

Northeast Regional Conservation Framework Pre-workshop Assessment - Background

When State Wildlife Action Plans were completed more than five years ago, we used them to help us identify the ***highest priority conservation needs best addressed at a regional, landscape-level scale across the Northeast***. The Northeast Regional Conservation Needs (RCN) Grant Program and the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) were created to identify and collaborate on implementing those needs. The Landscape Conservation Cooperatives in the Northeast Region (North Atlantic, Appalachian, Upper Midwest-Great Lakes and South Atlantic) are complementing the RCN program by also identifying and building on priority needs in regional conservation science.

Many regional projects are underway through multi-state collaboration to create baseline information to guide our work, including a common habitat classification and soon-to-be finalized habitat maps covering the entire Northeast Region. It is time to decide how these projects fit together, next steps to take and ***essential activities to fulfill a common vision for a regional conservation framework***.

What is your vision for a conservation framework in the Northeast?

We want participants to understand the baseline vision of a “Northeast Conservation Framework”. Consider the core elements of a “conservation framework”: 1) biological assessments to identify problems; 2) conservation planning to target solutions; 3) delivery of actions to address problems and implement solutions; 4) monitoring and analysis to adapt actions; and 5)

information management to support learning and performance tracking (Figure 1).



Figure 1. A conservation framework was recommended to the states by AFWA in “Voluntary Guidance for States to Incorporate Climate Change into State Wildlife Action Plans & Other Management Plans,” adapted from The Heinz Center (2008), Glick et al. (2009), Heller and Zavaleta (2009), Cross et al (*in review*).

We are asking for your help in using this basic structure to develop ***specific elements of a conservation framework design for the Northeast Region***, including an updated set of ***specific priority conservation needs***.

Information gathered from the online assessment will help us prepare for the upcoming Northeast Regional Conservation Framework workshop scheduled for June 14-16, 2011, in Albany, New York.