

Proposed Timing and Process for Review and Finalization of the Design

Core team member review

- 1) Feb. 2015 - Final draft design released; hold conference call to discuss the final draft; begin review by core team members (see below for scope)
- 2) Contact LCC staff (Scott Schwenk) as soon as possible if any serious issues have been identified that would prevent use of the design, and no later than within 3 weeks of release of the design
- 3) Complete review within four weeks

Next steps

- If no serious issues have been identified during the review by core team members, seek to obtain affirmation of the design by your organization within 4 weeks of the review. (Note: this process of affirmation does not imply an obligation of your organization to implement the design. Rather, it recognizes the work you have performed on behalf of your organization and confirms a willingness to utilize the design, along with other available tools, in your organization's conservation activities.)
- If serious issues are identified, project staff will work with you to consider possible solutions and whether further consultation among the core team is necessary.

Final Design Meeting

Approximately 1 month after release of the final design, the core team will meet to discuss any issues that have arisen during the review by core team members, to work on communications materials for a formal announcement of the design, and to discuss implementation of the design. If any major issues have been identified that cannot be deferred to a Version 2.0 of the design, the group will discuss a schedule and process for resolving them.

Purpose and Scope of Core Team Review of Conservation Design Version 1.0

- 1) Review the results and understand the purpose and outcome of the design methodology and the design choices made by the team during the Pilot process
- 2) Identify any issues in the design that are so detrimental that they would preclude its use by your organization or your partners, recognizing that the design:
 - a. is intended to *augment, not replace*, existing state and local knowledge and data
 - b. relies on regionally-available consistent data and takes into account the regional context
 - c. represents a series of consensus decisions among the partnership
 - d. should not be expected to completely correspond to previous prioritization efforts, given the goals, methodology and design decisions
 - e. is more than the map of cores and connectors, which is a strategic start but insufficient to achieve all of our objectives; the design includes additional products to assist in prioritization outside of the core-connector network
- 3) Identify additional needs for documentation or explanation of the design and results, if any.
- 4) Identify important opportunities for improvement in a future version of the design, e.g., adding new spatial datasets as they become available regionally. An example already identified is TNC's new Northeast Lakes and Ponds Classification.

Longer Term Process Steps and Related Projects

- Use Connecticut River Landscape Conservation Design to inform conservation designs at the Northeast Regional Scale
 - Inform Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas being developed by states
- Use Connecticut River Landscape Conservation Design to inform conservation designs in other watersheds/subregions
 - Inform, help partner-led efforts in Gulf of Maine, Susquehanna watersheds
- Updates and additions to regional data
 - Lakes and Ponds modification to aquatic classification and map
 - TNC revisions to terrestrial habitat classification
 - Brook trout resiliency – incorporating better temperature data
 - Incorporating sea level rise into ecological integrity and species models
 - Regional connectedness, permeability
 - Complete representative species models (30 species total)
 - Updates to stream continuity database
- Connecticut River Landscape Conservation Design 2.0, about 1 year
 - Incorporate refinements based on data updates including those listed above
 - Incorporate feedback from users in the watershed
- Designing Sustainable Landscapes next phase documentation and tool development
 - Complete documentation of major Designing Sustainable Landscapes tools for various audiences
 - A set of documented functions to semi-automate the LCD process that could be applied by technically trained users
 - Compiled spatial data on the locations of early-seral management
 - An algorithm for identifying priorities for agricultural restoration to wetland/forest
 - Assessment of representative species
- Related projects that will inform future designs
 - Aquatic connectivity projects
 - Coastal resiliency projects
- Support for partner projects
 - USDA NRCS Long Island Sound Regional Conservation Partnership Program
 - Federal Flagship Geographic Region for climate change