LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVES

Northeast
Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas

Workshop 3 briefing

engagement | science | review process

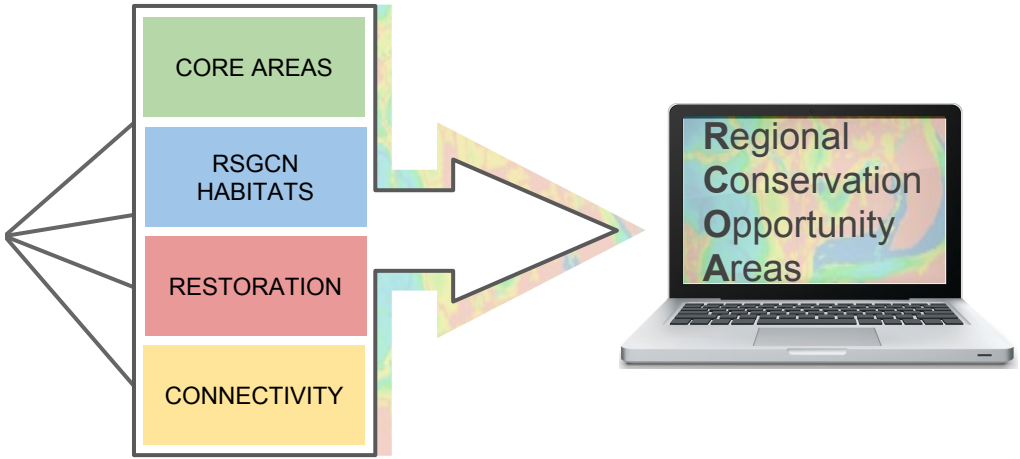
"Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas *(RCOAs)* ***are…places…where actions to support or enhance populations of RSGCN and / or their habitats are likely to be most effective."***

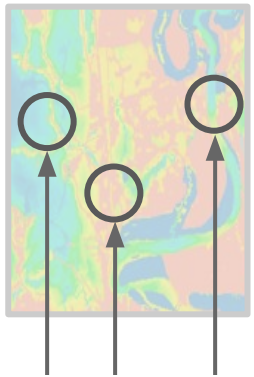
NEFWDTC

Overview

Leveraging investments	Multi-state Collaboration	Relevant science	Better implementation

RCN
&
LCC SCIENCE





Coordinate partners for voluntary on-the-ground success

Leveraging investments

Investing in landscape science and SWAP improvement since 2006

	RCN INVESTMENT	LCC INVESTMENT
CORE AREAS	RCN habitat maps. TNC resilience	Improved habitat maps (TNC) IEI (UMASS) Natural communities (NATURESERVE)
RSGCN HABITATS	RCN habitat maps, RSGCN ranking from SWAP synthesis	Expansion of PA SWAP habitat analysis (WESTERN PA CONSERVANCY) Species analysis from SWAP synthesis (NALCC and NATURESERVE)
RESTORATION	RCN geospatial analysis	SWAP data synthesis on DataBasin Conservation analyst tool (CHESAPEAKE CONSERVANCY)
CONNECTIVITY	RCN permeability analysis	Improved permeability (TNC) Regional connectivity (UMASS)

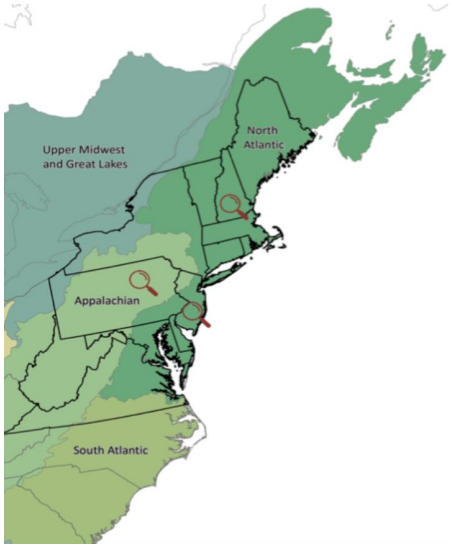
Leveraging investments

How states are using regional data . . .

