Partners Workshop

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

Visitor Center

Working at a Landscape-level
…
Partnering with LCCs
(Landscape Conservation Cooperatives)

Jean Brennan PhD

Coordinator & Chief Scientist
Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative

March 2, 2017. Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Decatur AL

APPALACHIAN
LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

Jean Brennan PhD
Coordinator and Chief Scientist

Gillian Bee
Landscape Conservation Fellow, Clemson

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Communications Coordinator

Lacey Goldberg
Doctoral Candidate, PSU

Rose Hessmiller
Ferguson Lynch

Kelly Rene
Outreach & Communications Intern, OH Islands NWR

Prioritize, Plan and Design at a Landscape-level

this morning discussion

Q.#1 **Do you see a need to work at a landscape-level?**

…Examples (what, where, scope, priorities)?

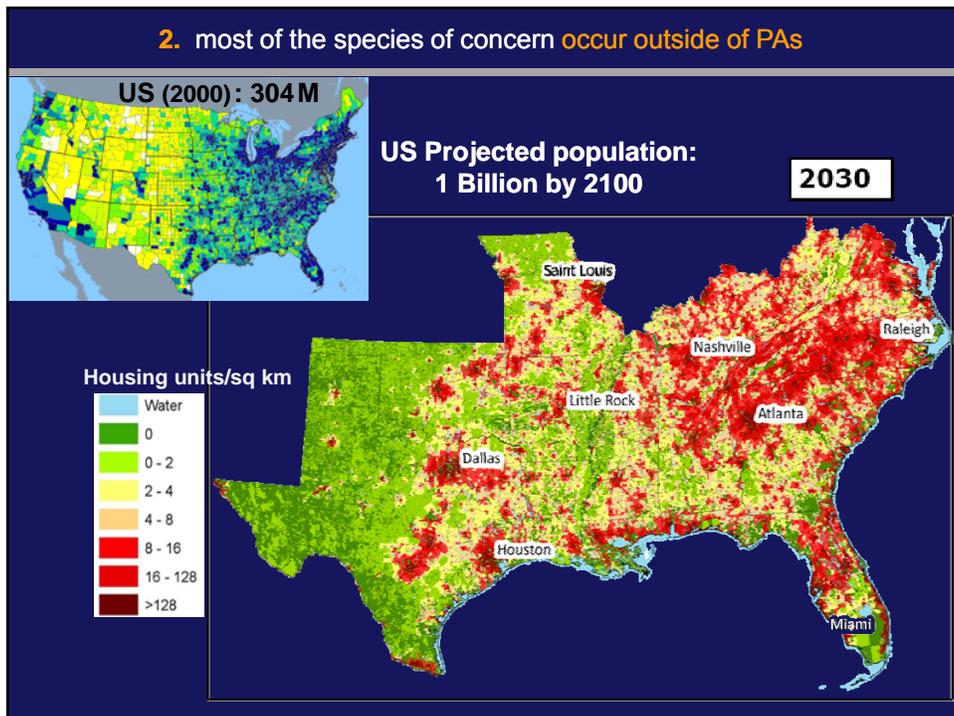## *Why landscape-level conservation approach?*

Reflecting on our historic approach to conservation

1. <u>efforts insufficient</u> given scale and scope of the challenge
2. <u>most</u> of the species of concern <u>occur outside of PAs</u>
3. reliance on <u>PAs proven insufficient</u> … underlying assumption of <u>stability</u>
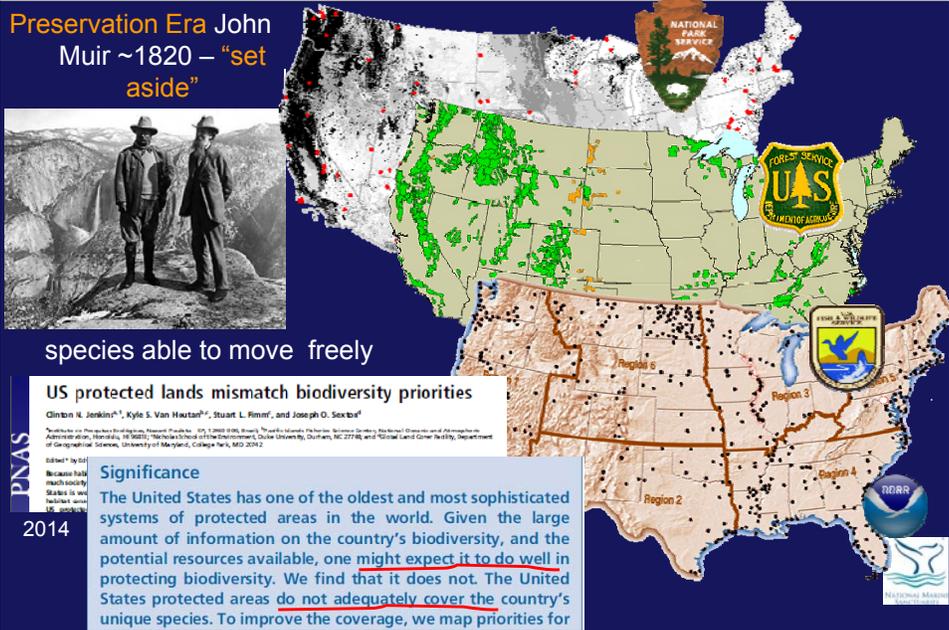
Reflecting on management imperative

Reflecting on species' behavioral response to change

Reflecting on genetic & ability to adapt

1. efforts insufficient given scale and scope of the challenge

Reptiles 28%
Amphibians 30%
Birds 12%
Mammals 21%
Marine Turtles 86%
Freshwater Fish 37%
Invertebrates 35%

Global % (known) sp. currently listed as 'threatened' or 'endangered'

2. most of the species of concern occur outside of PAs

US (2000) : 304 M

US Projected population:
1 Billion by 2100

2030

Housing units/sq km

Water	
0	
0 - 2	
2 - 4	
4 - 8	
8 - 16	
16 - 128	
>128	

Saint Louis
Raleigh
Nashville
Little Rock
Atlanta
Dallas
Houston
Miami

3. reliance on PAs proven insufficient … underlying assumption of stability

Preservation Era John Muir ~1820 – "set aside"

species able to move freely

US protected lands mismatch biodiversity priorities

Clinton N. Jenkins, Kyle S. Van Houtan, Stuart L. Pimm, and Joseph O. Sexton
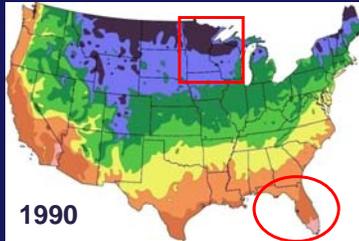
PNAS

2014

Significance

The United States has one of the oldest and most sophisticated systems of protected areas in the world. Given the large amount of information on the country's biodiversity, and the potential resources available, one might expect it to do well in protecting biodiversity. We find that it does not. The United States protected areas do not adequately cover the country's unique species. To improve the coverage, we map priorities for

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Why landscape-level conservation approach?

Reflecting on management imperative

4. observed changes, increase in the rate of change
5. manage non-linear response variables… maintain healthy ecosystems
6. other stressors enhance sensitivity to CC impacts ~ *"recalibrate"*

