

USFWS Draft Technical Guidance & “The Steps”



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Place These in Correct Order

(on the sticky notes provided)

Choose Selection Criteria

Establish Surrogates

Develop Objectives

**Test for Logic &
Consistency**

**ID Species
Needing Special
Attention**

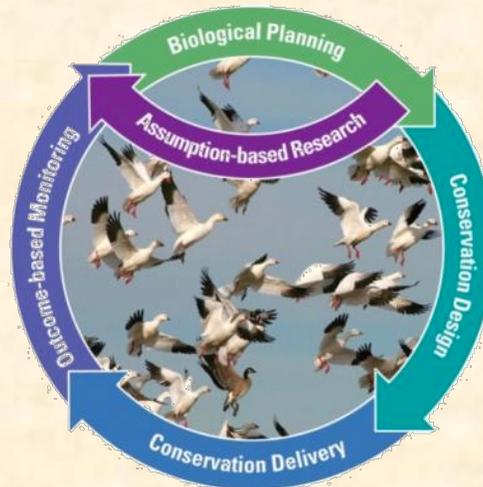
Choose Scale

Set Population Objectives

Monitor Effectiveness

ID Gaps & Uncertainties

**Determine Larger Pool of
Species to be Represented**



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Steps...Not Necessarily 100% Linear

SELECTING SPECIES THE STEPS



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Specify Conservation Objectives

SELECTING SPECIES THE STEPS

1 **Develop Conservation Objectives**

2 Choose Scale

3 Determine Species In Landscape

4 Select Criteria

5 Establish Surrogates

6 **Special Species Requiring Attention**

7 Set Population Objectives

8 Test for Logic & Consistency

9 Identify Gaps and Uncertainties

10 Monitor Effectiveness



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Objectives

Without a clearly stated and well defined objective, any effort is doomed to failure!



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FWS Mission

Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people



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Conservation v. Management Objectives

- Conservation Objective: large, landscape level overarching objective
 - *Ex. Meet PIF population goal for Swainson's Warbler in the MAV*
- Management Objective: local, measurable, conservation delivery-based objectives that support the conservation objective.
 - *Ex. Increase forest core habitat within the Tensas-Big Lake-Buckhorn Bird Conservation Area by 25%*

Workbook Step 1 page 4



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Conservation “Objective”*

(Vision, Goal...)

Characterize and maintain functional landscapes capable of supporting self-sustaining fish, wildlife, and plant populations

TG pages 7 and 10, Glossary page 29, Workbook pages 1 and 4

**Terms such as conservation objective, management objective, biological outcome, biological objectives, conservation targets, etc., are used synonymously, inconsistently, and sometimes incorrectly in the draft Technical Guidance document. The next version of the document will clearly define and consistently use the appropriate terms.*



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What is a Functional Landscape?

Lands and waters with the properties and elements required to support desirable populations of fish and wildlife, while also providing human society with desired goods and services, including food, fiber, water, energy, and living space

TG page 10, Glossary page 31, Workbook Step 1 pages 1 and 4



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Non-functional Landscapes

Landscapes where factors (e.g., forest structure, fragmentation, sediment loads, stream flow rates) limit the perpetuation of a species entrusted to the Service

Workbook Step 1 page 3



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Conservation Objective

- Characterize and maintain functional landscapes capable of supporting **self-sustaining** fish, wildlife, and plant populations.



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Self-Sustaining Populations

- fish, wildlife, and plants that are “self-maintained” at desired populations objectives (abundance, recruitment rates) through landscape conditions; thus, foregoing more drastic conservation interventions such as captive breeding and reintroduction programs.

