

Functions and Roles Needed for Local Landcare

Land-of-Sky Regional Council
October, 2005

Note: the function or role of each type of group or organization in landcare is underlined.

1. **Volunteer groups** (the national criteria for a landcare group will read approximately as follows: “A landcare group is a community-based group of volunteers working on conservation projects that contribute to environmental, social and economic outcomes.” (this category could include neighborhood associations, watershed groups, stream cleanup groups, etc.). These are the groups that might select and conduct landcare projects -- or spin off separate landcare groups. It is important to note that landcare groups select their own projects, rather than having funders, bureaucrats or government agencies tell them what to work on. Landcare groups need not be incorporated.
2. **Coordinator organizations** – (criteria for these include groups that have skills in volunteer management, grant writing, group facilitation, project management & reporting, accounting, fiscal agency, etc. Could include regional councils of government, conservation districts, RC&D councils, nonprofits, colleges, etc.). These are organizations that can support local landcare groups with administrative and facilitation services, fundraising, liability insurance, fiscal agency, accounting, etc.
3. **Land owners & managers** (could include public & private landowners on whose land conservation projects might be needed – farmers, public parks & forests, town and county recreation parks & greenways, corporate landowners, etc.). These are the people and organizations that have the responsibility and legal authority to conduct conservation activities on lands they own or for which they are responsible.
4. **Scientists & Educators** (could include district conservationists, extension agents, landscape architects, foresters, fish & wildlife biologists, etc.). These are the organizations and people who understand natural systems and can advise landcare groups on ecosystem restoration, revegetation, invasive species control, soil conservation, erosion control, forest management, etc. as well as on project selection, monitoring & evaluation. They also can help with landowner and public education on conservation issues.
5. **Corporate sponsors** – (could include any private business that might be interested in investing in the emerging landcare movement as partial fulfillment of its corporate mission, to improve relations with the community, or to associate its products with a popular conservation ethic). These are businesses and organizations that may be willing to fund local landcare projects.