

Charter
Northeast Region Conservation Science Team
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Need

There is an increasing need to enhance coordination and communication among Service programs and between Service programs and LCCs for the implementation of a science-driven, Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) approach in the Northeast Region. Increasing participation from Service programs with Northeast Region Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) will help identify and communicate field priorities and management needs. Service resource programs including Ecological Services, Fisheries, Migratory Birds, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, and National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) have extensive technical and scientific expertise to contribute and will more fully benefit from the work of LCCs with greater involvement and understanding. Regional Science Applications staff are available to help integrate regional science needs and approaches but need a way to coordinate efficiently with programs. A standing Northeast Region Conservation Science team would more fully integrate Service programs with LCCs and Science Applications to ensure a coordinated science-driven approach to conservation.

Overall roles

- Provide a single entity for coordinating, communicating and evaluating Service science needs for the Northeast Region.
- Assess best way to collectively develop shared science capacity in the region to address common science needs.
- Provide a single entity for coordinating, communicating with LCCs in the Northeast Region.
- Provide support and advice to the Regional Directorate Team related to science and SHC.

Examples of specific roles and tasks

- Science Team will develop a link between Service programs in the Northeast Region and the Northeast LCCs (North Atlantic, Appalachian, Upper Midwest Great Lakes, and South Atlantic).
- Science Team will assist in developing a process for setting population goals and other conservation targets
- Science Team will provide input and feedback on priorities, technical issues, science needs, information management needs and decision support needs to the LCCs.
- Science Team will help ensure that existing and proposed LCC science projects are well coordinated with information needed by and decisions being made by biologists and project leaders in the Service. They will assist with linking LCC science projects with managers and involving Service staff in pilot and demonstration projects.

- Science Team will help ensure that Service capacity, expertise and projects are recognized by the LCCs and will help compile needs and existing capacity to help guide the LCCs.
- A member or several members of the Science Team will serve on LCC technical Committees to strengthen the link with Service programs and LCC Technical Committee decisions.
- Science Team will make recommendations on needs and projects through the annual Science Support Partnership and Quick Response grants.
- Science Team will be communications link with field stations for science needs and products.
- Science Team will provide coordination and support for Structured Decision Making (SDM).
- Science Team will identify and compile actions currently planned or being taken by the resource management programs to adapt to, or in response to climate change (i.e. resiliency, adaptation).

Membership

The team would ideally be composed of about 10 people for two-year (staggered) terms with a self-elected chair. Team members need to be able to represent programs, geographies, speak for programs, engage other program staff, have specific expertise and have interest, time, energy and positive attitude for meaningful participation. Science Applications will provide staff support.

The team will look for participation from the following programs:

- Science Applications - LCC Coordinator or Science Coordinator from North Atlantic and Appalachian LCC
- NWRs
- Migratory Birds
- Law Enforcement
- Fisheries
- Ecological Services
- Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration

Subteams

The team will need to reach out beyond its core membership and form standing or short-term subteams of other Service staff and partners to address specific issues.