



LANDSCAPE
CONSERVATION
COOPERATIVES

RCOA WORKSHOP 3 BRIEFING | 2016 NALCC

Northeast Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas

RCOA Update April 6, 2016

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

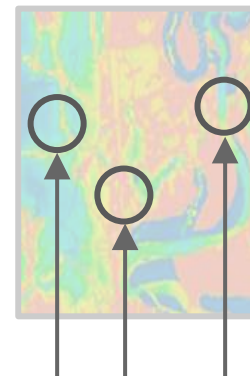
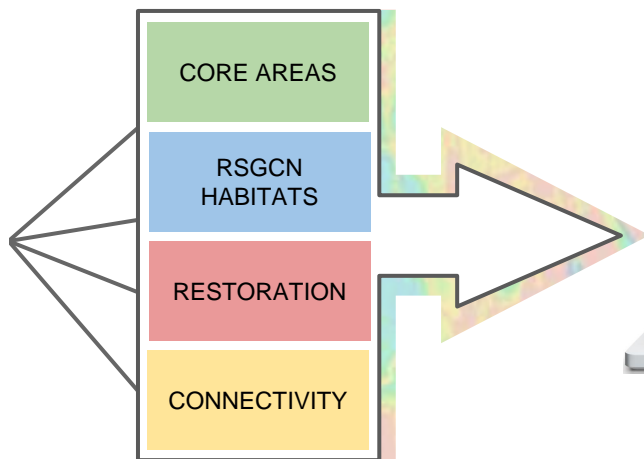
Leveraging
investments

Multi-state
Collaboration

Relevant
science

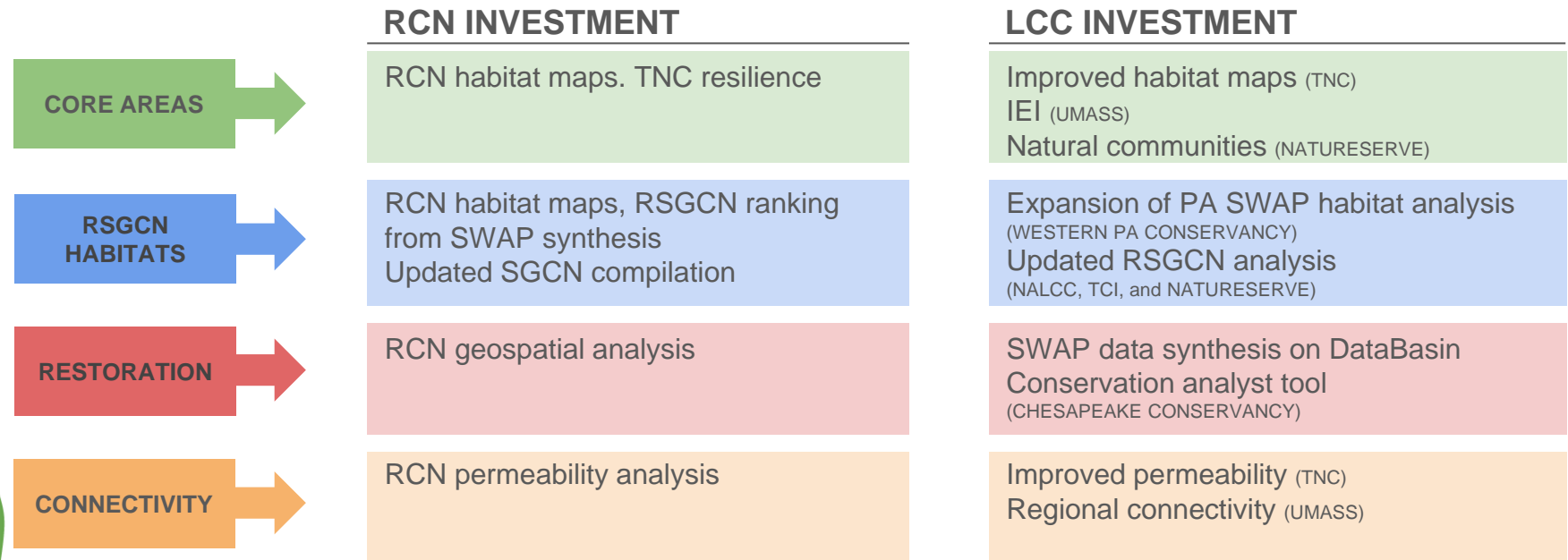
Better
implementatio
n

RCN
&
LCC
SCIENCE



Leveraging investments

Investing in landscape science and SWAP improvement since 2006



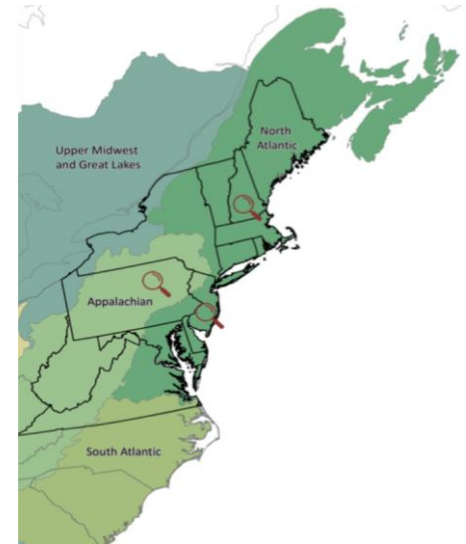
Leveraging investments

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 NEFWDC + 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

