



Flint Hills of Kansas

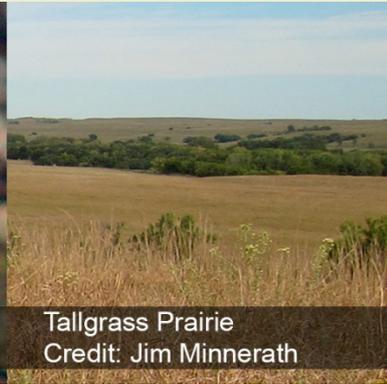


Meadowlark
Credit: USFWS

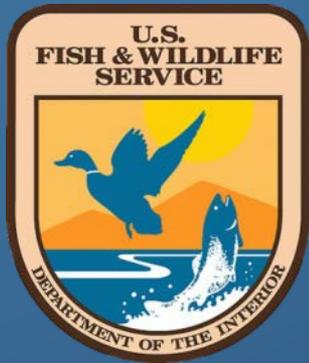
Surrogate Species Effort



Upland Sandpiper
Credit: Tony Ifland



Tallgrass Prairie
Credit: Jim Minnerath



Version 1: Surrogate Species Approach

*Steve Torbit, USFWS
Science Applications*



The 21st Century Conservation Vision

To meet the challenges of the 21st Century, we must:

- Make strategic, cost-effective conservation investments;
- Increase efficiency, transparency, accountability; and
- Design/manage for landscapes that support self-sustaining populations of fish and wildlife and provide for the needs of people.



Leaving a lasting wildlife legacy for future generations



The 21st Century Conservation Vision

Focus our thinking

by shifting from site-specific or a single-species approach to a more integrated and complex landscape-scale model – one that accounts for the complexity and interrelated nature of ecosystems.

Connect and organize

our planning to work at the landscape-scale by addressing challenges like habitat degradation, encroaching development, climate change, and loss of biodiversity.

Build Consistency

by coordinating with partners across programs, agencies, and boundaries to apply the best available science and technology to address the conservation challenges we face.



What Are Surrogate Species?

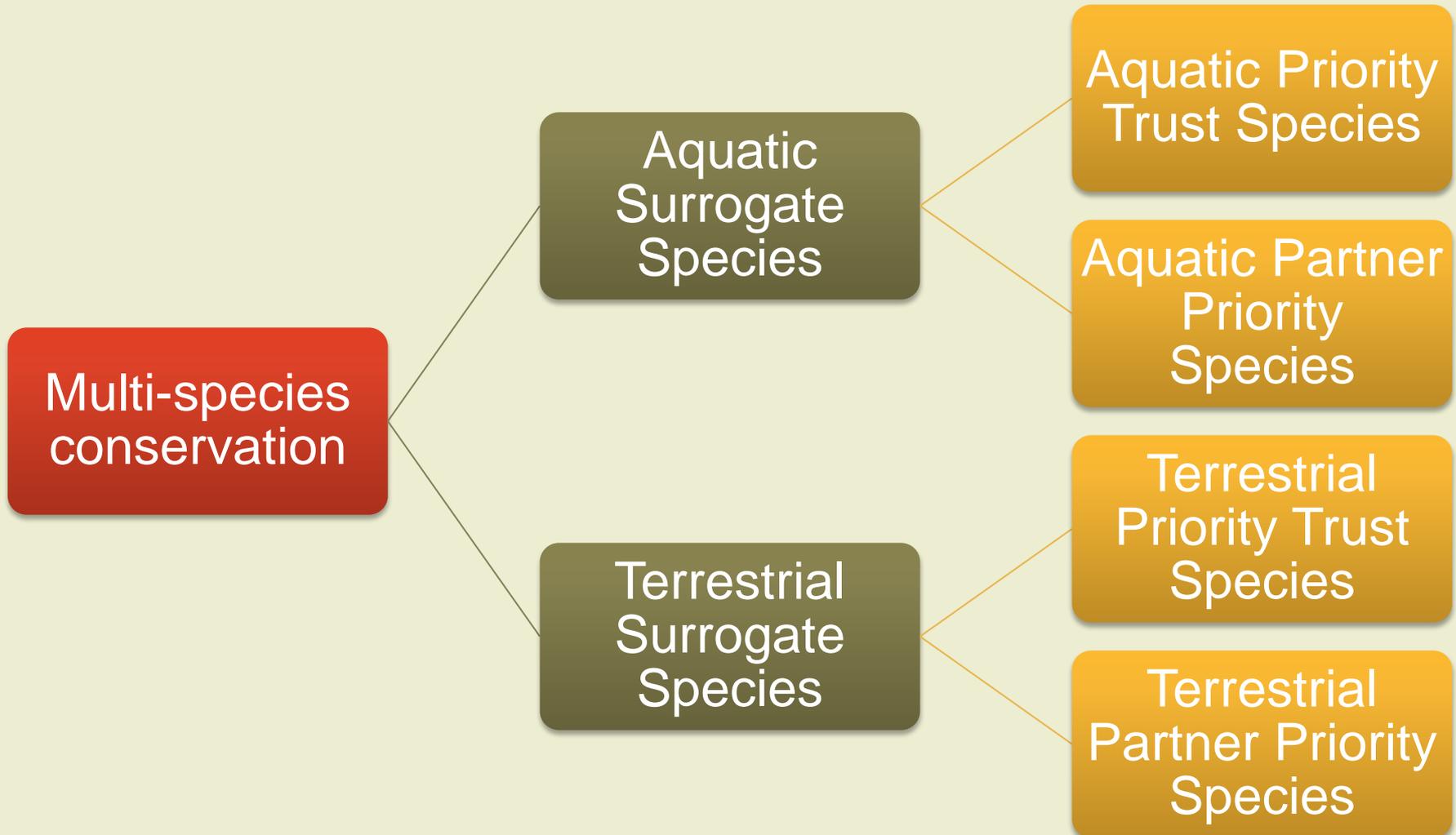
Surrogate species are used to represent other species or aspects of the environment.

