

Appalachian SHC Workshop 1st Breakout Session Objectives

- 1) Improve understanding that “delivery” will be more effective if performed within the context of how it relates to identified and measurable biological objectives and is based on the knowledge of how specific delivery actions achieve those objectives.

Probably most of us are focused on conservation delivery – at the end of the day, that’s what we want to do – protect remaining habitat and put additional habitat on the ground. We have been doing great work, but it is becoming more clear that, due to a number of factors, this great work is not good enough to stem the continued decline of species and the habitats they depend on. In order to reverse this ongoing trend, we need to be more strategic and effective in how we deliver conservation, and we need to be thinking and acting at a landscape level.

- 2) Improve understanding that there are prerequisites to effective delivery – need to develop an understanding of population status, distribution, life history/biological needs; how what we are doing affects those metrics; we need to understand those relationships to make our delivery more effective.

This gets to the need to conduct biological planning and prepare conservation designs/tools to guide our delivery efforts – how much habitat do we need, and specifically where on the ground do we need it to achieve specific biological goals most effectively. This information will also help us make trade-offs – what are the effects of various alternatives (how do they help/how much do they help us in achieving those objectives?)

- 3) Develop the understanding that no one individual or field station is expected to perform all elements of SHC – but that we expect them to understand how they contribute, and how their actions integrate within the context of the other functional elements such that our collective efforts are more effective and measurable. (Requires an awareness of what others are doing – or not – what holes exist and that they need to be addressed; also implies an awareness of the need to ask the questions regarding how those holes will be filled and who can/will fill them).

- 4) Improve understanding that SHC is about setting priorities at a landscape level – not just at the field station, program, or even agency level (but rather across the conservation community at large) – which extends beyond all of these.

- 5) Monitoring needs to be focused on measuring progress towards achieving specific metrics and goals established for populations (range-wide, or some subordinate scale), and program/agency monitoring efforts need to be able to roll up/contribute to that overall objective.

- 6) Develop an understanding that coordination and collaboration with other field offices, programs, agencies and other partners is essential to be successful.

- 7) Develop an understanding that application of SHC, establishment of the geographies, and development/operation of the LCCs will provide the mechanism through which this coordination and collaboration can/will occur, and active engagement by all is essential to achieve success.