



## INVITATION

Northeast Regional Conservation Framework Workshop (Albany II)  
June 14-16, 2011 Albany, New York

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**Date:** June 14-16, 2011

**Location:** Crowne Plaza Albany-City Center Hotel, Albany, New York (<http://www.cpalbany.com/>)

Immediate Action Items:

1. Register for the workshop including requesting travel support by **May 15**. The registration also includes a section on requesting travel support. Participants should register at: [http://www.djcase.com/NERCFW\\_Reg](http://www.djcase.com/NERCFW_Reg).
2. Reserve a room at the hotel as part of the room block by **May 15**. (See attached NERCF Workshop Logistics & Travel Support Info Packet PDF for further information on how to make reservations.)

**Workshop Purpose and Scope:** "Albany II" is a five-year follow-up to the *State Wildlife Action Plans Meeting*, which was held in Albany, New York, March 28-30, 2006 ("Albany I"). The Albany I meeting ultimately was the catalyst for establishing the Regional Conservation Needs (RCN) program.

Members of the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors, Administrators, and Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee, in association with the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) in the Northeast Region have planned this joint workshop to:

- Review, synthesize, evaluate, and present RCN and initial LCC projects completed or underway;
- Increase understanding and engagement by state and other conservation partners in RCN and LCC projects and goals in the Northeast;
- Review progress made toward original goals for the RCN program;
- Discuss challenges, needs, and opportunities for the RCN program and LCCs in the Northeast;
- Explore and discuss opportunities for collaborations between RCNs and LCCs in the Northeast to address common needs; and
- Develop initial consensus on a common conservation framework, vision, and highest priorities going forward.

In advance of the workshop, we are compiling the proposals and final products of RCN-funded projects and synthesizing results from a recent Request for Science Needs sent out by the North Atlantic LCC as well as science needs identified through the Appalachian and Upper Midwest-Great Lakes LCCs. We will also be sending a pre-workshop assessment to seek broad input on the past performance and future direction of our regional efforts. At the workshop, we will report on assessments and make specific presentations on key projects.

**Anticipated Outcomes:** The overall anticipated outcome is recommendations on a common conservation framework, vision, and highest priorities for the Northeast Region, and a consensus among partners to work on highest priorities within that framework. Following the workshop, the planning team and workshop facilitators will compile specific recommendations from the workshop and provide them to the technical and administrative teams responsible for developing priorities and processes of the RCN and LCC programs in the Northeast.

**Workshop Size and Attendance:** Our intent is to have a workshop that is large enough to include key northeast conservation partners but not too large for effective interaction and discussions. We hope to have about 75-80 participants including approximately three participants from each state fish and wildlife agency and representatives of key federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities, and tribes that are part of the LCCs or RCN projects.

In order to provide balanced discussions and recommendations, we are seeking state representation from both fisheries/aquatic and terrestrial/wildlife interests, including administrators and staff involved in conservation planning and delivery.

**The attached NERCF Workshop Logistics & Travel Support Information PDF contains specifics on meeting and hotel logistics as well as detailed information and instructions on the travel support request and reimbursement process.**

**Facilitation/Planning:** DJ Case & Associates is managing workshop logistics, registration, travel reimbursement, workshop facilitation, and the pre-workshop assessment. If you have any questions related to logistics or other workshop information, please contact Sarah Hughes at 574-258-0100 or [sarah@djcase.com](mailto:sarah@djcase.com).

**Planning Team:**

George Matula, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Eric Palmer, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department  
Becky Gwynn, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
Dave Day, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
John Kanter, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department  
Karen Bennett, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Steve Fuller, contractor to Wildlife Management Institute  
Dee Blanton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration  
Andrew Milliken, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Atlantic LCC