Appalachian LCC & Conservation Frameworks

What are they and why do we need one?

Appalachian LCC Presentation

September 2014

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LCC FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE:

To define, design, and deliver landscapes that can sustain natural and cultural resources at levels desired by society.

ROLE:
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- ❑ facilitate planning at a scale and scope beyond the reach or resources of any one organization

- ❑ leverage funding, staff, and resources

- ❑ agree on common goals

- ❑ develop tools and strategies to inform landscape-level management decisions and link science to management

- ❑ provide a forum for exchange between partners.

Role:
Partners

- ❑ define and share their individual landscape-level priorities

- ❑ help shape a common landscape level conservation framework, targets, priorities, and science and conservation tools needed across the region by multiple partners

- ❑ use the tools developed, such as maps of priority areas to aid in their implementation of conservation actions

- ❑ provide feedback to the LCC on the utility and effectiveness of LCC products and approaches

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Major Challenge:

How do we organize our separate agencies, organizations and missions to collectively achieve the conservation outcomes that society wants and expects from us?

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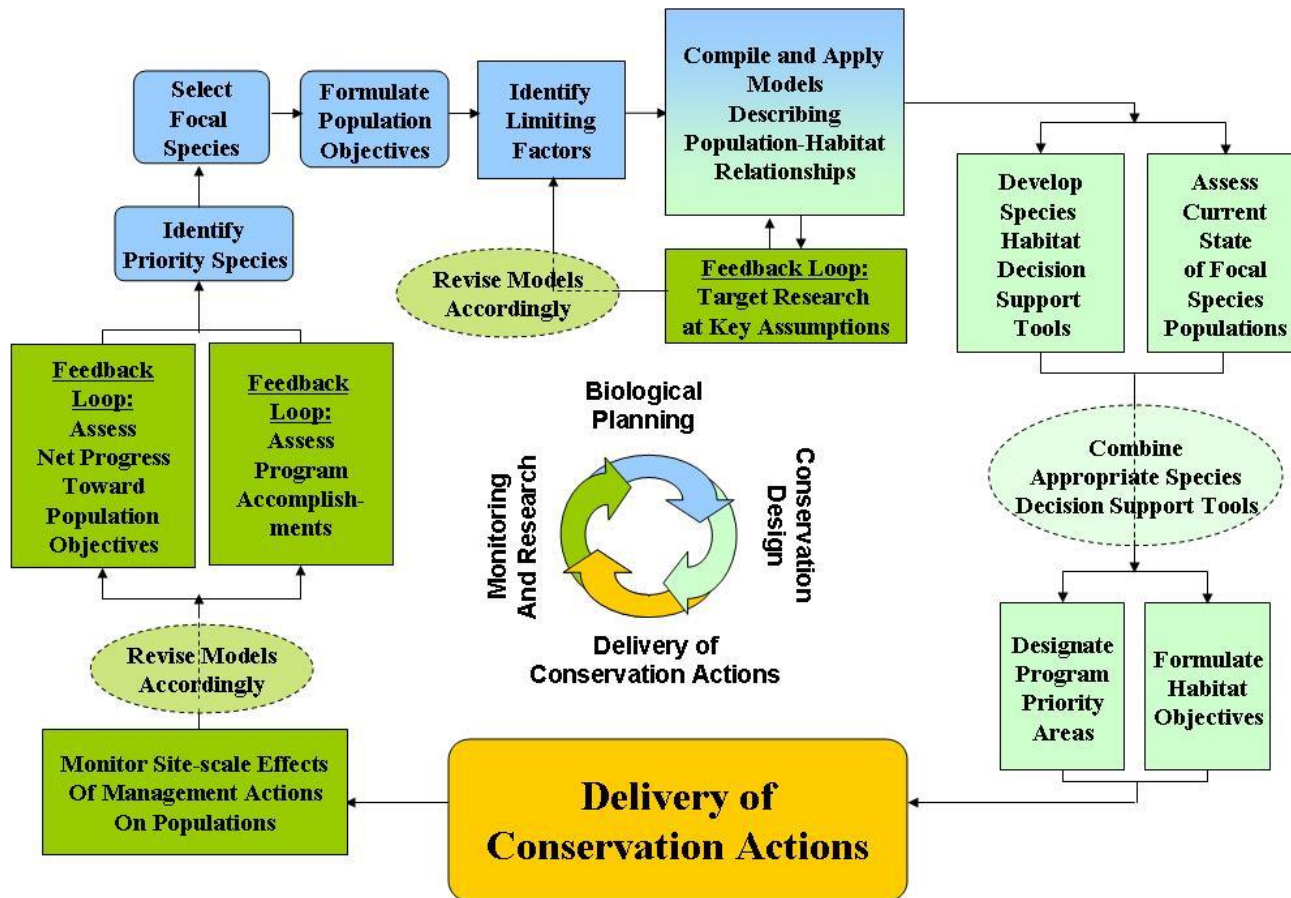COOPERATIVES

What is a Conservation Framework?