- They are used for comprehensive conservation planning that supports multiple species and habitats within a defined landscape or geographic area.





What is the Surrogate Approach?





Building on our Past

The Region has advanced a number of large landscape conservation efforts which represent work and collaboration with private landowners, state agencies, NGOs, and other conservation organizations.

These conservation areas will ensure traditional rural economies thrive in the future while preserving the working landscape communities. These conservation efforts include Flint Hills, Dakota Grasslands, Blackfoot Challenge, Bear River, and San Luis Valley.



Blackfoot Challenge



Flint Hills



San Luis Valley



State-Federal Collaborative Framework

The Service and States will **work together** to decide the initial pool of species to be included as potential surrogates.

The Service **will not** select State trust species as surrogates without **concurrence** from the State(s) involved.

If a State agrees to a State trust species as a possible surrogate, the surrogate population objective would be **identical** to the State population objective.

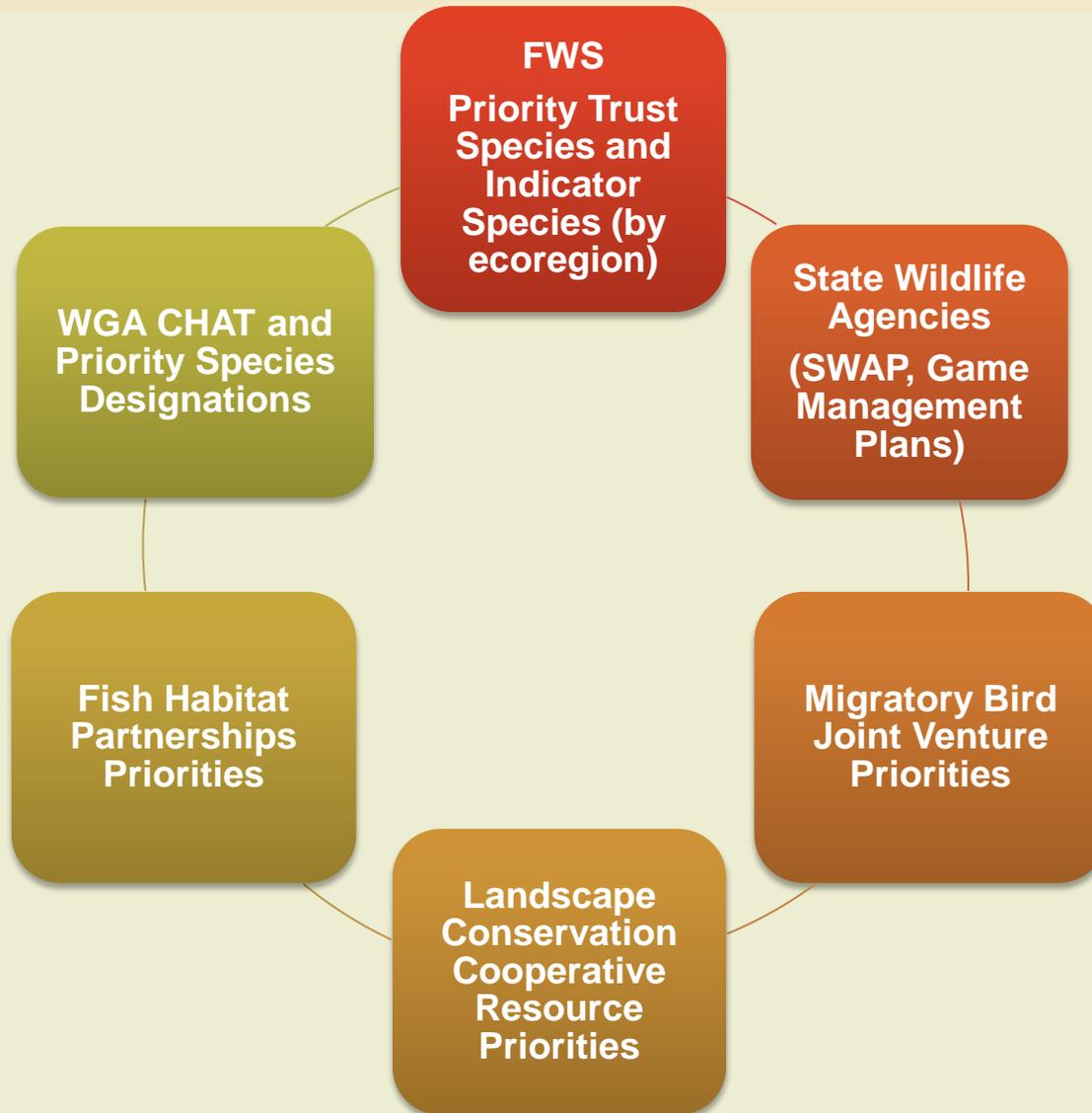


State-Federal Collaborative Framework

- If no population objectives exist for federal trust species, the Service will develop population objectives in a consistent and coordinated manner with the affected State(s).
- The Service and the States will jointly decide the monitoring, data management, and reporting protocols necessary for surrogate species.
- The Service and States may reach out to and use LCCs or other sources for scientific expertise on issues like scale, best species as surrogates, development of robust monitoring protocols, etc. This input may inform the ultimate decisions made by the States and the Service.



Proposed Convergence Approach





Surrogate Species Version 1.0 Requirements



This first version will consist of identifying at least one geography to *develop* a surrogate species approach collaboratively with the relevant states. It will also include the following:



Surrogate Species Version 1.0 Requirements



A description of the identified landscape, explicit geography, & key ecological features such as habitat types & aquatic systems.



List of all species occurring in the landscape designated by the Service or a state fish and wildlife agency as Species of Conservation Interest.



Preliminary or potential surrogate species under consideration in that landscape.



Surrogate Species Version 1.0 Requirements



