**2012 NEAFWA meeting:**

**Northeast Landscape Conservation Design, RCNs, and SWAPs**

**Background:** The North Atlantic LCC (NALCC) has initiated Northeast Landscape Conservation Design (NELCD) with the goal of producing composite maps depicting landscape conservation designs and developing spatial data layers summarizing environmental conditions affecting ecological and cultural resource elements in the Northeast. The project is intended to increase accessibility to landscape data generated by past and ongoing projects, including several important Regional Conservation Needs (RCN) projects. The NELCD, ongoing SWAP revisions, and forthcoming RCN projects are inter-related and require coordination. The North Atlantic LCC is assisting the States to assemble regional components of their forthcoming State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAP). While the NELCD may serve in part to fulfill SWAP wildlife habitat assessment requirements, the RCN program is proposing to initiate a broader synthesis of reports and data in support of regional SWAP components.

**Meeting Outcomes:**

1. Recommendations were provided on landscape elements to include in Northeast Landscape Conservation Design (NELCD) and regional SWAP, and will be drafted and send out to meeting attendees for concurrence.

-Need to initiate data sharing agreements with NatureServe and USDA.

1. Concurrence to form Conservation Design Advisory Committee to steer and coordinate multiple RCN (~5) and NALCC projects (~5) supporting the NELCD and NE SWAP initiative (collectively, “1MAP1WAP”). The advisory will be informed by a smaller working subcommittee, which will meet regularly to advance the effort.

-Advisory Committee includes the Wildlife Diversity Tech Committee (NEFWDTC), which will select a smaller delegation to the working subcommittee;

-Advisory Committee includes representatives for federal endangered species, fish, and migratory birds, LCC Technical Committee members, WSFR, and Refuges, with a smaller delegation to the working subcommittee.

1. Wildlife Diversity Tech Committee will meet within the next few weeks to suggest state representatives for the Conservation Design Advisory Committee and to make decisions on the RFP for RCN SWAP Database and RCN SWAP Synthesis.
2. The Conservation Design Advisory Committee will convene in September in conjunction with the NEFWDTC annual meeting.