



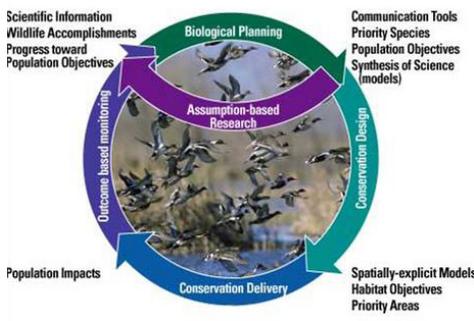
Strategic Habitat Conservation

The USFWS Framework for Landscape Conservation

Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) is an adaptive resource management framework for making management decisions about where and how to deliver conservation efficiently to achieve specific biological outcomes. Although originally focused on habitat conservation, SHC encompasses all Service programs and addresses both habitat and non-habitat factors limiting fish and wildlife populations. It is a way of thinking and of doing business that requires us to set specific biological goals, allows us to make strategic decisions about our work, and encourages us to constantly reassess and improve our actions.

SHC incorporates these elements—biological planning, conservation design, delivery, monitoring, and research—in an ongoing process that changes and evolves.

- **Biological planning** involves identifying priority trust resources, determining population objectives, assessing the current status of



populations, identifying threats and limiting factors, and using models to describe the relationship of populations to habitat and other limiting factors.

- **Conservation design** uses the results of biological planning to develop decision support tools, including maps and models, to guide management. It also identifies priority geographic areas for conservation and determines population-based objectives for habitat or other limiting factors based on these tools.

- **Conservation delivery** involves implementing conservation actions through programs and partnerships that are guided by decision support tools and targeted to achieve specific biological results.



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- **Monitoring** collects data to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation actions in reaching biological outcomes and to provide feedback to future planning and delivery.
- **Research** tests assumptions in biological planning and conservation design that have the greatest impact on management decisions and provides feedback to future planning.



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SHC builds on work the Service has accomplished for more than a century by leveraging the lessons we have learned, the data we have collected, the relationships and partnerships we have established, and the reputation we have acquired as the nation's foremost delivery system for fish and wildlife conservation.

For more information, visit <http://www.fws.gov/science/shc/index.html>

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