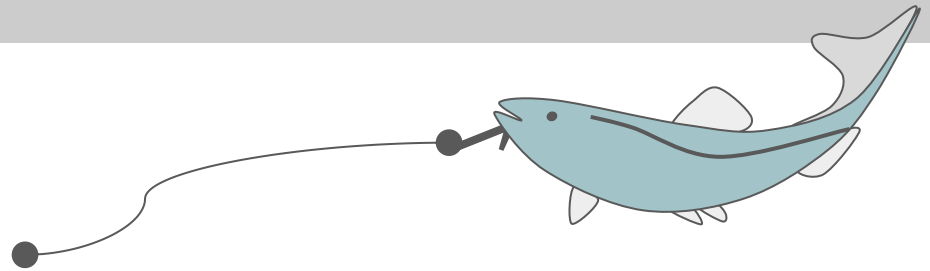
Help us engage the right staff . . .

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**



Relevance to SWAPs

1. Organize and compile information derived from SWAPs.

On the ground benefits: protecting and restoring RSGCN

CORE AREAS

RSGCN
HABITATS

RESTORATION

CONNECTIVITY

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

Relevance to SWAPs

What are “RSGCN”?

SGCN = species named in one state SWAP

RSGCN = **Regional** Species of Greatest Conservation Need

History

- At the request of states, NALCC created the first RSGCN list for the SWAP Synthesis in 2013
- First all of the species named in each state SWAP were compiled in one list (SGCN)
- Next, calculations were applied to screen species with highest regional relevance (**R**SGCN)

Relevance to SWAPs

- a priority subset of RSGCN,

What is the status of RSGCN now?

- NatureServe delivered data to support RSGCN calculations in January 2016
- TCI compiled the states SGCN and delivered to NALCC in February 2016
- In March, NALCC completed calculations for RSGCN using the old method and a new method
- If adopted, the new method could save a lot of state effort in the future because it can be automated and updated through routine Heritage Program updates that states already do, and it could help prioritize Heritage Program work to support SWAPs
- NEFWDTC needs to review the results of the new and old methods to finalize the list.

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
- Resilient stream networks overlay

RSGCN HABITATS

- Single species focus areas
species TBD with NEFWDTC input
- RSGCN habitat opportunity areas

RESTORATION

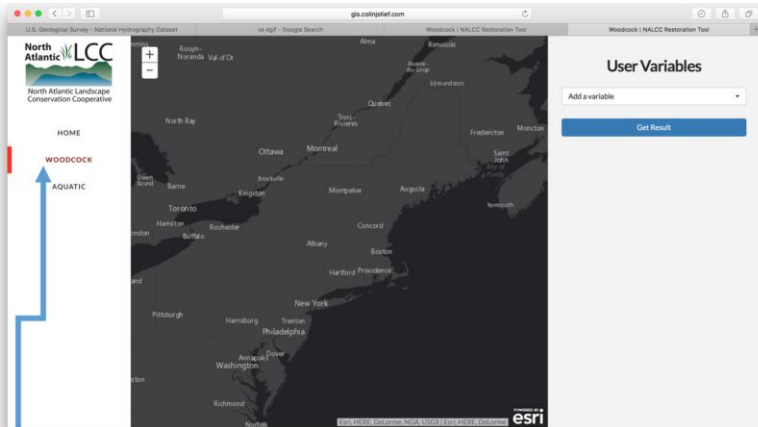
- Early successional habitat management
- Threatened ecological systems
- Agricultural lands
- In-stream connectivity

