

Conservation Frameworks

What are they and why do we need them?

Conservation Frameworks

- History
- Context
- Future

Northeast Regional Conservation Framework Workshop

"Albany II"



June 14-16, 2011
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Albany, New York


Hosted by
Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Photo Credit: James Weliver/USFWS

NA Landscape Conservation Cooperative

FWS
USGS
NPS
USFS
NOAA
EPA
Manomet
NWF
TNC
NFWF
TPL
WMI

And others...



Regional Partnerships

NEAFWA

ACJV

AFC

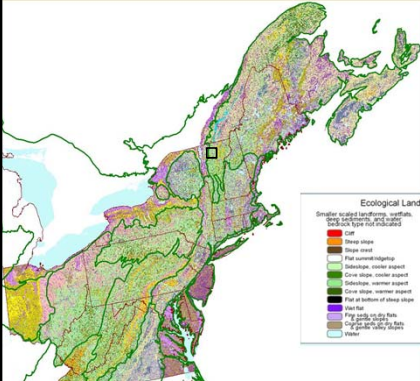
PARC

EBTJV

ACFHP

Etc...

Northeast Region



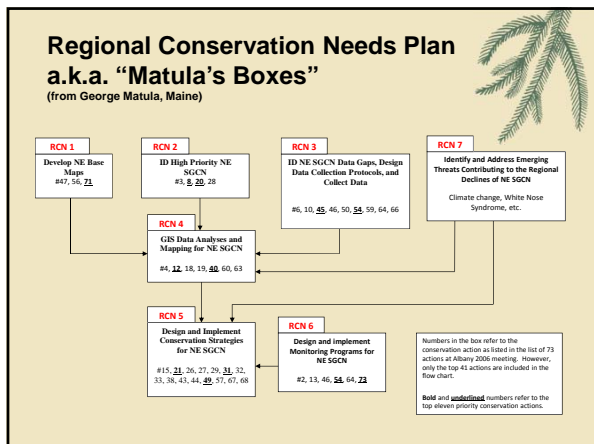
Ecological Land Units: simplified display

Simplified display of ecological land units, with color coding for each unit.

<p>Shaded slopes, wetter aspects, with high soil moisture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dark red: Cold Red: Deep shade Dark purple: Slope west Light purple: Flat, northerly aspect Green: Slopes, cooler aspect Light green: Deep shade, cooler aspect Dark green: Slopes, warmer aspect Light blue: Flat at bottom of steep slope Dark blue: Deep shade Light blue: Flat, south-southwest Light blue: Slopes, south-southwest Light blue: Flat 	<p>Dry, steep, drier slopes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light green: Gentle slopes, acidic soil/moist soil Light green: Dry flat, acidic soil/moist soil Light green: Gentle slopes, acidic shade Light green: Gentle slopes, calcareous soil/moist soil Light green: Gentle slopes, calcareous soil/moist soil Light green: Gentle slopes, moderately calc soil/moist soil Light green: Dry flat, calcareous soil/moist soil Light green: Gentle slopes, acidic granite Light green: Dry flat, acidic granite Light green: Gentle slopes, multi-intersected granite Light green: Dry flat, multi-intersected granite Light green: Gentle slopes & dry flat, ultramafic
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Session objectives:

1. Agreement on goals and need for a regional framework to achieve resource conservation incorporating ecological and human needs;
2. An understanding of how completed, ongoing and proposed RCN/LCC projects fit into a framework;
3. An understanding of how the elements in this framework will inform decision-making by the conservation community; and
4. An understanding on how the remainder of the workshop fits into the framework.



Regional Conservation Needs Goal/Vision:

The objective of the Northeast RCN Grant Program is to address landscape-scale, regional wildlife conservation issues by combining resources, leveraging funds, and prioritizing conservation actions identified in State Wildlife Action Plans

LCC Goal/Vision (North Atlantic example):

Landscapes that sustain our natural resources and cultural heritage in a healthy state through active collaboration of conservation partners and partnerships in the North Atlantic Region.

LCCs Fundamental Objective:

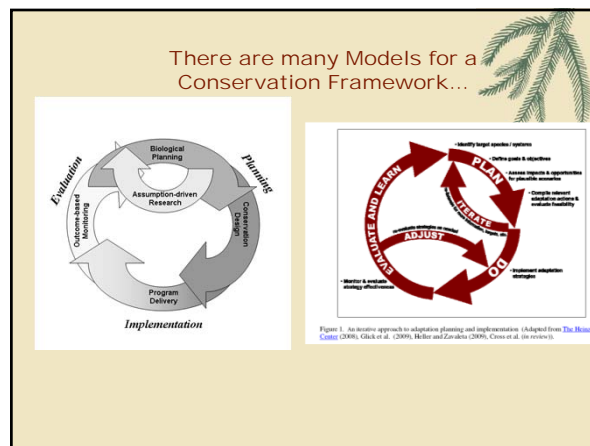
To define, design, and deliver landscapes that can sustain natural and cultural resources at desired levels nation-wide.