4. observed changes, increase in the rate of change

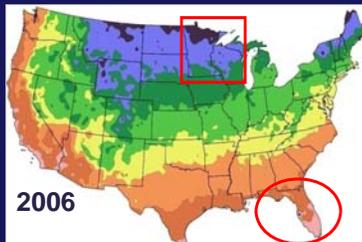**1990**

Source: Arbor Day Foundation

Plant hardiness map

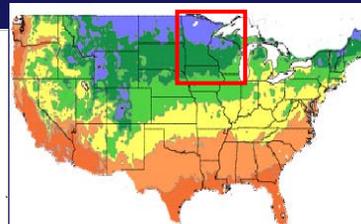### Recorded Shift in Climatic Zones

Changes "will affect
- *structure* and *function* of ecosystems,
- species' *ecological interactions*, and
- geographic *ranges*, with consequences for biodiversity and ecosystem services"
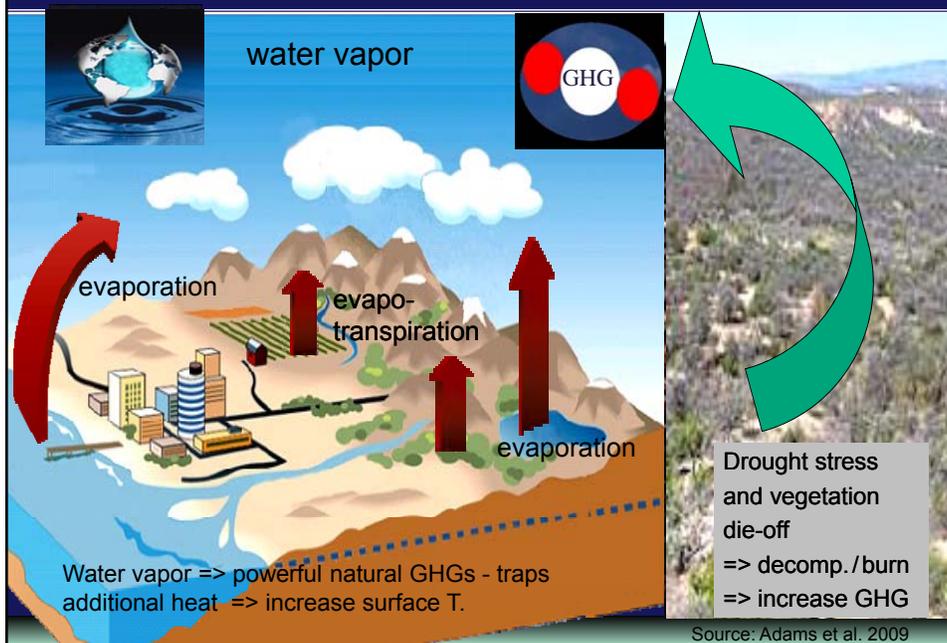
Malcom et al.2006

2006

Zone	Avg. Annual Low
3	-30°F through -40°F
4	-20°F through -30°F
5	-10°F through -20°F
6	0°F through -10°F
7	10°F through 0°F
8	20°F through 10°F
9	30°F through 20°F
10	40°F through 30°F

Projection: 2080-2099

Charging the System   …and 'Change of State'

water vapor

GHG

evaporation

evapo-transpiration

evaporation

Water vapor => powerful natural GHGs - traps additional heat => increase surface T.

Drought stress and vegetation die-off
=> decomp. / burn
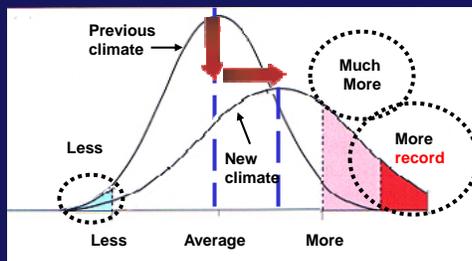=> increase GHG

Source: Adams et al. 2009

5. manage non-linear response variables… maintain healthy ecosystems

Observed climatic changes =>
Change in Variance & Variability

"management...have been designed and operated under the assumption of stationarity.

"implies that any variable has a time-invariant probability density function whose properties can be estimated from the instrument record."

Previous climate

Much More

Less

More record

New climate

Less   Average   More

CLIMATE CHANGE   SCIENCE   VOL 319   1 FEBRUARY 2008

Stationarity Is Dead: Whither Water Management?

P. C. D. Milly,[1]* Julio Betancourt,[2] Malin Falkenmark,[3] Robert M. Hirsch,[4] Zbigniew W. Kundzewicz,[5] Dennis P. Lettenmaier,[6] Ronald J. Stouffer[7]
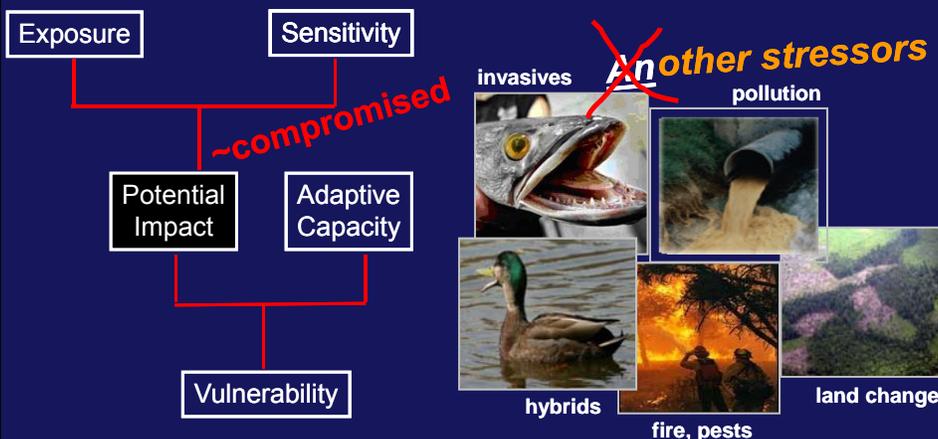
"stationarity. ....the idea that natural systems fluctuate
within an unchanging envelope of variability

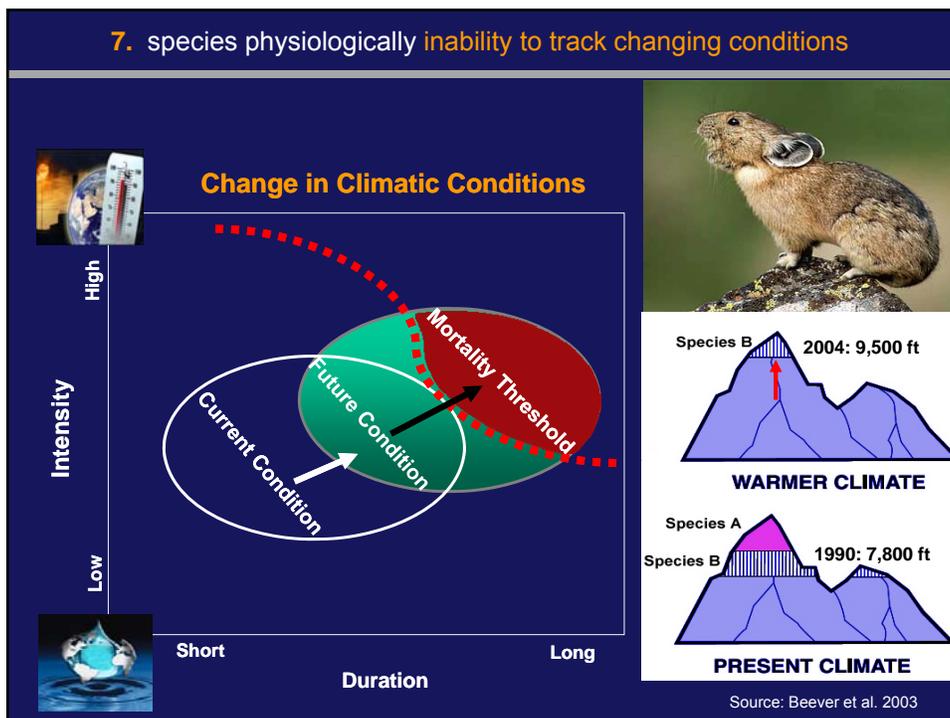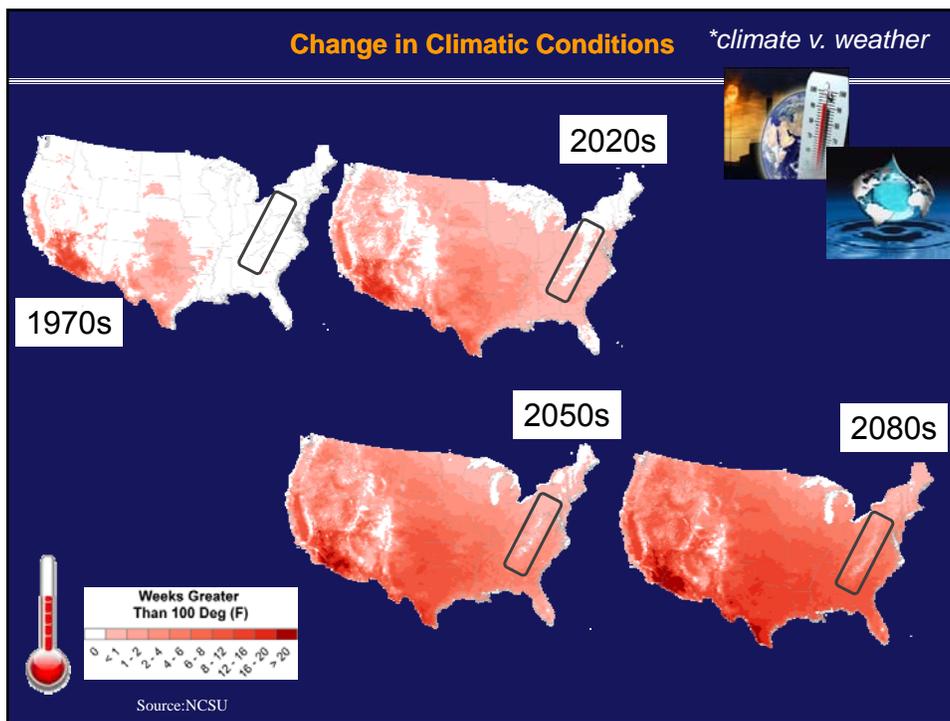-- fundamental concept that permeates training and practice..."