NEW JERSEY used the Index of Ecological Integrity and Landscape Complexity in the revision of their SWAP

PENNSYLVANIA integrated spatial data from the Northeast Terrestrial Habitat map to create species-habitat associations in the habitat chapter of their SWAP

NEW HAMPSHIRE used the Index of Ecological Integrity to help map the highest condition habitat for their SWAP



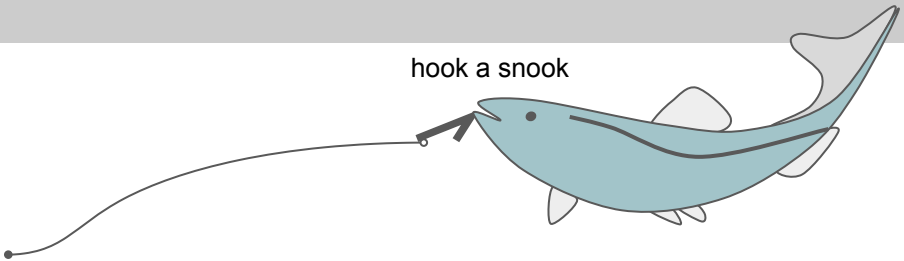
Collaboration

Governance integrates NEFWDTC + NALCC partners

- Rosenblatt + Fuller coordinate
- SWAP species (RSGCN) & habitats are the focus
- States + NALCC designated technical staff to RCOA team
- **13 states** have participated
- **10 states** are consistently engaged

Collaboration

Help us engage the right staff . . .



- State aquatic staff are engaged
- **NEHTC** is needed to assist with restoration and management
- **EPA** is needed for watershed analysis
- **GIS** and **SWAP** staff need to continue (or re-engage)

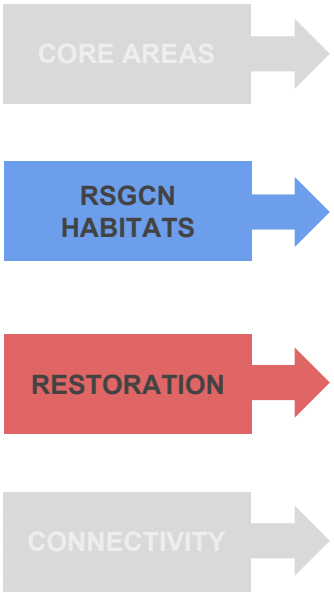
Relevant science

Many alternatives were evaluated...**those preferred by partners will be tested**

CORE AREAS	7 alternatives evaluated	→	4 will be tested and compared
RSGCN HABITATS	8 alternatives evaluated	→	4 will be tested + compared or combined
RESTORATION	6 alternatives evaluated	→	5 will be tested + compared or combined
CONNECTIVITY	6 alternatives evaluated	→	4 will be tested + compared or combined

Relevance to states

On the ground benefits: protecting and restoring RSGCN



Maps will show best opportunities to protect RSGCN habitat

RSGCN maps under development by Western PA Conservancy. The RCOA team is refining the approach used in the PA SWAP.

Tool will help target best opportunities to restore or manage key habitats for RSGCN and early successional wildlife

Version 1.0

version 2.0 will be even better !

What the team will produce for July 2016...

CORE AREAS

Ecosystem core areas

Ecosystem core areas including representative species *(species TBD with NEFWDTC input)*

Aquatic core areas *using integrity of ecological systems and stratified by HUC6s with regional override*

Resilient stream networks overlay

RSGCN HABITATS

Single species focus areas *including New England cottontail, wood turtle and Blanding's turtle (species TBD with NEFWDTC input)*

RSGCN habitat opportunity areas *(ecological systems and best lakes/ponds) based on weighted IEI & resilience, and using UMASS algorithm*

RESTORATION

Early successional habitat management *comprised of young forest, american woodcock, grassy shrub lands, working lands for wildlife including golden winged warbler, New England cottontail and bog turtle*

Threatened ecological systems *comprised of pine barrens, oak savannas and salt marshes*