Any existing population objectives for the preliminary surrogates and any known population status.



Federal trust species thought to be represented by the preliminary surrogates.



State trust species thought to be represented by the preliminary surrogates.



Surrogate Species Version 1.0 Requirements



Other Federal species not represented that may require individual attention.



Status of knowledge about known or assumed limiting factors, including both the stressors and proximate sources of stress.



Any existing or emerging conservation strategies and targets needed to alleviate crucial limiting factors, including explicit SMART objectives.

Specific, Measurable,
Achievable, Relevant,
Timely (SMART)



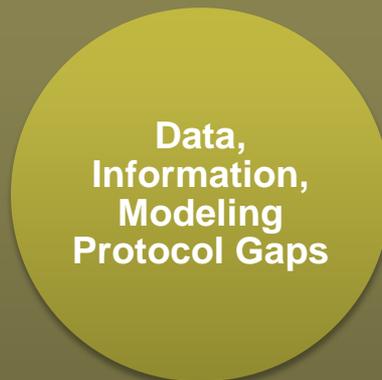
Potential Sources of Existing Population Objectives

Conservation Target/ Species Groups	Existing Guidance with Goals & Objectives
Migratory birds	Goals and objectives from continental plans for waterfowl, land birds, water birds and shorebirds; Joint Venture or Bird Conservation Region implementation plans
Species of Greatest Conservation Need	State Wildlife Action Plans
Fish and aquatic resources	Management plans by stocks or sites; National Fish Habitat Action Plan partnerships
Threatened and endangered species	Recovery plans, Spotlight Species Action Plans, 5-Year Reviews
Game species	State management plans
Ecological services and other more traditional conservation targets (species, habitat types)	Other partner strategic planning documents and implementation plans.



Develop Understanding of Key Uncertainties and Estimate the Cost and Time to Address them

Once the suite of deliverables is refined it will inform a critical assessment of “*draft surrogates*” to adequately represent ecological functions:





Implementation and Timeline for Flint Hills

Version 1.0 Geography

November 14: Joint meeting with the Department of Wildlife-Parks and Tourism and the FWS Technical Team and Oversight Teams.

December 17: Conference calls for planning with Technical Teams

January 2014: *Workshop 1* - Technical Team meets for 2 days to compile & assess information and develop a draft of deliverables.

February: *Workshop 2* -Technical Team & invited “**outside**” experts meet to finalize drafts, identify data information gaps and compile costs.

Early-February: Draft deliverables provided to Oversight Team for input.

Mid-February: Technical Team edits deliverables based on

February 20: Deliverables provided to KDWPT and FWS leadership for review and concurrence.

February 28: Deliverables deadline for completion.



Comments and Questions?