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6. **other stressors enhance sensitivity to CC impacts   ~ "recalibrate"**

Manage other stressors => CC adds forcing trend
… likely complex, non-linear
/ exceptionally difficult to understand / mitigate

Vulnerability to CC - a function of Exposure, Sensitivity, and Adaptive Capacity

Exposure

Sensitivity

~compromised

Potential Impact

Adaptive Capacity

Vulnerability

invasives   ~~An~~ *other stressors*

pollution

hybrids

fire, pests

land change

Why landscape-level conservation approach?

Reflecting on species' behavioral response to change
7. species physiologically inability to track changing conditions
8. increasing human-dominated landscape physical barriers to movement

---

Q. What is the 'base currency' of Conservation?

Species will track change, adapt to new conditions, or go extinct

Change in Climatic Conditions *climate v. weather*

1970s — 2020s — 2050s — 2080s

Weeks Greater Than 100 Deg (F)

Source:NCSU

7. species physiologically inability to track changing conditions

Change in Climatic Conditions

Intensity — High / Low

Duration — Short / Long

Mortality Threshold

Future Condition

Current Condition

Species B — 2004: 9,500 ft

WARMER CLIMATE

Species A
Species B — 1990: 7,800 ft

PRESENT CLIMATE

Source: Beever et al. 2003

8. increasing human-dominated landscape physical barriers to movement

Highly fragmented
…Δ land-use

***Why* landscape-level conservation approach?**

Reflecting on genetic & ability to adapt
9. prevent population isolation and associated loss genetic diversity
10. safeguard adaptive capacity and resilience

Q. What is the 'base currency' of Conservation?

…rarely ever know the genetic status of populations
…. but we do know the effect of isolation (lack of genetic exchange when gene flow (movement) is prevented

Species will track change, adapt to new conditions, or go extinct

---

9. prevent population isolation and associated loss genetic diversity

(genetically viable population)
….maintain evolutionary
potential / response

• different
genotypes

(change in gene frequency)

• loss genetic
diversity due to
bottleneck effect

• founder effect

small populations =>
forced inbreeding
after 1st generation

Genetic diversity…is the 'base currency' of Conservation

10. safeguard adaptive capacity and resilience

to biologists "adaptation" is synonymous with beneficial evolutionary responses

Genetic diversity…is the 'base currency' of Conservation

Prioritize, Plan and Design at a Landscape-level

this morning discussion

Q.#1 **Do you see a need to work at a landscape-level?**

…*Examples (what, where, scope, priorities)?*

Take away:

(Given: geographic and temporal scale)

**Working at a Landscape-level
…
is a critical component,**

**that can help frame the overarching
planning, design, and actions necessary**

**to achieve conservation
in the 21st Century**

Prioritize, Plan and Design at a Landscape-level

this morning discussion
Q.#1

Q.#2 What barriers you experienced or currently exist that influences your ability to work at a larger-scale?

…How have you been able to overcome those?

Source: NRC 2009 "agencies may soon be **unable to fulfill legal and regulatory responsibilities** because of climate-related changes"

Secretarial Order #3289 *(Sept 2009)*

…ordered Department to establish "a network of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

(to) engage DOI and federal agencies, states, tribal and *local governments* and the *public,*

to craft practical, landscape-level strategies for managing climate change impacts."

22 LCCs

Appalachian LCC

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVES

- **Bird** Conservation Regions
- Major **River** Drainage Basins
- **Ecologically-defined** Areas

A. **Landscape:** define ecologically-relevant scale to work

B. **Conservation:** address threats at a scale beyond that of any single entity … *connectivity, resilience, irreplaceability*

C. **Cooperative:** work through a collaborative decision-making => *self-directed partnership*
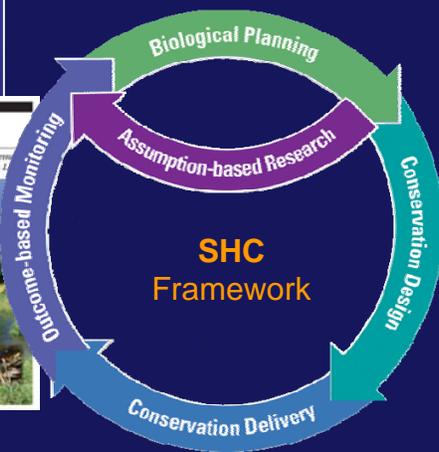   *…all DOI units, federal agencies, state, tribal*

   DOI has jurisdiction over 1 out of every 5 acres

22 LCCs

Appalachian LCC

Organizational Shift

Emphasis on Science

…explicitly linking work of individual **programs** and **field stations**

…to sustain species, populations, and natural communities

…as parts of the **whole systems** -- ecological functions and processes

Strategic Habitat Conservation
Final Report of the National Ecological Assessment Team

Strategic Habitat Conservation Handbook
A Guide to Implementing the Technical Elements of Strategic Habitat Conservation (Version 1)

Biological Planning

Assumption-based Research

Conservation Design

Outcome-based Monitoring

Conservation Delivery

SHC
Framework

Working at a Landscape-level …Partnering with the Appalachian LCC

Role of the LCC

Landscape Conservation Cooperative

- **facilitate planning** at a scale - typically beyond the reach or resources, of any one entity => to address large-scale stressors, *including* climate change

Jean Brennan PhD
Coordinator and Chief Scientist

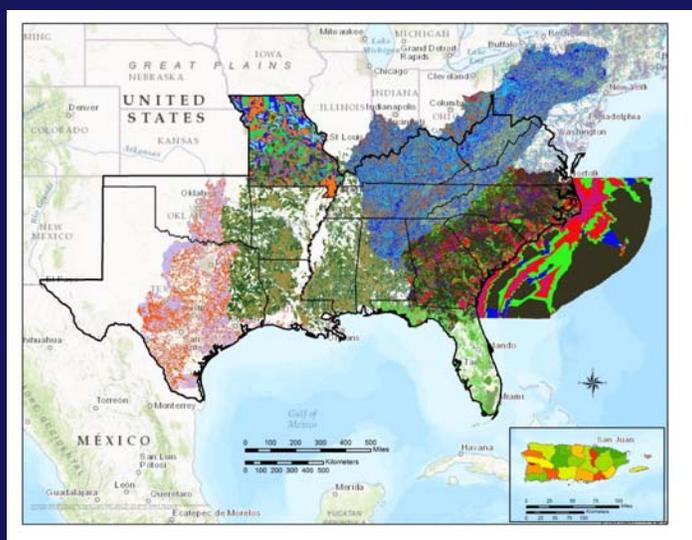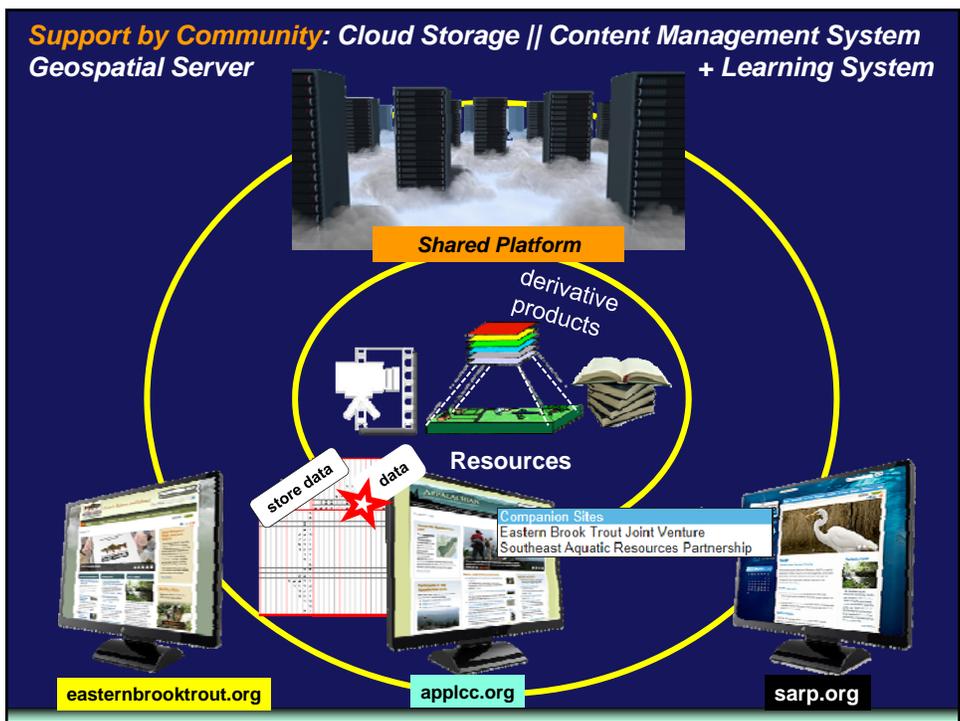## Large-scale impacts & accelerating demands