Agricultural lands *comprised of fields restored to forest and fields restored to wetlands*

In-stream connectivity *comprised of dam removal and culvert enhancement*

CONNECTIVITY

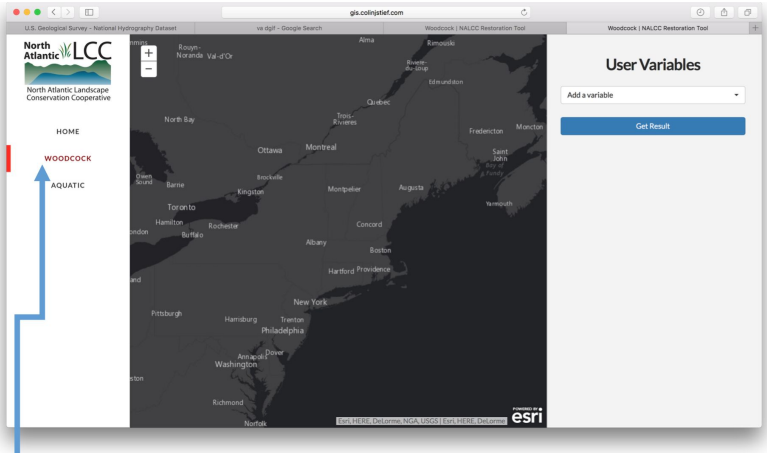
Permeability *with wall-to-wall grid and flow areas for concentrated, diffuse and regional scale*

