**North Atlantic LCC Steering Committee**

**October 31, 2012**

**Proposed Changes to Demonstration Project Committee and Needs Assessment Process**

**Requested Actions:**

1. Initiate a Science Delivery needs assessment process in parallel with the science needs assessment over the next year to reflect the broad need of managers and decision-makers to develop and use specific applications of NALCC science products in support of the implementation of landscape conservation. This needs assessment is consistent with elements of the Northeast Conservation Framework related to Conservation Design, Science Translation, Conservation Adoption, and Conservation Delivery.
2. Integrate demonstration projects broadly as one of the approaches to address priority needs identified by the Science Delivery needs assessment.
3. Dissolve the ad hoc demonstration committee established in November, 2011.
4. Establish a standing Science Delivery team that would focus on the tasks above and would complement the LCC Technical Team.

**Background:**

* + To date, certain science translation, conservation adoption and conservation delivery needs have been identified through the Northeast Conservation Framework Workshop, the North Atlantic LCC Conservation Science Strategic Plan and prior LCC science needs assessments. Several LCC projects are now developing decision support tools and engaging partners to get their input on what their decision support needs are.
	+ An ad hoc demonstration projects committee was convened in 2011 to address demonstration projects. The work of the ad hoc committee resulted in submission at the April meeting of the NALCC of three proposals for the application and testing of science and tools. The proposals were advanced for further development, were submitted and were approved by the LCC Steering Committee in September.
	+ A working group of the ad hoc demonstration projects committee evaluated needs assessment categories and evaluated the role of demonstration projects within the broader context of conservation design, science translation, conservation adoption and conservation delivery. The working group proposed that the ad hoc committee be dissolved, recognizing that demonstration projects are a unique and valuable approach to advance many different needs that may be identified under the broad categories of conservation design, science translation, conservation adoption and conservation delivery identified in the Northeast Conservation Framework, and reflected in multiple strategies set forth in the North Atlantic LCC Conservation Science Strategic Plan.

**Preliminary Needs Assessment Categories:**

Testing Landscape Design Tools

Science Translation

Adoption Tools and Strategies

Enhancing Practitioner Networks