APPALACHIAN
LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

- **Expanding Energy: NG** */ hydro-fracking*

- **Traditional Energy** / Mt Top Mining

- **Water Control & Stress** / Extreme Weather Events

- **Urban & Exurbia Expansion** / Ag-land Conversion

- **Changing Climatic Conditions** / **Hydrologic Impact** & Extreme Weather

- Habitat loss or fragmentation
- Loss of connectivity and isolation of populations => vulnerability

(SE) Regional impacts & conservation planning

SE Regional planning (SECAS) – 6 LCCs (+1Central)

quote from: Mallory Martin, NC WRC

alignment….LCCs moved from edge-mapping (*ex.* SECAS) "to *resolving the fringe*"
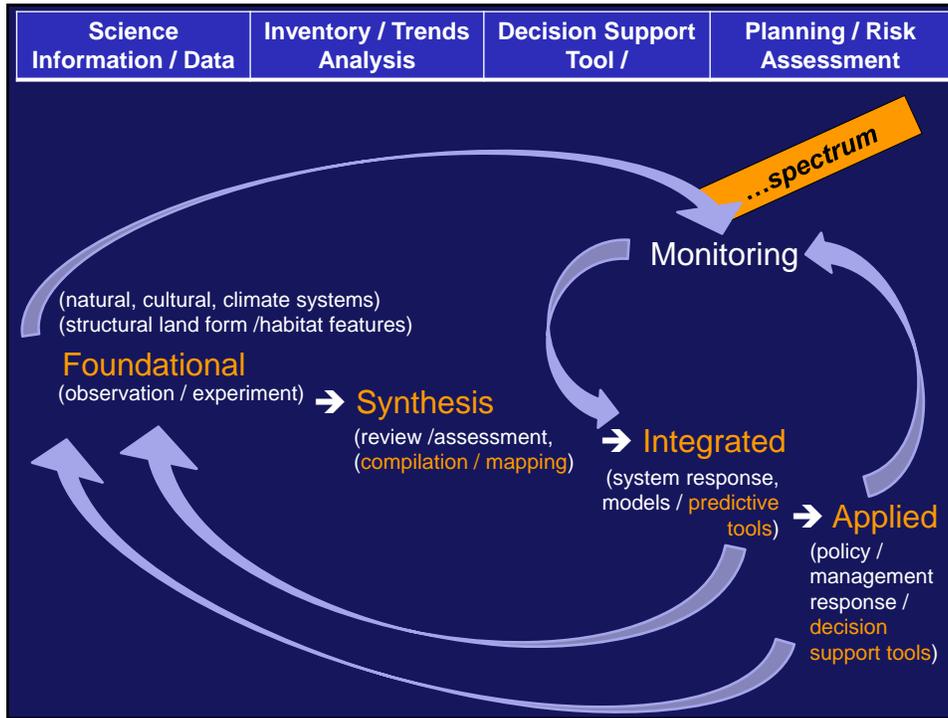

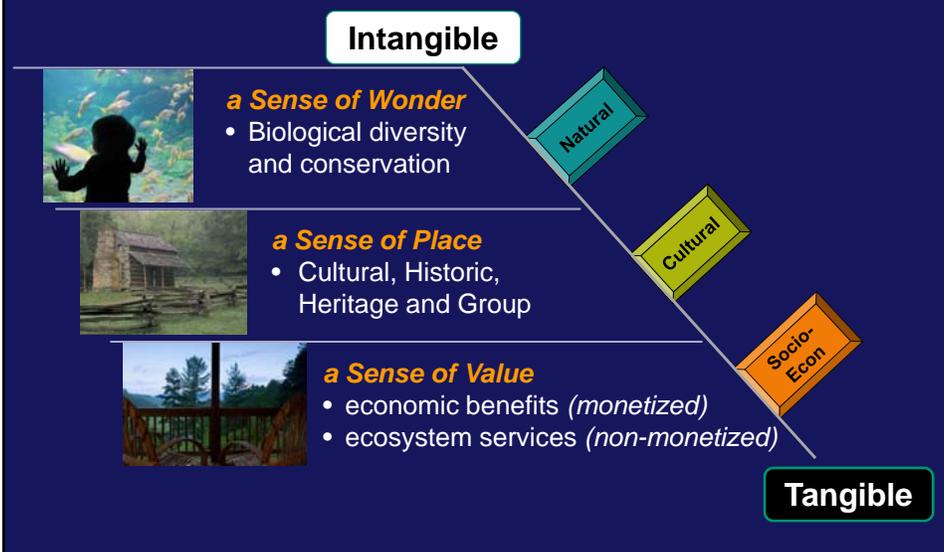**Role of the LCC** — **Landscape Conservation Cooperative**

- **facilitate planning** at a scale - typically beyond the reach or resources, of any one entity => to address large-scale stressors, *including* climate change

- **leverage resources** to be **more cost effective** (no one agency has the level of support/resources needed)

Rose Hessmiller

Ferguson Lynch

Support by Community: *Cloud Storage || Content Management System*
Geospatial Server *+ Learning System*

Shared Platform

derivative products

Resources

store data | data

Companion Sites
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership

easternbrooktrout.org | **applcc.org** | **sarp.org**

Role of the LCC — **Landscape Conservation Cooperative**

- **facilitate planning** at a scale - typically beyond the reach or resources, of any one entity => to address large-scale stressors, *including* climate change

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- **develop predictive management tools** & strategies to inform management decision - integrate (science *into* management)

Gillian Bee
Landscape
Conservation
Fellow, Clemson

Science Information / Data	Inventory / Trends Analysis	Decision Support Tool /	Planning / Risk Assessment

…spectrum

Monitoring

(natural, cultural, climate systems)
(structural land form /habitat features)

Foundational
(observation / experiment) → Synthesis
(review /assessment,
(compilation / mapping) → Integrated
(system response,
models / predictive
tools) → Applied
(policy /
management
response /
decision
support tools)

Role of the LCC   **Landscape Conservation Cooperative**

- **facilitate planning** at a scale - typically beyond the reach or resources, of any one entity => to address large-scale stressors, *including* climate change

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- **network the communities** and **provide the forum** - continuous **exchange** /sharing among partners

Matthew Cimitile
Communications Coordinator

DOI Secretarial Order: …encourage the Department to actively seek to engage both traditional & non-traditional partners
(such as local governments, industry, and private land-owners)

Science
Research Community

Conservation Targets

Management
Conservation Community

Engage Society

Society
Local Communities
Regional Planners, Land Managers & Industry

"How do we communicate the relevancy of conservation to the broader society?"

Intangible

a Sense of Wonder
• Biological diversity and conservation

Natural

a Sense of Place
• Cultural, Historic, Heritage and Group

Cultural

a Sense of Value
• economic benefits *(monetized)*
• ecosystem services *(non-monetized)*

Socio-Econ

Tangible

Biological
- (econ, cultural, recreational, educ., spiritual)
- flora/fauna presrv, pollinators, Ag genetic stock

Services

Bio-geochemical
- nutrient cycling
- carbon storage

Hydrological
- qual. – filtra. (pathog/chem/metal)
- quan. - release, storage

Structural
- shoreline stabilization
- buffer storm/wave damage
- sediment trapping

Atmospheric
- air quality, tempr. regulation
- climate -- local, regional, global

Role of the LCC

Landscape Conservation Cooperative

- **facilitate planning** at a scale - typically beyond the reach or resources, of any one entity => to address large-scale stressors, *including* climate change

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- **network the communities** and **provide the forum** - continuous **exchange** /sharing among partners

- **build the capacity** - for delivering sustainable landscape conservation at a regional scale

Assessing Future Energy Development

Overview

Energy Forecast Modeling

Models of wind, shale gas, and coal development for the entire study area have been created to predict pot...
impacts to natural resources wit...
from all development projection...
help inform regional landscape p...

The energy forecast web-based mapping...
combines multiple layers of data on ener...
resource and ecosystem services, to give...
energy development could look like in th...
development is most likely to occur and i...
intersect with other significant values like...
ecological services such as drinking wate...