Core connectors

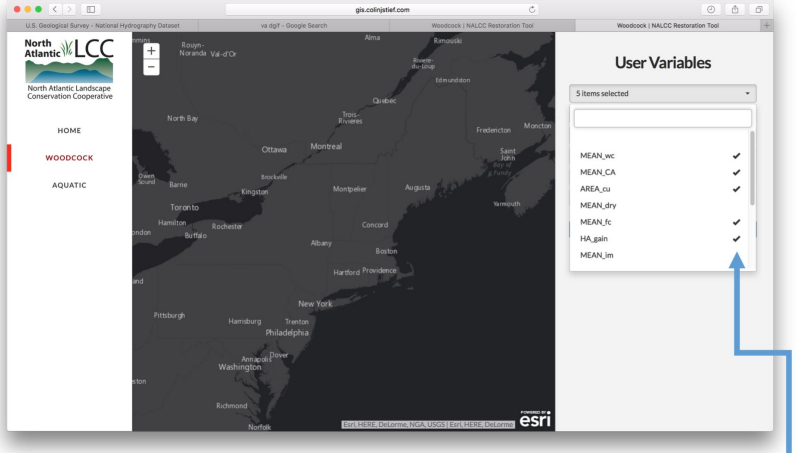
Salt marsh migration zones

Better implementation

On the ground benefits: customize priorities for specific projects



1. Select Woodcock to invisibly load woodcock data

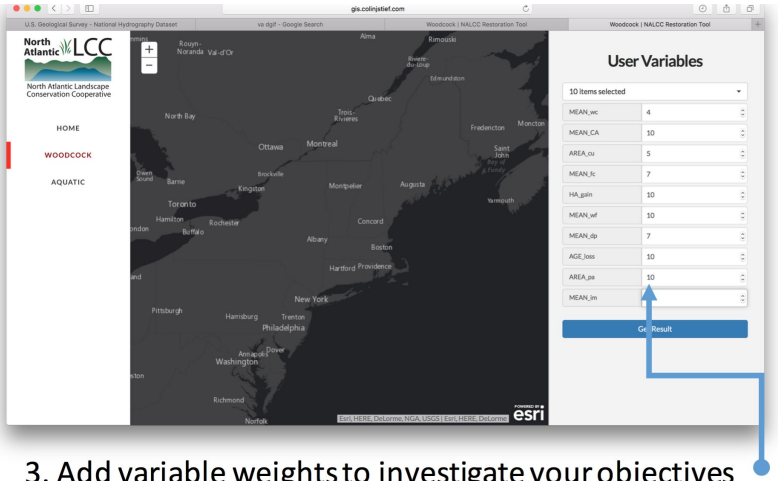


2. Select woodcock variables from list that has loaded

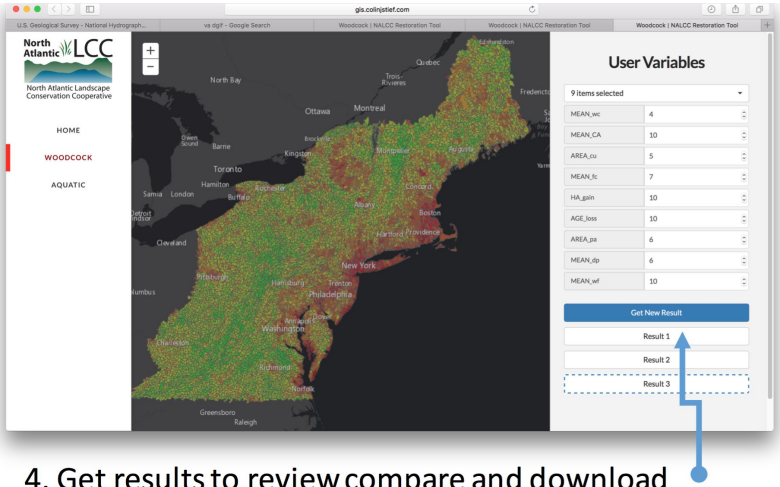
Woodcock are only one example among many applications.
VA-DGIF is developing scenarios relevant to SWAPs and land management.

Better implementation

On the ground benefits: efficient use of resources



3. Add variable weights to investigate your objectives

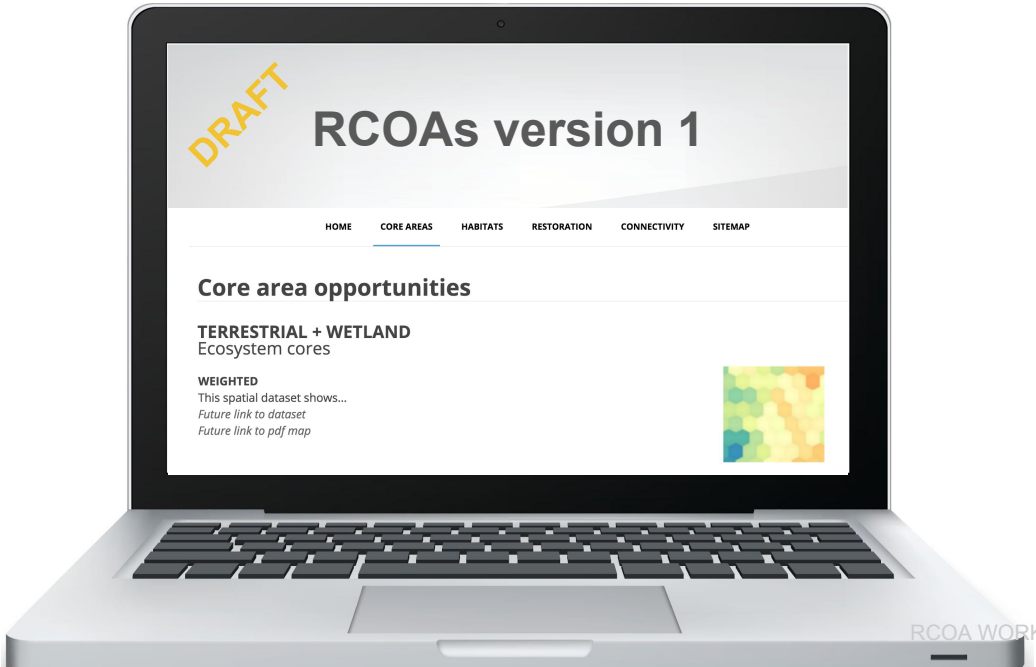


4. Get results to review compare and download

The restoration tool is under development by Chesapeake Conservancy. Many initiatives are using this approach, and the tool will integrate them.

Review process

Draft release of version 1.0 ready for NEAFWA committees this July




NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION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