TG page 7, Workbook Step 1 page 4



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Select Appropriate Scale



SELECTING SPECIES THE STEPS

1
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10

Develop Conservation Objectives

Choose Scale

Determine Species In Landscape

Select Criteria

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Appropriate Scale

Largely a Function of:

- Scale at which management plans and actions will be made
- Complexity of habitat/species assemblages

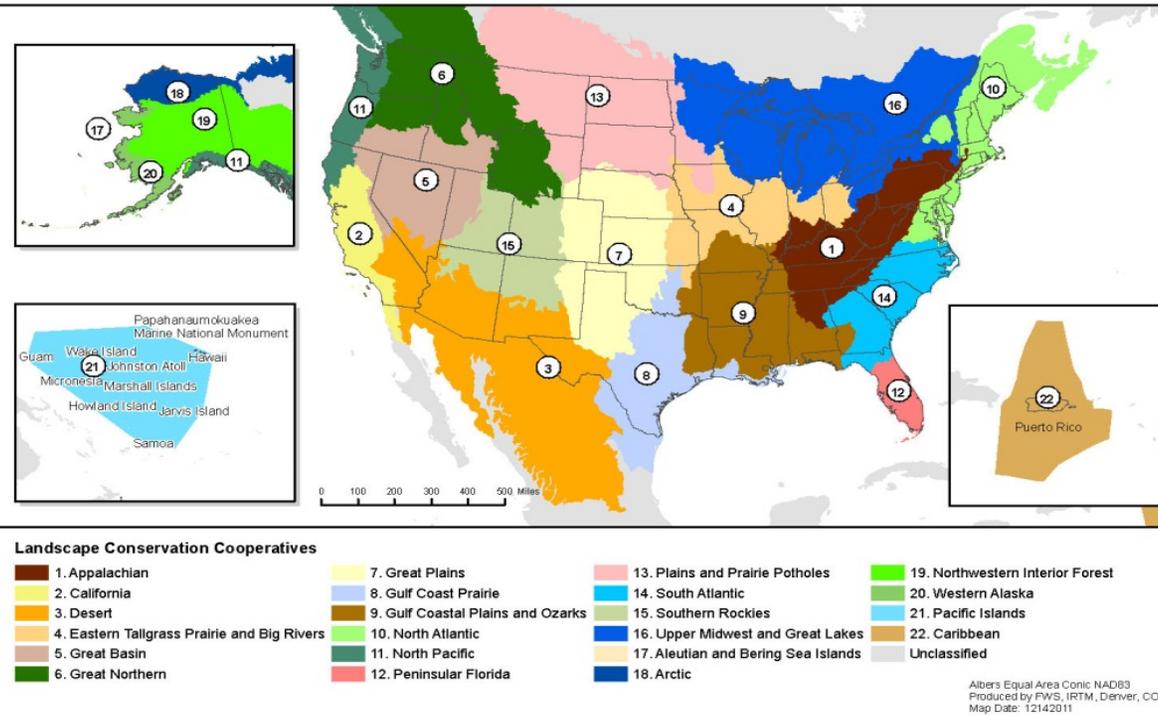


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LCCs