Course Elements
- Introduction
- The Science behind the Tool
- *"How-to"* Demonstration / Walk-thru Example
- Case Study / Independent Application Exercise
- Assessment Quiz
- Participant Feedback

Landscape Conservation Cooperative

APPALACHIAN
LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

- **facilitate planning**
- **leverage resources**
- **develop predictive management tools**
- **network the communities**
- **build the capacity**

PLANNING
RESEARCH
BUILD CAPACITY
NETWORK COMMUNITY
MONITORING
DESIGN
DELIVERY

APPALACHIAN
LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

Take away:

Working at a Landscape-level
…
LCCs offer a 'conservation engine'
(forum) (framework) (mechanism) (institutional partnership)

to achieve a connected landscape and help maintain genetic diversity and resilience,

to facilitate management-relevant research, and the development of predictive models and tools, inform decision-making,

to help build the core competencies and organizational capacity, and

to catalyze conservation delivery and outreach as a system of conservation networks

Slide 1

http://www.applcc.org

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LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

Cultural Resources and Landscape Conservation

OVERVIEW: Using AppLCC Science Investments

GET STARTED

Research – Management Questions

Data and Conservation Planning Atlas

On-line Training Courses

Networking People, Expertise, Projects

The *Big* Questions

I. *Why* landscape planning & design approach?

II. *What* are Landscape Conservation Designs (LCDs)?

III. *How can the LCD inform Conservation Planning?*

Slide 2

What are Landscape Conservation Designs (LCDs)?

Stakeholders / Audience

All Stakeholders

Limited / Internal

"LCD"...Product + Process

ex. Sage Grouse, Fire, Cheatgrass

Landscape Conservation Design

ex. waterfowl, migratory birds, Brook trout, wetlands

ex. SWAPs, TNC eco-plan, University / Research

"Wicked Problems"

...to address

Single   **Holistic**

Targets (species, issue, habitats, etc.)

Image Source: Tom Miewald

What are Landscape Conservation Designs (LCDs)?

Secretarial Order #3289 *(Sept 2009)*

…ordered Department to establish
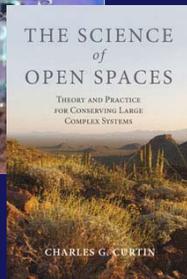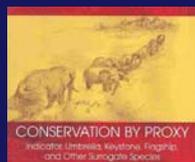
"a network of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

(to) engage DOI
and federal agencies, states,
tribal and *local governments*
and the *public,*

to craft practical, landscape-level strategies
for managing climate change impacts."

2016 NAS: "landscape conservation designs…signature product"

What are Landscape Conservation Designs (LCDs)?

LCDs – evolution / understanding, guidance

Source: Rob Campellone, Policy NWR System

LCD evolution / understanding, guidance, framing

Landscape conservation design and the iCASS Platform:
An adaptation pathway for social transformability in sustainability planning

Reference: (http://www.journals.elsevier.com/landscapeandurbanplanning)

iCASS
- **i** innovation
- **C** Convene
- **A** Assessment
- **S** Spatial
- **S** Strategy

iCASS
innovation

…to address *"Wicked Problems"*

SHC

How much?
How much more?
Where?

Convene

Outreach
- Conversations with agencies, NGOs, landowners
- Invitations to 14 tribes
- 12 public meetings

Source: Tom Miewald
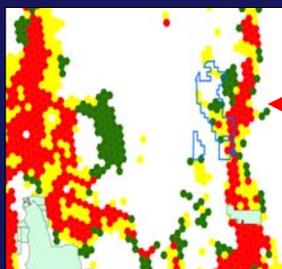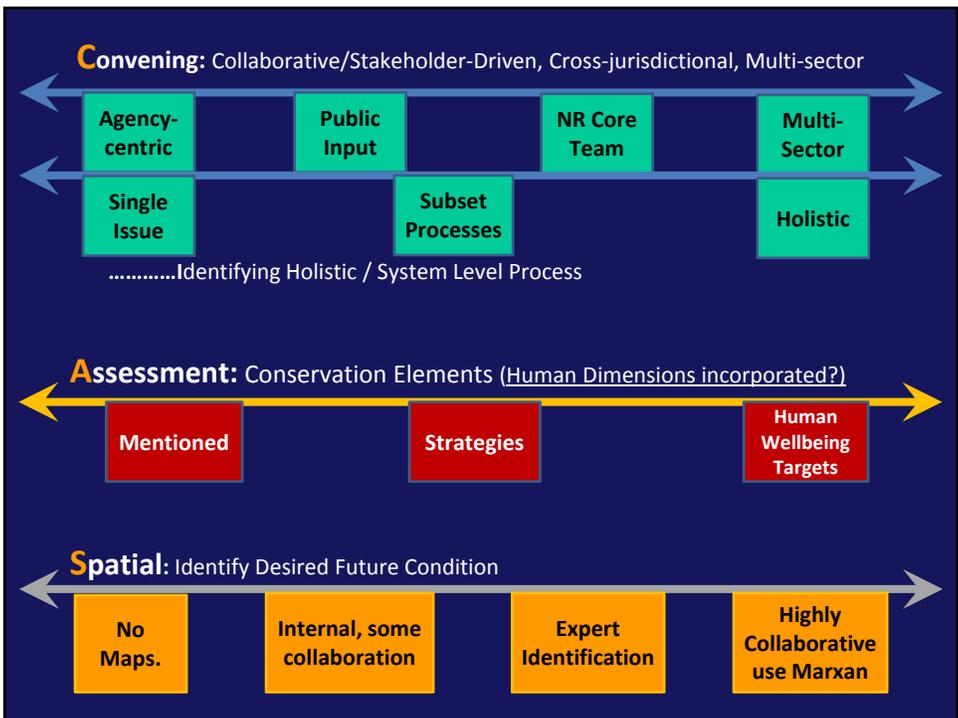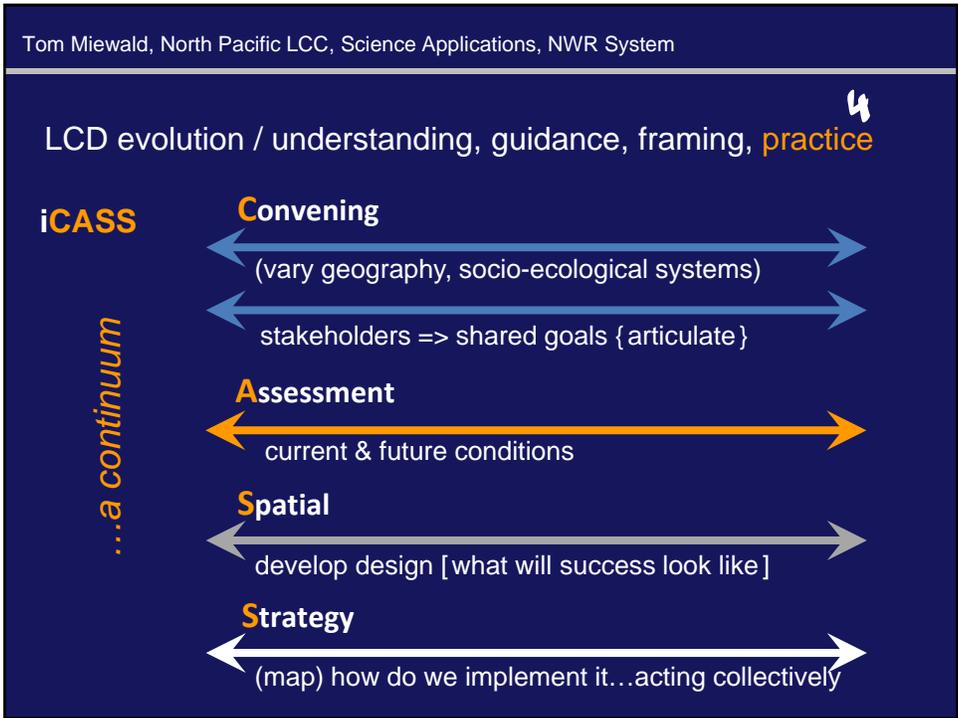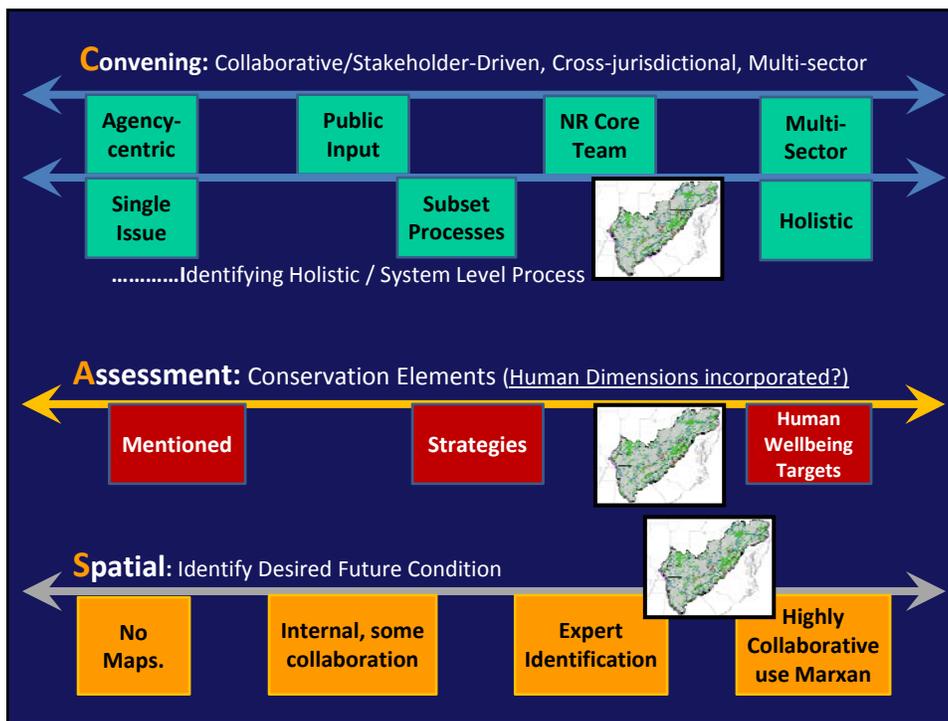
Assessment

