



**Northeast Regional Conservation Framework
NERCF Workshop (Albany II)
June 14-16, 2011; Albany, New York**



Workshop Agenda

Workshop Purpose and Scope

The “Albany II” Workshop is a five-year follow-up to the State Wildlife Action Plans Meeting, which was held in Albany, New York, March 28-30, 2006 (“Albany I”). The Albany I meeting ultimately was the catalyst for establishing the Regional Conservation Needs (RCN) program.

Members of the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors, Administrators, and Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee, in association with the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) in the Northeast Region have planned this joint workshop to:

- Review, synthesize, evaluate, and present RCN and initial LCC projects completed or underway;
- Increase understanding and engagement by state and other conservation partners in RCN and LCC projects and goals in the Northeast;
- Review progress made toward original goals for the RCN program;
- Discuss challenges, needs, and opportunities for the RCN program and LCCs in the Northeast;
- Explore and discuss opportunities for collaborations between RCNs and LCCs in the Northeast to address common needs; and
- Develop initial consensus on a common conservation framework, vision, and highest priorities going forward.

Website – http://www.northatlanticlcc.org/rcn_workshop.html

Agenda:

Monday, June 13, 2011

4:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Registration** (North Foyer A)

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Pre-Workshop Planning Team Meeting** (Beverwyck Room)

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

7:00 am **Registration** (North Foyer A)

8:00 am **Breakfast** (Ballroom C - provided)

9:00 am **Welcome and Orientation** (Ballroom A)

Planning committee introductions and welcome - *Andrew Milliken, Coordinator, North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

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Welcome and introductory comments - *Patricia Riexinger, Director, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*

Introductory comments - *Greg Moore, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife and Chair, Northeast Association of Wildlife Administrators and Eric Palmer, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Chair, Northeast Association of Fisheries Administrators*

Review agenda and logistics - *Dave Case, DJ Case & Associates*

- Survey findings on *Roles in RCN, LCC, Primary affiliation*

9:40 am **Context and Purpose of the Workshop**

State administrative and technical perspective: Regional Conservation Needs (RCN) past and future - *Eric Palmer, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Steve Weber, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department*

Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) perspective: working together in the Northeast - *Ken Elowe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Science Applications*

National perspective: importance and context of northeast regional efforts - *Mark Humpert, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*

10:15 am **Break** (North Foyer A)

10:45 am **Session 1: Regional Conservation Framework** (Ballroom A)

Session Hosts: Ken Elowe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Karen Bennett, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife

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.

- Survey findings on *Conservation Strategy Adaptations*
- Survey findings on *Organizational Barriers*

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11:30 am **Facilitated Group Discussion on Regional Conservation Framework**

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Based on your experience with conservation planning, decision-making, and delivery, are there any key elements or concepts missing from this framework?
2. What are the complementary roles of the states, LCCs and other partnerships in implementing the framework?

12:30 pm **Lunch** (Ballroom C - provided)

1:30 pm **Session 2: Habitat Mapping** (Ballroom A)

Session Hosts: Eric Palmer, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, and Helen McMillan, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Session Objectives:

1. Understanding of terrestrial, aquatic and coastal regional habitat classification and mapping projects, how the results/data/tools produced by each of them can be used, and how they fit into the framework;
2. Identification of priority mapping needs; and
3. Ideas to improve the utility and access to mapping products.
 - Survey findings on *RCN & LCC projects (2007-2010)*

2:15 pm **Instructions for Breakout Sessions** (*Dave Case, DJ Case & Associates*)

2:30 pm **Table Discussion on Habitat Mapping** (Ballrooms A & B)

Table Discussion Questions:

1. What are the highest priority additional projects or needs for advancing habitat mapping?
2. Who are the key members of the conservation community who can address these priorities and what roles are best suited to RCN and LCCs?
3. What is value added of regional classification and mapping?
4. How often do we need to update regional maps, and how can we build a system to make updating more efficient?

3:30 pm **Break**

4:00 pm **Facilitated Group Discussion on Habitat Mapping** (Ballroom A)

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Given these priorities, which members of the conservation community are best positioned to implement them?
2. What are the barriers, opportunities and next steps?
3. What synergies can we build upon?

5:00 pm **Dinner** (on own – see list of local restaurants at registration table)

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6:00 pm **Planning Team & Facilitator Review Meeting** (Ballroom A)

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm **Poster Session of RCN & LCC Projects** (Desserts and Cash Bar in Ballroom B)

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

7:00 am **Breakfast** (Ballroom C - provided)

8:00 am **Welcome and Agenda Review** (*Dave Case, DJ Case & Associates*)

8:10 am **Session 3: Biological Assessments and Goal-setting** (Ballroom A)
Session Hosts: Andrew Milliken, North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative and Dave Day, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Session Objectives:

1. Understanding of completed, ongoing and proposed biological assessment projects, how the results/data/tools produced by each of them can be used, and how they fit into the framework;
2. Understanding of and consensus on need for establishing population objectives and other common conservation goals;
3. Identification of priority biological assessment needs.

- Survey findings on *Biological Assessment*

8:50 am **Table Discussion on Biological Assessments and Goal-setting** (Ballrooms A & B)

Table Discussion Questions:

1. What are the highest priority additional projects or needs for advancing biological assessments?
2. Who are the key members of the conservation community who can address these priorities and what roles are best suited to RCN and LCCs?
3. What is value added of regional biological assessments and goal setting to statewide or site-specific management?
4. How can we draw from and roll-up state plans to inform regional planning most effectively?