CONNECTIVITY

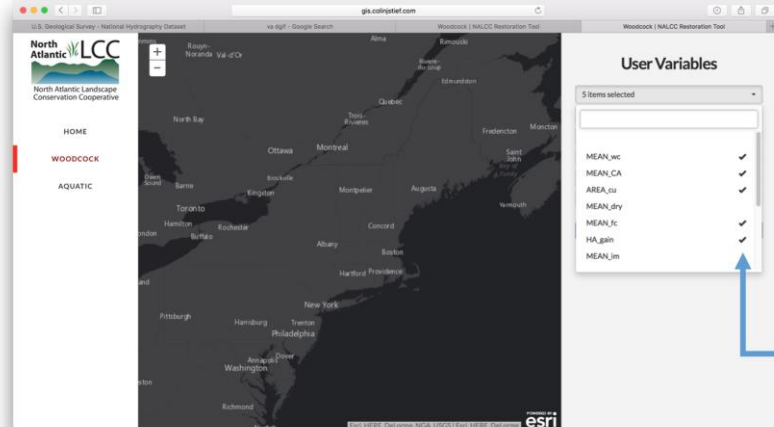
- Permeability
- Core connectors
- Salt marsh migration zones

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 helping develop scenarios relevant to SWAPs and land management.*

Better implementation

On the ground benefits: efficient use of resources

The screenshot shows the 'User Variables' panel with 10 items selected. The variables and their values are:

Variable	Value
MEAN_wc	4
MEAN_CA	10
AREA_pa	5
MEAN_hc	7
HA_gain	10
MEAN_wf	10
MEAN_dp	7
AGE_loss	10
AREA_pb	10
MEAN_lm	10

A blue arrow points from the 'Get Result' button to the next slide.

3. Add variable weights to investigate your objectives

The screenshot shows the 'User Variables' panel with 9 items selected. The variables and their values are:

Variable	Value
MEAN_wc	4
MEAN_CA	10
AREA_pa	5
MEAN_hc	7
HA_gain	10
AGE_loss	10
AREA_pb	6
MEAN_dp	6
MEAN_wf	10

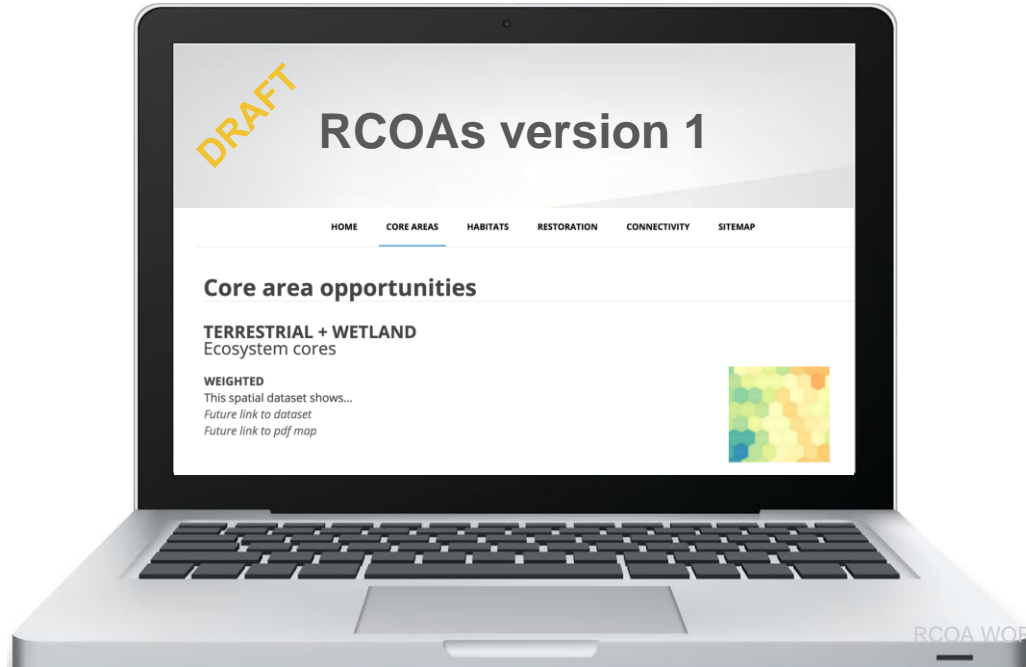
The 'Get New Result' button is highlighted in blue. A blue arrow points from the 'Result 3' row to the next slide.

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



Map opportunity areas based on common priorities

Screen opportunities to ensure suitability for intended purpose:
Check predictions

Help set desired outcomes/goals in opportunity areas

Provide technical assistance on strategic implementation

Track performance toward goals

Partners

Convene relevant partners in opportunity areas

Identify actions in each opportunity areas

Implement conservation

Measure performance

Next Steps: An Implementation Strategy?

Reminder, NALCC cannot fund on-the-ground work, but other sources can. We can help with strategic planning, convening partners, and technical assistance to support strategic conservation.

Building on RCOAs, NALCC could support the development of landscape components of strategic implementation of SWAP:

- Coordination with RCN program;
- Mapped regional “common objective” targets (RCOAs);
- A priority subset of RSGCN;
- SWAP designated actions;
- Desired outcomes for each mapped opportunity area;
- Reporting of performance;
- Coordination and technical assistance for implementation of that strategy;
- Coordination of other grant funded action.