Spatial
Design

Strategy
Design

Tom Miewald, North Pacific LCC, Science Applications, NWR System

LCD evolution / understanding, guidance, framing, practice

4

iCASS

...a continuum

Convening

(vary geography, socio-ecological systems)

stakeholders => shared goals {articulate}

Assessment

current & future conditions

Spatial

develop design [what will success look like]

Strategy

(map) how do we implement it…acting collectively

Convening: Collaborative/Stakeholder-Driven, Cross-jurisdictional, Multi-sector

| Agency-centric | | Public Input | | NR Core Team | | Multi-Sector |
| Single Issue | | | Subset Processes | | | Holistic |

...........Identifying Holistic / System Level Process

Assessment: Conservation Elements (Human Dimensions incorporated?)

| Mentioned | | Strategies | | Human Wellbeing Targets |

Spatial: Identify Desired Future Condition

| No Maps. | Internal, some collaboration | Expert Identification | Highly Collaborative use Marxan |

Convening: Collaborative/Stakeholder-Driven, Cross-jurisdictional, Multi-sector

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…………**I**dentifying Holistic / System Level Process

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http://www.applcc.org

Coordinating Landscape Planning and Design

OPTIMIZATION MODELING OF "PRIORITY RESOURCES"

Slide 1

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Steering Comm. (30)

7 States …

15 Fed (10 Votes) …

1 Tribal (EBC)

2 NGO …

5 regional Partner-ships

Vision
Ecological Integrity.
Environmental Benefits.
Sustainable Fish and Wildlife Populations.

Pt #1 …self-directed partnership

MD DNR
NRCS
USGS
TVA
SARP
The Nature Conservancy
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
Central Hardwoods Joint Venture
Ohio River Basin

Slide 2

- **Habitat** loss or fragmentation
- Loss of **connectivity**,
- Increase **risk** or **vulnerability** due to population isolation

Pt #2 …(spatial) scales beyond operational reach of agency, …(temporal) integrates predictive science

- **Expanding Energy: NG** */ hydro-fracking*
- **Traditional Energy** **/ Mt Top Mining**
- **Water Control & Stress** **/ Extreme Weather Events**
- **Urban & Exurbia Expansion** **/ Ag-land Conversion**
- **Changing Climatic Conditions** **/ Hydrologic Impact & Extreme Weather**

Partner Prioritization (…desired outcome) (…science-driven)

What will success look like?

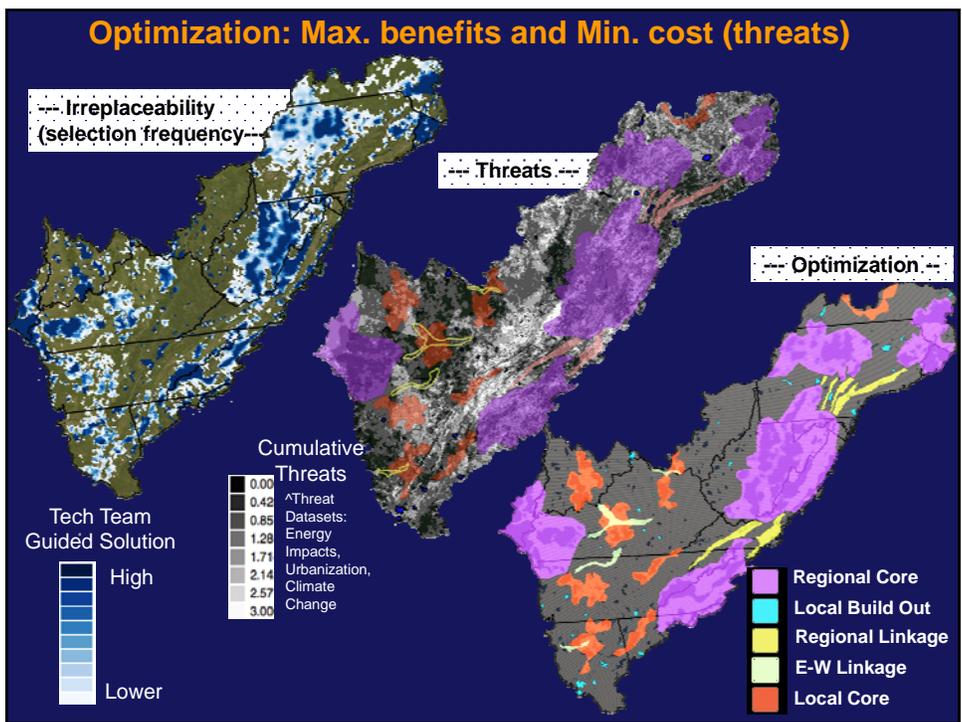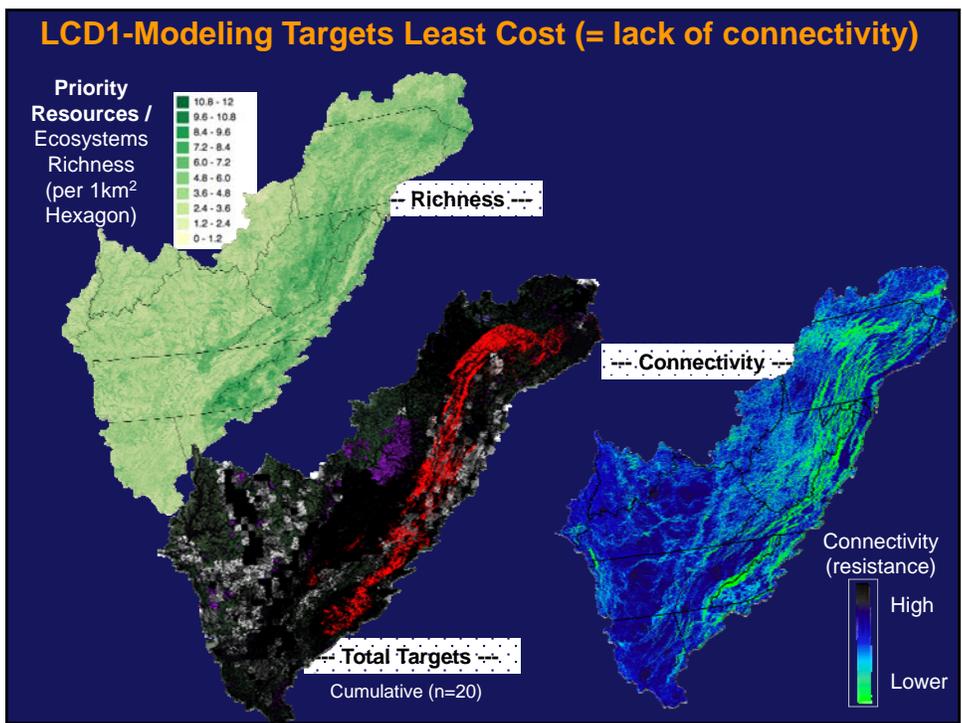Engage Technical Teams