9:45 am **Break**

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10:15 am **Facilitated Group Discussion on Biological Assessments and Goal-setting** (Ballroom A)

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Given these priorities, which members of the conservation community are best positioned to implement them?
2. What are the barriers, opportunities and next steps?
3. What synergies can we build upon?
4. How can we work together to set conservation goals?

11:15 am **Session 4: From Conservation Design to Delivery** (Ballroom A) *Session Hosts: Steve Fuller, Wildlife Management Institute and Dan Brauning, Pennsylvania Game Commission*

Session Objectives:

1. Understanding of conservation design projects, how the results/data/tools produced by each of them can be used, and how they fit into the framework; and
2. Identification of priority conservation design, decision-making and delivery needs.
 - Survey findings on *On-the-Ground Conservation*

12:00 pm **Lunch** (Ballroom C - provided)

1:00 pm **Table Discussion on Conservation Design to Delivery** (Ballrooms A & B)

Table Discussion Questions:

1. What are the highest priority additional projects or needs for advancing conservation design and delivery?
2. Specifically, what are the critical decisions you are making, what regional design tools do you need to help you make them, and what format/scale do they need to be in?
3. Who are the key members of the conservation community who can address these priorities and what roles are best suited to RCN and LCCs?
4. What is value added of regional conservation design tools? What additional work needs to be done to make existing tools more useful?

2:00 pm **Break**

2:30 pm **Facilitated Group Discussion on Conservation Design to Delivery** (Ballroom A)

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Given these priorities, which members of the conservation community are best positioned to implement them?
2. What are the barriers, opportunities and next steps?
3. What synergies can we build upon?
4. What are roles of RCN and LCCs in conservation delivery?

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3:30 pm **Session 5: Monitoring, Evaluation and Research** (Ballroom A)
Session Hosts: Dee Blanton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Dan Rosenblatt, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Session Objectives:

1. Understanding of monitoring, evaluation and research projects and the results/data/tools produced by each of them can be used, and how they fit into the framework;
2. Identification of priority monitoring, evaluation and research needs; and
3. Input on how to improve the effectiveness of monitoring.

- Survey findings on *Monitoring and Evaluation*

4:15 pm **Table Discussion on Monitoring, Evaluation and Research** (Ballrooms A & B)

Table discussion questions:

1. What are the highest priority additional projects or needs for advancing monitoring evaluation and research?
2. Who are the key members of the conservation community who can address these priorities and what roles are best suited to RCN and LCCs?
3. What is value added of regional monitoring evaluation and research?
4. Do existing monitoring programs provide what we need to make decisions? If not, what changes need to be made or what additional monitoring is needed?

5:15 pm **Planning Team & Facilitator Review Meeting** (Ballroom A)

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm **Reception at New York State Museum** (Appetizers and Cash Bar in Adirondack Hall)

7:30 pm **Dinner** (on own)

Thursday, June 16, 2011

7:00 am **Breakfast** (Capital Room - provided)

8:00 am **Welcome and Agenda Review** (*Dave Case, DJ Case & Associates*)

8:10 am **Facilitated Group Discussion on Monitoring, Evaluation and Research**
(Ballroom A)

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Given these priorities, which members of the conservation community are best positioned to implement them?
2. What are the barriers, opportunities and next steps?
3. What synergies can we build upon?
4. How do we design and implement monitoring to be more useful?

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9:00 am **Session 6: Information Management** (Ballroom A)

Session Hosts: Dave Jenkins, New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, Steve Fuller, Wildlife Management Institute and BJ Richardson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Session Objectives:

1. Understanding of information management projects, how the results/data/tools produced by each of them can be used, and how information management supports the entire framework;
2. Identification of priority information management needs;
3. Input on goals for a regional information management system, including who would need access to the data, what data they would need and how they would want it delivered.

- Survey findings on *Data and Tools*

9:45 am **Table Discussion on Information Management** (Ballrooms A & B)

Table Discussion Questions:

1. What are the highest priority additional projects or needs for advancing information management?
2. Who are the members of the conservation community to best address these priorities and what roles are best suited to RCN and LCCs?
3. What is value added of regional information management?
4. What are the target audiences for information and how should the data be delivered?

10:30 am **Break**

11:00 am **Facilitated Group Discussion on Information Management** (Ballroom A)

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Given these priorities, which members of the conservation community are best positioned to implement them?
2. What are the barriers, opportunities and next steps?
3. What synergies can we build upon?
4. How can we best move forward with a regional information management needs assessment?

11:45 am **Lunch** (Capital Room - provided)

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12:45 pm **Session 7: Highest Priority Next Steps** (Ballroom A)

Session Hosts: Karen Bennett, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife and Andrew Milliken, North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Session Objectives:

1. Review of outcomes from previous sessions;
2. Identification of any other issues not previously raised;
3. Consensus on highest priority needs for the future; and
4. Identification of key barriers and potential means to address them.

1:00 pm **Table Discussion on Highest Priority Next Steps** (Ballrooms A & B)

Table Discussion Questions:

1. What have we missed? Are there other key issues that need to be raised?
2. What are our highest priority needs for the future?
3. What are the key barriers? What are some solutions/means to address these barriers?
4. What are complementary roles of the states and LCCs in implementing the framework and addressing the priority needs?
5. How do we follow up workshop and move forward in a coordinated way?

1:45 pm **Break**

2:15 pm **Conclusion and Next Steps** (Ballroom A)

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Given these priority needs, which members of the conservation community are best positioned to implement them?
2. How can we address these key barriers together?
3. How do we follow up from the workshop and move forward in a coordinated way through the RCN, LCCs and other partnerships?

3:00 pm **Concluding Remarks**

Ken Elowe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Science Applications

Patricia Riexinger, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

3:15 pm **ADJOURN** -- Please fill out Meeting Evaluation Form. Have a safe trip!