


Landscape Conservation Design: Connecticut River Watershed Pilot Project

Core Team Meeting

May 1, 2015

Agenda

I. Introduction/acknowledgments

II. Discussion on feedback

- Break -

III. Discussion on lessons-learned

IV. Communications

V. Next Steps

VI. Wrap-up

Background and History Leading up to CTR LCD

- Completion of SWAPs, pooled SWG funding (2005-2006)
  - Regionally consistent mapping and assessments
- Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) approach by USFWS, USGS (2006)
  - Linking together planning, design delivery and evaluation at landscape scales
- *Designing Sustainable Landscapes* Multistate Conservation Grant with a pilot in South Atlantic (2008-2010)
  - Original approach with Atlantic Coast Joint Venture for combining landscape change, assessment and design for migratory birds
- Process for selecting rep. species for SHC in the North Atlantic (2010-2011)
- Conservation Assessment and Prioritization System (CAPS) in MA (2010)
- LCCs including North Atlantic initiated (2010)
- Northeast Conservation Framework Workshop (2011)
  - Expedite delivery of the right actions in the right places (spp., habitat, connectivity)
- Publication of National Fish, Wildlife & Plants Climate Adaptation Strat. (2012)
- LCC/UMass *Designing Sustainable Landscapes*
  - *First phase approved in 2012*
  - *Scientific Advisory Committee 2011-2012*
  - *Workshops in Kennebec, Middle Connecticut and Pocomoke-Nanticoke watersheds attended by over 100 partners to get partner input.*
  - *Additional phases reviewed recommended by LCC technical committee, approved by Steering Committee 2012, 2014*
  - *Support for multiple scales of conservation design and pilot in CTR*

NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Goal 1

Conserve habitat to support healthy fish, wildlife, and plant populations and ecosystem functions in a changing climate.

Strategy 1.1

Identify…an ecologically-connected network of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine conservation areas that are likely to be resilient to climate change and to support a broad range of fish, wildlife, and plants under changed conditions.

Action 1.1.1

Identify and map high priority areas for conservation using information such as species distributions (current and projected), habitat classification, land cover, and geophysical settings (including areas of rapid change and slow change).

At the end of the day…..

Is your organization willing to further explore (all) these products to determine whether they will be useful in helping make better conservation decisions?

Lessons Learned (Process)

- Team size, composition, leadership
- Regular meetings/documentation/follow-up
- Communications (steps/status/critiques)
- Model development coincident with making decisions/viewing results
- Decision-making (consensus vs majority)

Lessons Learned (Products)

- Limits on available data that met criteria; helped identify data gaps
- Sophistication/complexity of models
- Affirming importance of local information, and applications of products at local level
- Importance of portraying 100% of landscape