Providing climate change projections and impacts through databasin.org

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Multiple Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) have identified the need to develop or leverage existing regional information management and decision-support systems as a critical component to achieve sustainable landscape conservation. The Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) collaborated with several LCCs and the Integrated Data Management Network team on pilot projects to develop Conservation Planning Atlases (CPAs). CBI has started to design, develop and launch CPAs for the South Atlantic LCC (http://salcc.databasin.org/), Gulf Coast Plains and Ozarks LCC (<http://gcpolcc.databasin.org/>), and the Southeast Region (<http://seregion.databasin.org/>) while working on similar CPAs for the North Atlantic LCC and Gulf Coast Prairie LCC. A new project will soon create a contiguous cluster in the northwest (California, Great Basin, Great Northern, North Pacific), and Alaska region (Western Alaska LCC, Northwest Boreal LCC, Arctic LCC, and Aleutians and Bering Sea LCC). CPAs make it easy to find, visualize, and process basic geospatial data in support of conservation planning and science delivery. Access to the downscaled CMIP5 climate projections as well as future climate impacts from VIC (hydrological results), 3PG (species range contraction/expansion), and MC2 (fire risk, vegetation type shifts) will bring added value to these sites and allow for wide use and recognition of their valuable contribution to the design of climate change management strategies. We will demonstrate the user-friendly interface, well-documented datasets, basic geo-processing tools, and collaborative networking that databasin.org can provide to each of the LCCs in close collaboration with the NW Climate Science Center climate change scientists who are providing the climate and impacts data and their documentation.