Priority Resources / Ecosystems+

1. Unfragmented forest
2. High-elevation forest
3. Mature lowland forest
4. Early successional habitats
5. High-elevation streams [mid- high]
6. Low-elevation streams [mid-low]
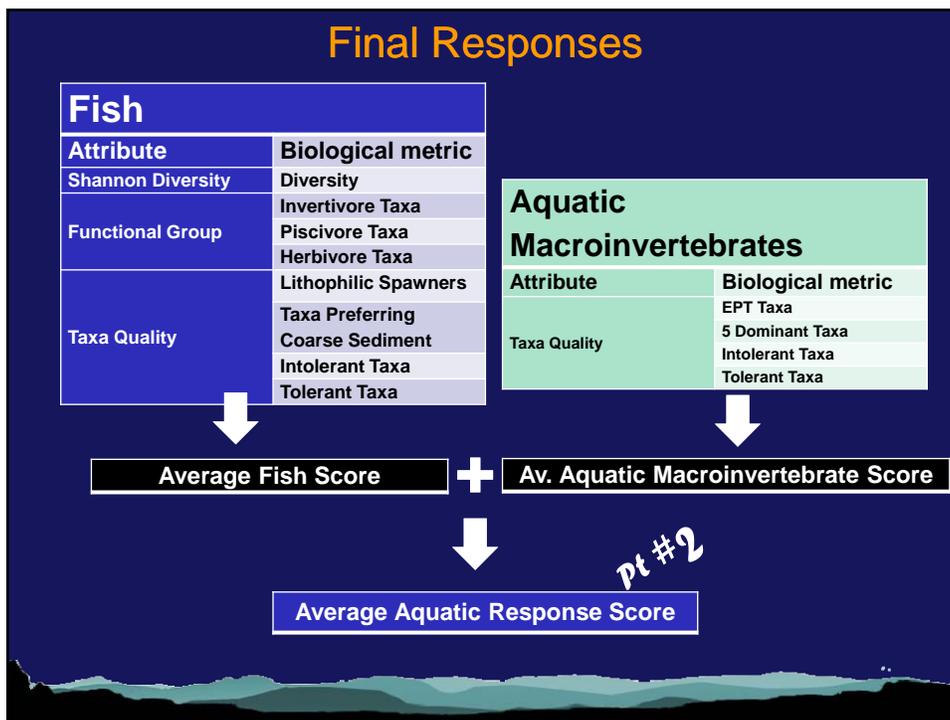7. Cave/Karst Systems
8. Forested Wetlands

Marxan
Informing Conservation Decisions Globally

600,000 1km

(LCD1-modeling scenarios: 500 million iterations)

"PRIORITY RESOURCES"

Mature Lowland Forest
Roadless forest blocks > 75% canopy cover

High-elevation Forests
Red Spruce

Early Successional Habitats

Young Forests
Facultative Generalist
Shrub/Scrub
Spotted Skunk
GWW
Prairie Warbler

Cave / Karst
Aquatic
Terrestrial
Group Richness
Group Richness

Unfragmented Forests
Black Bear

High-elevation Streams
Mid
Highest
Head water streams > 3k ft.
Brook Trout

Low-elevation Streams
Mid
Lowest
Hellbender
Moderate Gradient, Warm Headwaters

Forested Wetlands
PFO / PSS - NWI

(20) MODEL 'SEEDS' => TARGETS (TO CAPTURE PR)

Species Distribution Model (SDM)

Black bear distribution *(used to create "cost" surface = connectivity)*

1. Hellbender
2. Brook Trout
3. Spotted Skunk
4. Golden-winged warbler
5. Prairie Warbler
6. Red Spruce

7. Cave Obligate Aquatic Sp. Richness
8. Cave Obligate Terrestrial Sp. Richness

Special Places
9. Typic Foothills Cove Forest
10. Typic Montane Cove Forest
11. Rich Montane Cove Forest
12. Shale Barrens
13. Rock Outcrops
14. *Acidic Fens *later removed from model (under revision)*

Key Features
15. Moderate gradient, warm headwaters
16. Headwaters > 3k feet in elevation
17. Top (10%) resilient sites (TNC)
18. Lowland Mature Forest (= Roadless forest blocks > 75% canopy cover)
19. Forested Wetlands
20. Least likely to depart from historical climate regimes

Landscape Modeling - Optimization

- Climate T Projections (PRISM)
- Energy Forecast Model (TNC-LCC)
- Urbanization Model Results (UWI)

"PRIORITY RESOURCES "

- Target Species
- Special Places
- Key Features
  - **Resilient sites - TNC Top 10%**
  - **Soil deficit: least likely to depart historical climate regime**

1. Un-fragmented forest
2. High-elevation forest
3. Mature lowland forest
4. Early successional habitats
5. High-elevation streams [mid- high]
6. Low-elevation streams [mid-low]
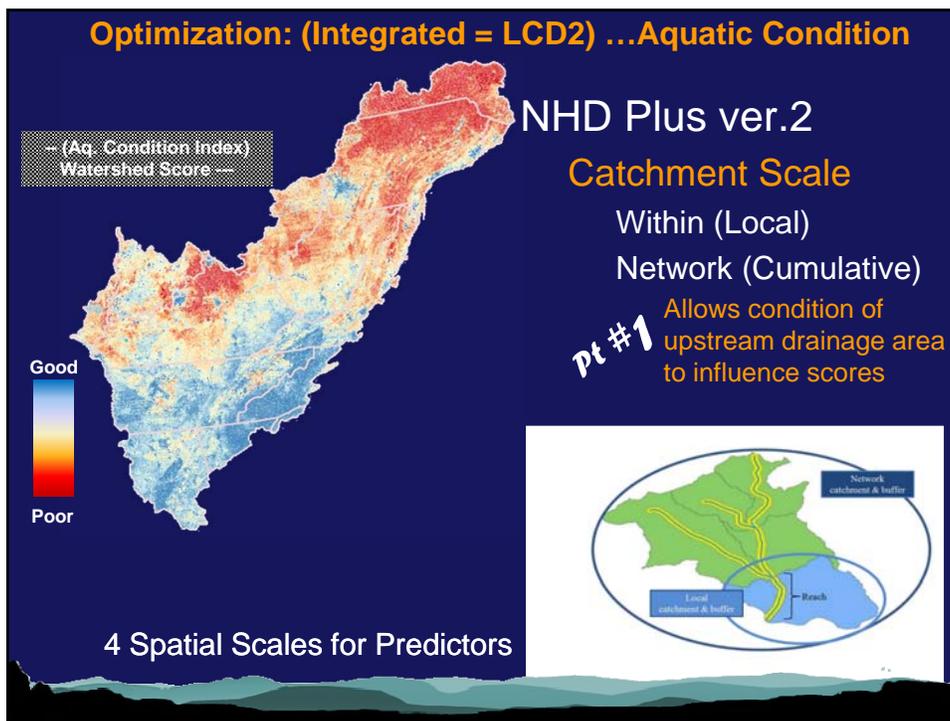7. Cave/Karst Systems
8. Forested Wetlands

- Special Places
- Key Features

LCD1-Modeling Targets Least Cost (= lack of connectivity)

Priority Resources / Ecosystems Richness (per 1km^2 Hexagon)

10.8 - 12
9.6 - 10.8
8.4 - 9.6
7.2 - 8.4
6.0 - 7.2
4.8 - 6.0
3.6 - 4.8
2.4 - 3.6
1.2 - 2.4
0 - 1.2

-- Richness --

--- Connectivity ---

--- Total Targets ---

Cumulative (n=20)

Connectivity (resistance)

High

Lower

Optimization: Max. benefits and Min. cost (threats)

--- Irreplaceability (selection frequency--

--- Threats ---

--- Optimization --

Cumulative Threats

0.00
0.42
0.85
1.28
1.71
2.14
2.57
3.00

^Threat Datasets: Energy Impacts, Urbanization, Climate Change

Tech Team Guided Solution

High

Lower

Regional Core
Local Build Out
Regional Linkage
E-W Linkage
Local Core

Optimization: (Integrated = LCD2) …Aquatic Condition

Final Responses

Landscape Modeling – LCD2

- Climate T Projections (PRISM)
- Energy Forecast Model (TNC-LCC)
- Urbanization Model Results (UWI)
- (Risk) Environmental Services

"PRIORITY RESOURCES"

- **Target Species**
- Special Places
- Key Features
- Aquatic Integrity
- (Benefits) Env. Services

1. Un-fragmented forest
2. High-elevation forest
3. Mature lowland forest
4. Early successional habitats
5. High-elevation streams [mid- high]
6. Low-elevation streams [mid-low]
7. Cave/Karst Systems
8. Forested Wetlands

- Special Places
- Key Features
- Aquatic Integrity
- (Benefits) Env. Services

Integrated, LCD2

Near-optimal Solution

Integrated LCD
Available
Targeted

Integrated, LCD2

Conservation Design Elements

LCD 2 Design Elements
- Regional Cores
- Local Cores
- Regional Linkages
- Local Linkages
- Local Build Outs