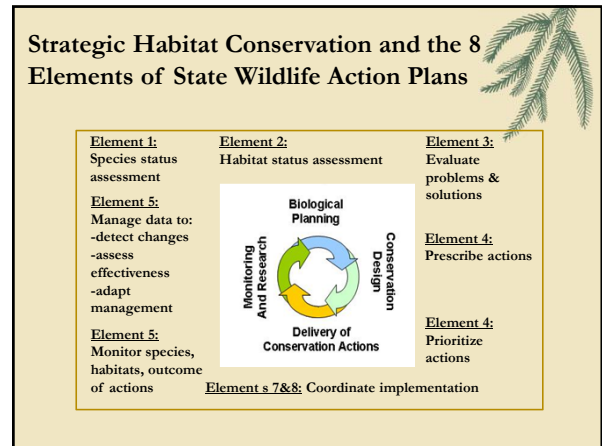
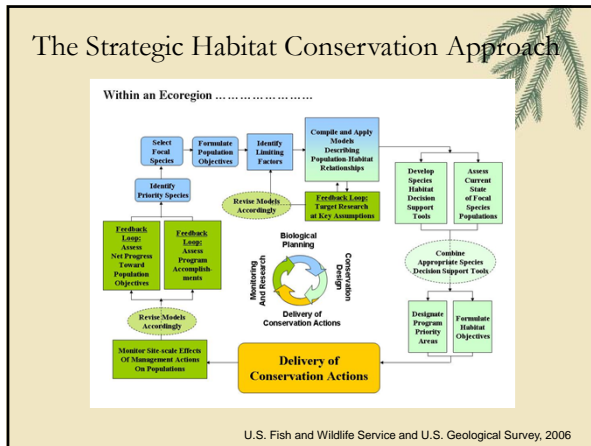
LCC Fundamental Objective:

To define, design, and deliver landscapes that can sustain natural and cultural resources at levels desired by society.

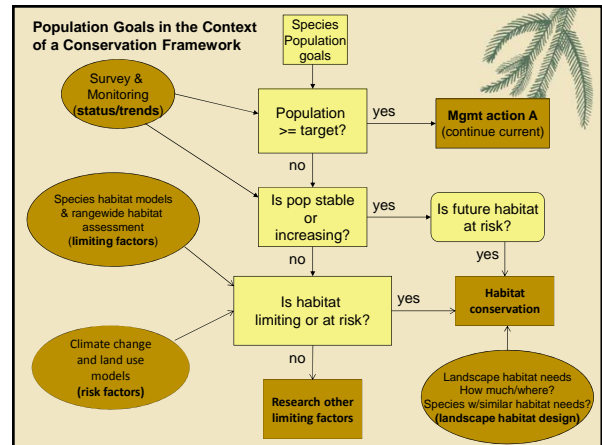
- ### Landscape Conservation Cooperative Role
- facilitate planning at a scale and scope beyond the reach or resources of any one organization
 - leverage funding, staff, and resources
 - agree on common goals
 - develop tools and strategies to inform landscape-level management decisions and link science to management
 - provide a forum for continuous exchange between partners.

- ### Partner Roles
- define and share their individual landscape-level priorities
 - help shape a common landscape level conservation framework, targets, priorities, and science and conservation tools needed across the region by multiple partners
 - use the tools developed, such as maps of priority areas to aid in their implementation of conservation actions
 - provide feedback to the LCC on the utility and effectiveness of LCC products and approaches