- What are we trying to achieve?

- What are the steps necessary to get there?

- Who is going to do what?

- How will we know when we get there?

*A framework helps to <u>visualize</u>, <u>organize</u> and <u>prioritize</u> the work to best contribute to the <u>outcome</u>

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The Strategic Habitat Conservation Approach

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey, 2006

Strategic Habitat Conservation and the 8 Elements of State Wildlife Action Plans

Element 1:
Species status assessment

Element 5:
Manage data to:
-detect changes
-assess effectiveness
-adapt management

Element 5:
Monitor species, habitats, outcome of actions

Element 2:
Habitat status assessment

Biological Planning

Monitoring And Research

Conservation Design

Delivery of Conservation Actions

Element 3:
Evaluate problems & solutions

Element 4:
Prescribe actions

Element 4:
Prioritize actions

Elements 7&8: Coordinate implementation

"SIAS" Purpose

(1) express the LCC vision for, and inform their investment in, the suite of activities, actions, and outcomes an LCC would accomplish as it develops as a collaborative conservation forum

(2) help respond to Congressional direction that "the Service establish clear goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes for LCCs that can be used as benchmarks of success of the program"

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SIAS Conservation Activity Areas

- Organizational Operations
- Landscape Conservation Planning Foundation
- Landscape Conservation Design
- Informing Conservation Delivery
- Decision-based Monitoring
- Research to Support Adaptive Management
- Data Management and Integration
- LCC Network Function

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SIAS

- Provides a mechanism to measure progress towards LCC Network Vision and Mission

- Provides an accountability mechanism to Congress and the public

- Provides a framework to consider in strategic planning

SE Conservation Adaptation Strategy
Conservation Landscape of the Future

- **Conservation Targets** –
  - Species, Habitats, Ecological Functions and Processes
  - Defines How Much, How Much More, Where

- **Ability to "See" The System**
  - Current and Alternative Futures
  - Aquatic and Terrestrial
  - Fish and Wildlife Response

- **Science-based Adaptive Management**
  - Learning Is An Explicit Objective

- **Conservation Science Capacity**
  - Landscape Ecology
  - Decision Theory
  - Geospatial Analyses/Data Mgmt

- **Conservation Delivery Tools**
  - Decision Support Tools
  - Structured Decision Making
  - Non-redundant Conservation Tracking System

- **Risk Management Tools**
  - Risk Tolerance
  - Risk Assessment

- **Monitoring Systems and Capacity**
  - Assessing Uncertainty
  - Testing Underlying Assumptions

- **Engaging The Public**
  - Quantify Conservation Values and Recreation Attitudes of Societal Sectors Grassroot Conservation Delivery Enterprise

Landscape Conservation Cooperative Common Framework Elements

- **Conservation targets/population goals** – at a regional level

- **Species/habitat models** – regional levels – across species distribution

- **Landscape design** – combine multiple species, resource and cultural needs into landscape designs that support regional goal levels

- **Habitat change over time** – assess with respect to stressors such as sprawl and climate change – incorporate into landscape designs

- **Conservation "translation" tools** – translate the science foundation into landscape patterns easily conveyed to public and landowners

- **Information management**

- **Monitoring**

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Northeast Conservation Framework

GOAL-SETTING
Which species/resources to conserve?
At what levels?
Who decides?

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
What do we know about the status of priority wildlife and resources?

CONSERVATION DESIGN
What should landscapes look like to conserve all species and resources at levels that society wants?

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
How will we manage the demand for and creation of data?

PRIORITIES
Which species/resources demand immediate attention?

SCIENCE TRANSLATION TOOLS
How do we make science solutions useful?

CONSERVATION ADOPTION
How do we get communities and landowners engaged in conservation?

MONITORING, EVALUATION, RESEARCH
What new information will we gather to support conservation?

CONSERVATION DELIVERY
How will we most efficiently put conservation on the ground?

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How can we use a conservation framework?

- A framework can be the foundation for the LCC strategic plan – i.e. what we will do

- Existing science, information, and translation tools can be organized so that what is available vs. what is needed is clear

- Science, information, and translation tool needs are arranged in a way that partners can see stepwise progression towards the goals

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Also,

- -The conservation framework is a **communication tool**

- -The framework helps to **organize our individual capacities, responsibilities, and expertise** – i.e. where can each partner organization contribute?

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Most importantly-

The framework represents a direction and a willingness of the partners to collectively and intentionally work in an organized fashion towards a larger landscape conservation vision

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Questions?

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