OVERVIEW: Using AppLCC Science Investments   GET STARTED

http://www.applcc.org

The Big Questions

I.   Why landscape planning & design approach?

II. What are Landscape Conservation Designs (LCDs)?
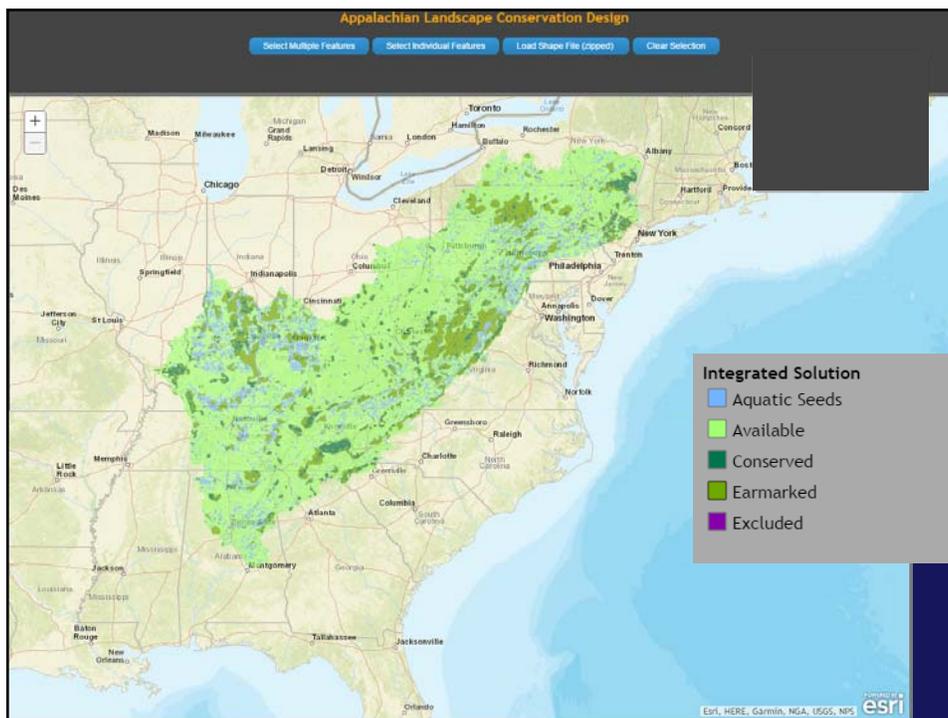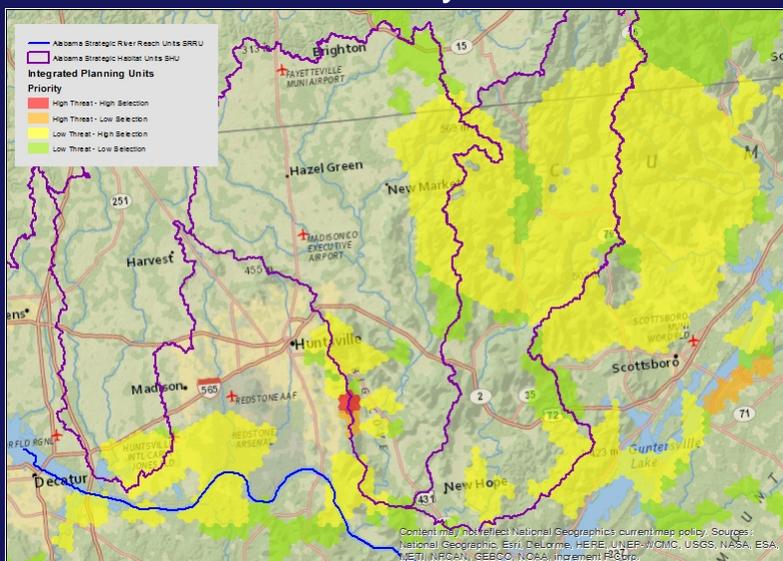
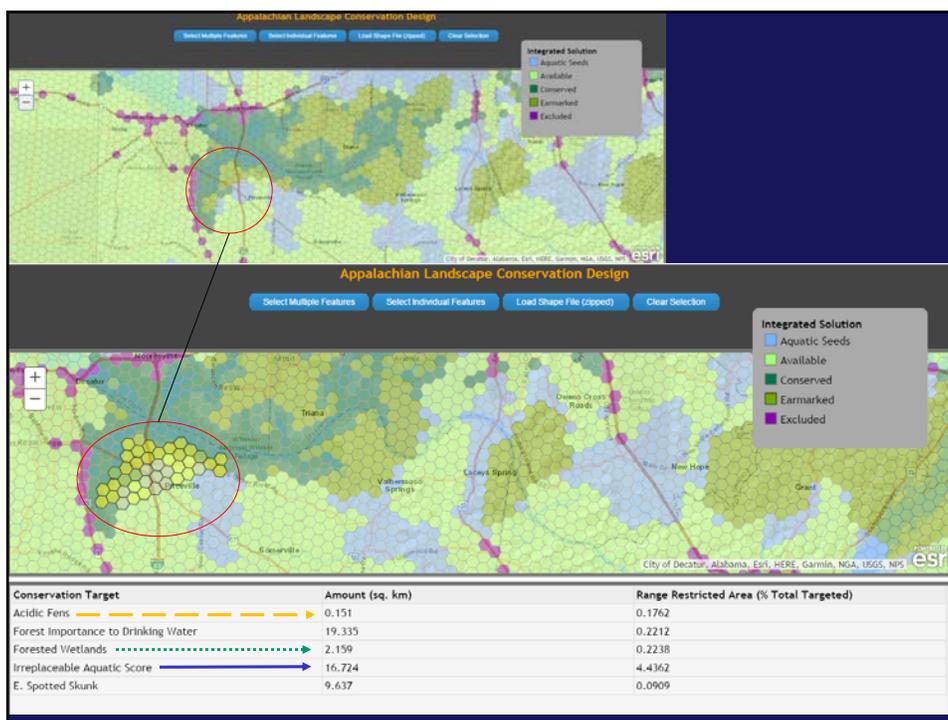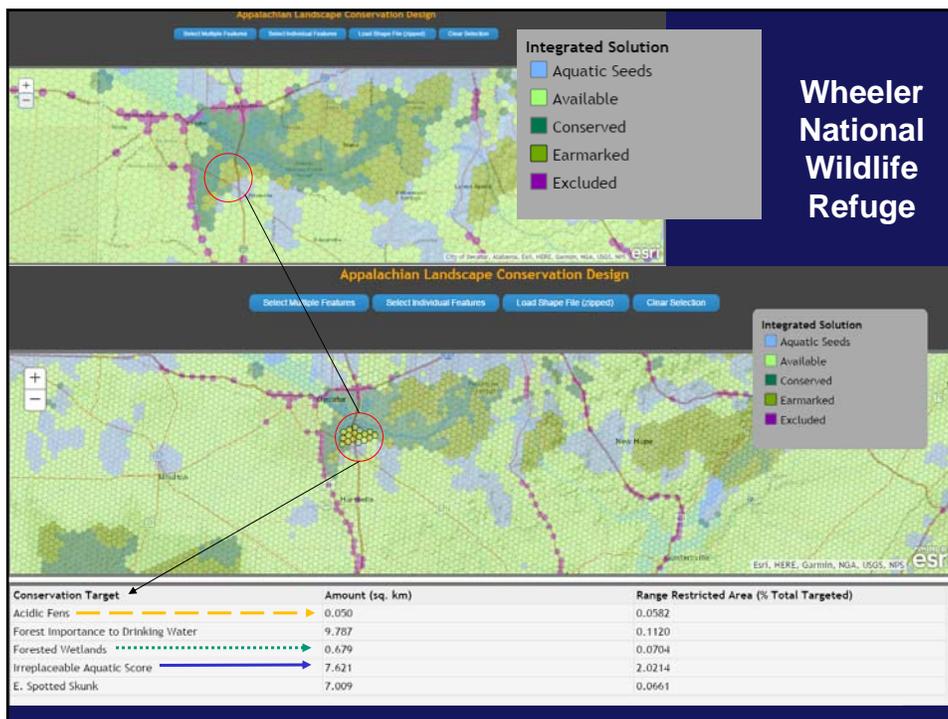III. How can the LCD inform Conservation Planning?

Zoomed SHUs – near Optimal

Zoom SHUs – Selection Frequency

Problems and Solutions of *21st Century Conservation:*

barriers...

transcend the boundaries of individual agencies, programs, and organizations… exceed their operational reach …

ability....

➢ Capacity to characterize, assess, and predict population and habitat sustainability at landscape scales.

➢ New core competencies in landscape assessment.

➢ Partnering region's conservation infrastructure *(private, state, federal)* to operate as a networked, leveraged system.

Working at a Landscape-level …Partnering with LCCs (Landscape Conservation Cooperatives)