

To Whom It May Concern,

Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) location data are being requested by the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NALCC) for limited temporary use in the Regional Conservation Needs (RCN) project titled “Northeast Regional Conservation Synthesis for State Wildlife Action Plan Revisions”. The NALCC will contribute regional SGCN habitat assessments to the project and is making this request in close collaboration with the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee (NEFWDTC). In order to meet timelines for project completion, the NALCC requires that the data are provided by October 24, 2012.

Our staff will coordinate directly with the data management contacts provided by each state and adhere to the data sharing protocols in use by each state. The general terms and conditions of use are described below.

1. Ownership of location data will be retained by the provider. Upon receipt of data by the NALCC, original occurrence location data will be generalized to conceal spatial locations and species identity. The NALCC will not share, distribute, or display the data in the public domain without a review of proposed applications and consent by the NEFWDTC. Access and use will be restricted to the following NALCC staff:

Andrew Milliken

Steven Fuller

Scott Schwenk

Lori Pelech

B.J. Richardson

3. Species covered under this request will be a subset of SGCN defined by the NEFWDTC. The NEFWDTC will provide the final SGCN list to the NALCC by October 10, 2012. The NALCC will distribute the final list to the data contacts by October 12.

4. The data contacts will do a quick screening of the provided list for 1) data quality and completeness 2) age of data 3) sensitivity and 4) taxonomic issues. The results of that screening will be provided to the NALCC by October 24, 2012.

5. The initial use of the SGCN data will be a species by species evaluation of data quality, extent, and completeness. The NALCC will screen the data to check for compatibility with the following general applications:

a. Data are suitable for landscape analysis;
b. Data are suitable to identify priority populations. This application does not require displaying the locations of populations;
c. Presence data are suitable for weighting specific habitat types based on occupancy. For this application, display of populations is not necessary, and display of patch occupancy status is optional;
d. Data are suitable for "presence only" modeling of species distribution or habitat suitability. Display of modeled results may be contingent on sensitivity, recognizing that results may be synthesized in a comprehensive landscape analysis without displaying the distributions of single species;
e. Data are suitable to include species in a guild or as a singular indicator to model various landscape patterns or phenomena--for example, occurrence of certain species may indicate calcium rich sites expected to be high in biodiversity.

6. Based on the findings of #4, the NALCC will make a recommendation on data applications and corresponding implications for the protection of sensitive occurrences, recognizing that our assumption is that sensitive occurrences need to remain generalized n final data and mapping products.

7. The NALCC will implement approved applications contingent on funding availability, and provide results to the NEFWDTC for final review.