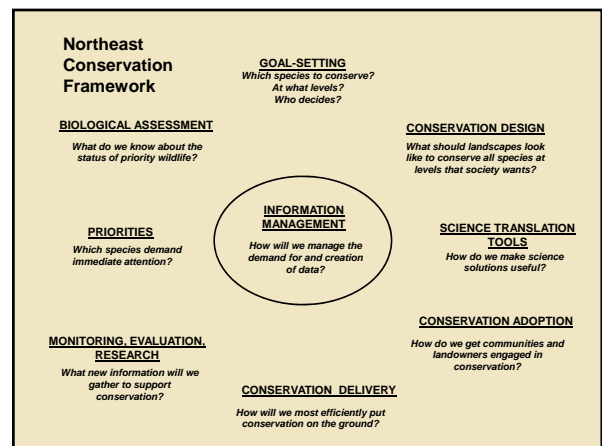




Strategic Habitat Cons. Element	Sub-element
Biological Planning	Biological Planning Units
	Priority Species
	Population Objectives
	Limiting Factors
	Species/Habitat Models
Conservation Design	Landscape/Habitat Assessment
	Assessment of Conservation Estate
	Decision Support Tools
	Conservation Objectives
Conservation Actions	Integrate Multiple Species Objectives
	Program Objectives
	Conservation Delivery Mechanisms
Outcome-based Monitoring	Communication and Education Delivery Mechanisms
	Conservation Tracking System
	Habitat Inventory and Monitoring Program
Assumption-driven Research	Population Monitoring Program
	Species/Habitat Model Assumptions
	Conservation Treatment Assumptions
	Keyfactor/Sensitivity Analyses Spatial Data Analyses



- ### North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative Framework Elements
- Conservation targets/population goals – at a regional level
 - Species/habitat models – regional levels – across species distribution
 - Landscape design – combine multiple species needs into landscape designs that support regional population goal levels
 - Habitat change over time – assess with respect to stressors such as sprawl and climate change – incorporate into landscape designs
 - Conservation “translation” tools – translate the science foundation into landscape patterns easily conveyed to public and landowners – work at community levels
 - Information management
 - Monitoring -serve as a “community of practice” for conservation partners – what have we learned, what works and what doesn’t?





SE Conservation Adaptation Strategy Conservation Landscape of the Future

Draft Outline of A SECAS:

- **Conservation Targets –**
 - Species, Habitats, Ecological Functions and Processes
 - Defines How Much, How Much More, Where
- **Conservation Delivery Tools**
 - Decision Support Tools
 - Structured Decision Making
 - Non-redundant Conservation Tracking System
- **Ability to “See” The System**
 - Current and Alternative Futures
 - Aquatic and Terrestrial
 - Fish and Wildlife Response
- **Risk Management Tools**
 - Risk Tolerance
 - Risk Assessment
- **Science-based Adaptive Management**
 - Learning Is An Explicit Objective
- **Monitoring Systems and Capacity**
 - Assessing Uncertainty
 - Testing Underlying Assumptions
- **Horizontally Integrated Conservation Science Assessment Capacity**
 - Landscape Ecology
 - Decision Theory
 - Geospatial Analyses/Data Mgmt
- **Engaging The Public**
 - Quantify Conservation Values and Recreation Attitudes of Societal Sectors
 - Grassroot Conservation Delivery Enterprise

SE Conservation Adaptation Strategy Conservation Landscape of the Future

Briefing To The Directors: Progress/Status Report

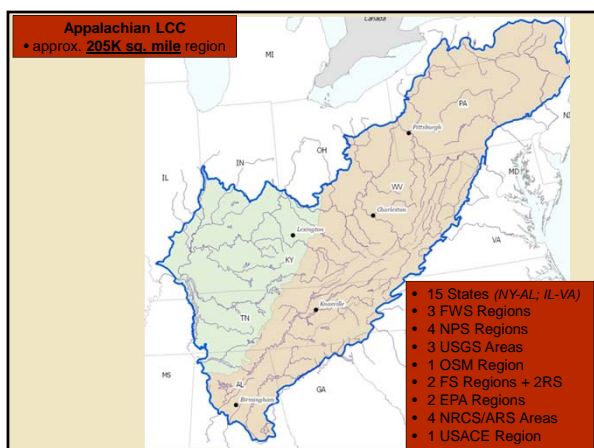
Next Steps If Directors Decide To Continue

Focusing the Network of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives:

- States Bring SECAS forward to LCCs Steering Committees with their expectation of working with partners and partnerships
- Charge Conservation Science Staff of LCCs to engage the conservation and science communities (to include existing partnerships such as SARP, JVs) in necessary steps to focus science and resources toward defining the Conservation Landscape of the Future.

How will we know when we’re there?

- Articulate a vision for the landscape to support and sustain natural and cultural resources.
- Assess the current condition of our nation’s landscapes and waterscapes to support those resources.
- Express how much, how much more, and where to prioritize conservation actions across the landscape.
- Ability to quantify impacts conservation actions (reforestation, permit, fish passage, etc) have on the sustainability of natural and cultural resources.
- Ability to quantify impacts development actions (housing, civil works, mining, biofuel etc) have on the sustainability of natural and cultural resources.
- Ability to forecast alternative future conditions to the sustainability of natural and cultural resources as a function of urban growth models, climate change scenarios, energy development.




Conservation in Transition

“Like the resource it seeks to protect, wildlife conservation must be dynamic, changing as conditions change, seeking always to become more effective”

Rachel Carson



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