

Initial SHC Focal Area Meetings Begin

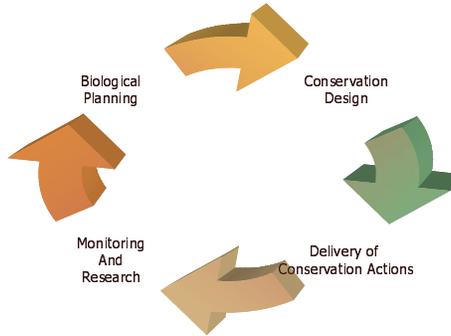
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2

Strategic Habitat Conservation Implementation

The Implementation Team for Strategic Habitat Conservation (ITSHC) for Region 2 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service oversees the adoption and execution of SHC in the Southwest United States that includes the states of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona.

The Four Elements of Strategic Habitat Conservation

- Biological Planning;
- Conservation Planning;
- Conservation Delivery; and
- Monitoring and Research



The first step of Strategic Habitat Conservation is Biological Planning which includes the following elements:

1. Identification of priority species;
2. Selection of a subset of priority species;
3. Formulation of species population objectives;
4. Assessment of current species populations; and,
5. Identification of limiting factors.

Each team will

Write a Scoping Team Report, due to their Team Champion by January 11, 2008, to document their progress and recommend future actions.

Prepare a summary handout of their findings, to be presented at the Southwest Region Fish and Wildlife Service Project Leaders meeting in February 2008.

The First Meetings

The scoping team for the Plains, Prairies and Playa Lakes Strategic Habitat Conservation focal area met in Tulsa, Oklahoma on October 12, 2007. This large area covers portions of New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. In addition to Fish and Wildlife Service employees, representatives and partners from the Playa Lakes Joint Venture and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department participated.

The scoping team from the Lower Colorado River Watershed Strategic Habitat Conservation focal area met in Phoenix on October 16. This watershed includes western Arizona and a small part of California. In addition to Fish and Wildlife Service employees, representatives and partners from the Sonoran Joint Venture and Arizona Game and Fish Department participated.

The scoping team for the Texas Midcoast and Chenier Plain Strategic Habitat Conservation focal area met October 18 in Austin, Texas. This area is confined to the Texas coast from Corpus Christi north including the western half of the coast in Louisiana.

Focal Area Meetings begin in Region 2 of the Fish and Wildlife Service

To begin the implementation of the Strategic Habitat Conservation in the Southwest Region of the Fish and Wildlife Service, scoping teams were organized and meetings held in three physiographic or focal areas during October. These focal areas were developed in March 2007.

For Further Information

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Southwest Region SHC Focal Areas.
FWS Map

