identify priority areas for cross-boundary management, i.e. areas in need of management/conservation efforts with buy-in/agreement on shared objectives across landownerships.

Action 2A: Conduct “All-lands” analyses that will help identify priority locations for projects/funding.

Action 2B: Consider identifying several “flagship projects” that get priority attention from program coordinator.

Action 2C: Consider focusing cross-boundary management efforts on private lands.

Action 2D: With help of IIC or other partners, develop tools for spatial data management and data sharing that facilitate cross-boundary, landscape-scale management (e.g., online GIS tools).

Strategy #3:

Create a structure and process for improving two-way communication between the regional committees and the Council.

Action 3A: Rotating regional update reports to full Council as a standing agenda item. Updates could include current projects underway, local forest management assets or issues, support needs from the Council, policy impacts at the local level etc.

Action 3B: LAC members to attend regional committee meetings at some regular interval, e.g. annually. Council members not on the LAC are also encouraged to attend when they can.

Action 3C: Improved reporting to the regional committees from staff liaisons on Council activities, e.g. policy undertakings, as a way to gather information on local level impacts and also to solicit support via the committee participants.

Action 4C: Hire a new landscape program coordinator with required skills to help meet the objectives; leverage the Program Coordinator in improving communication between the regional committees and the Council, as well as across the regional committees.

Action 4D: Semi-annual meetings of Regional Committee Chairs with LAC.

Action 4E: Semi-annual meetings of the regional chairs (‘landscape leaders meetings’) to share what is working well for them in terms of implementation, funding, etc.

Action 4F: Dedicate a whole MFRC meeting to Landscape Program/regional.

Action 4G: Take advantage of more Zoom/web-based meetings.

Strategy: #4

Clarify the budget strategy for the landscape program including seed money for committees; assist with grant applications when appropriate.

Action 4A: Create annual budget process through P&F committee to support the Landscape Level program and distribute this budget in ways that helps meet stated goals.

Action 4B: Assist and in some cases lead in fundraising that will help meet the objectives; develop a clear process for writing and approving council letters of support.

Action 4C: Seek grant writing as a skill in the future Program Manager position.

Strategy #5:

Assess and address opportunities for improvement in Landscape Level Plans in terms of geographic extent, diversity of forest resources, and application across land ownership categories.

Action 5A: Prepare recommendation to Council for whether or not to pursue a new Metro regional landscape plan/and or find other ways to meaningfully engage in this region.

Action 5B: Prepare strategy for achieving Landscape level goals and objectives on private non-industrial lands.