

NORTHEAST SWAP COORDINATORS CONFERENCE CALL

12 MAY 2017; 9:00-10:15 AM

Purpose: The purpose of these conference calls is to foster communication among state Wildlife Action Plan Coordinators, share implementation strategies and identify common priorities for regional conservation.

Anticipated outcome: Enhanced efficiency and efficacy of State Wildlife Action Plan implementation at state and regional scales.

AGENDA AND NOTES

Topic: Tangible actions for RCN topic areas emerging from the NE SWAP Roll-Up

Leads: Karen Terwilliger and Elizabeth Crisfield, *Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.*

9:00 Welcome and Roll-call (*Cathy*)

STATES

VA – Chris Burkett

WV – Kieran O’Malley

PA – Diana Day, Cathy Haffner

NY – Joe Racette

RI – Amanda Freitas

MA – Lynn Harper

VT – Jon Kart

NH – Emily Preston

DC – Kieran O’Malley

Not present – NJ, CT, ME

OTHERS

TCI - Karen Terwilliger, Elizabeth Crisfield

USFWS - Dee Blanton

Cathy reminded all to visit the [NALCC](#) WAP Coordinators website to download or review various documents, including notes from the Amherst meeting.

9:05 Brief Status Report on SWAP Roll-up and RCN topics (*Karen and Elizabeth*)

Threats and Actions Recommendations from WAP Coordinators

Karen Terwilliger and Elizabeth Crisfield (Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.) provided a PowerPoint presentation (available on the NALCC WAP Coordinator website) to review the status of the SWAP Roll-up Report.

- Intro, goals
- Presentation is based on the database and the SWAP Roll-up Report
- Approach is to start with the Data in the SWAPs, confirm it with expert knowledge, now in final phase – collaborative prioritization
- Threats are action drivers...
- We have used lots of ways to assess top threats

- Number of threats
- Threat targets
- Threat severity and reversibility
- Actions that can address threats
- Matrix linking SWAP Coordinator brainstorming with RCN topic areas proposed to NEAFWA
- Turtles and Pollinators approved for 2017 funding
- Now we need to focus on the actions
- Results Chains
- Setting up Threat Working Groups to develop results chains for threat-target pairs or threat-action pairs.
- We need to determine high priority actions.
- We need to focus on the state wildlife agency role or niche in addressing threats.
- How do we balance on-the-ground actions with research actions?
- How can our report and results support project tracking?
- How do we prioritize actions?
 - Number of states benefiting?
 - Number of SGCN/RSGCN benefitting?

Jon Kart – actions are superfluous, you pick the action based on the objective. Don't just buy land because you want to buy land. Need to define actions based on objectives and opportunities

- Response: absolutely right. Desired outcomes will need to be identified and that is the goal of the group discussions.

Amanda Freitas – Target and measureable outcome are two forms of objectives. The larger objective is implicit in the target

Jon Kart – Opportunity is a huge element in picking top actions.

The overarching objective is to conserve, restore, RSGCN and key habitats – adopt/revise the RSGCN objectives and state them upfront in the report.

Additional question for consideration: How do the summarized threats and actions from NE WAPs relate to the RSGCN list?

9:55 Wrap-up of Regional Threats-Actions Discussion

Volunteers for Threat Working Groups:

Will Duncan (USFWS) for Dams and Barriers team

Tony Tur (USFWS) for Disease Team

Joe Racette for Pollution Team

Scott Schwenk for Development Team

Habitat Tech Committee? (Becky Gwynn is reaching out to HTC)

Emily Preston – better on Climate Change than Invasives

10:00 Conference Call topics for remainder of 2017 (Cathy)

Seeking topics and leads for three remaining conference calls in 2017. Dates are July 14, September 8, and November 9.

Generate a list of ~5 topics for ranking among the group following the call.

Topics for future calls: July 14, September 8, November 9

- Roll-up of Threat Working Group reports (November?)
- Discussion of Northeast presentation at National meeting (July?)
 - Possible topic: Lexicon
- Pollinators (Leif Richardson, other pollinator experts) – what is the state agency role in conservation of these species?
- Urban wildlife conservation (Suzann Lehman, USFS)
 - Possible theme – opportunities with corporate partners (July or September)
- Reporting out from WAP Coordinator working groups

10:10 Other comments

Diana provided a brief update on the National Wildlife Action Plan Coordinators meeting. Will likely be in Georgia in October. Travel grants will be available through AFWA; Mark does not want cost to be a limiting factor to participation. More information will be sent from Mark soon.

10:15 Adjourn

Notes compiled by E. Crisfield and C. Haffner