Executive Summary

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently completed a year-long effort to identify representative species with support from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and U.S. Forest Service. A representative species is a species whose habitat needs, ecosystem function, or management responses are similar to a group of other species. It is assumed that conservation planning and actions for a representative species will also address the needs of other species. Species experts provided extensive input throughout the process including selecting representative species during three workshops held in May and June, 2011.The end result was Eighty-seven terrestrial species were selected as representative species for the three sub regions of the NALCC, including: 66 birds, 9 reptiles, 4 mammals, 4 amphibians, 2 plants and 2 invertebrates.