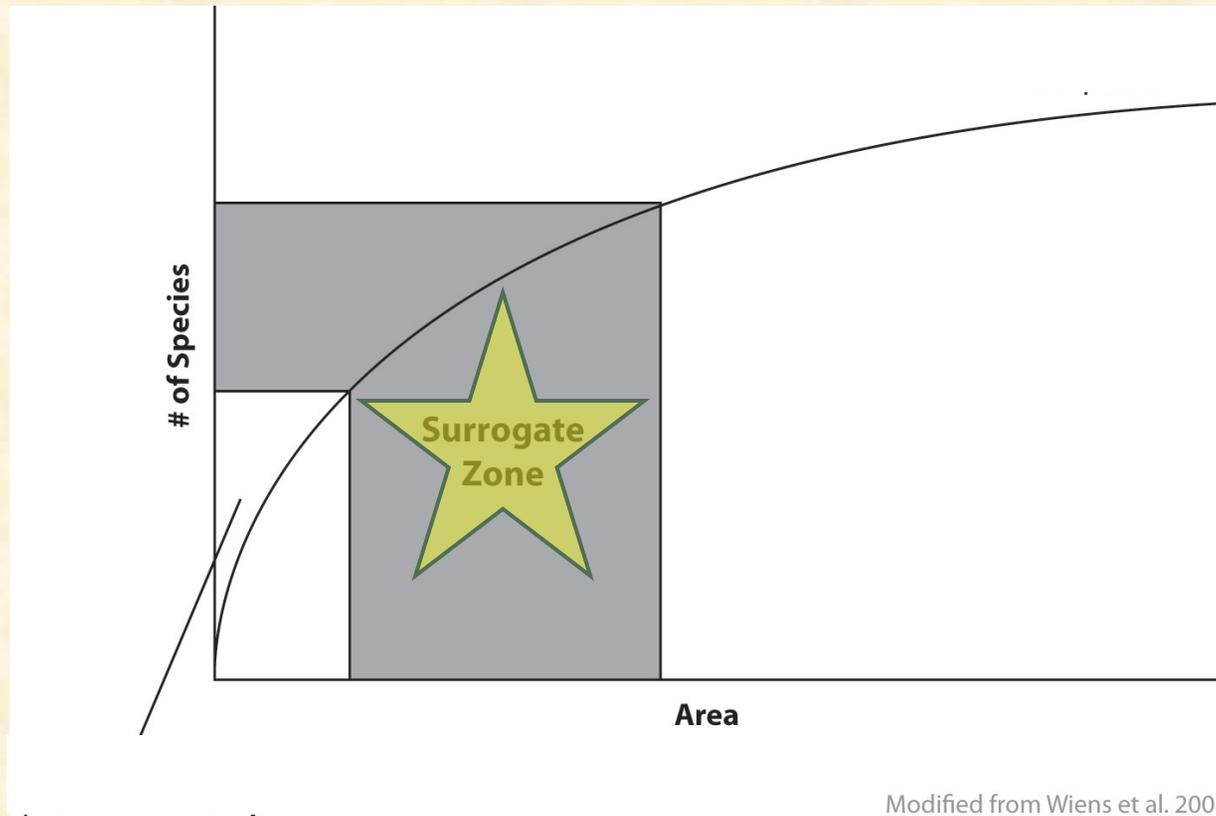
Landscape Conservation Cooperatives



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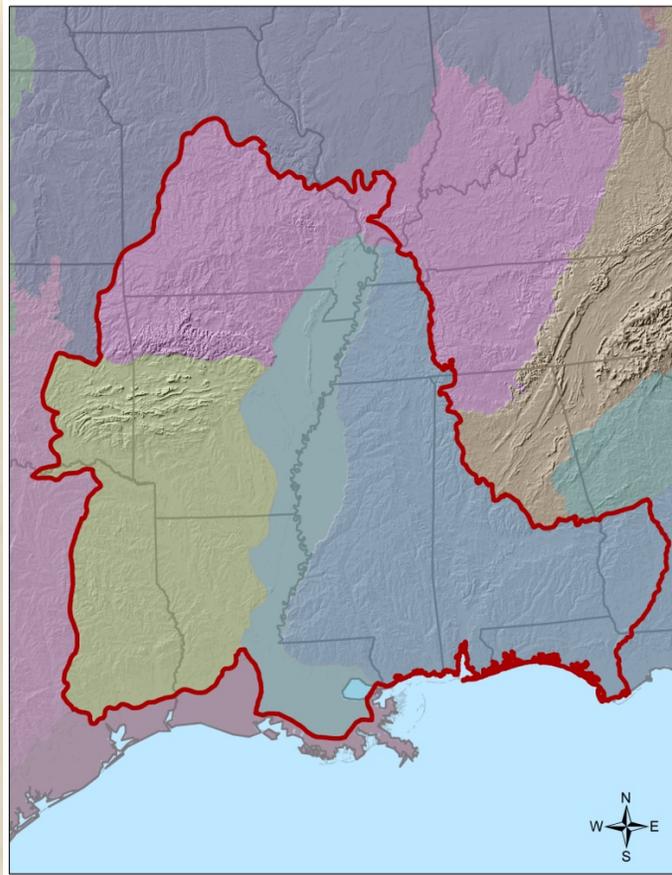
Surrogate Zone



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GCPO LCC



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Food for Thought (Discussion!)

- 1) Potential terrestrial and aquatic ecological units that could subdivide LCC geographies (or sub-geographies [e.g., MAV, EGCP]).
- 2) What is the role of partners (including LCCs, JVs, states, tribes, others) in this step?
- 3) How would you coordinate across the LCC geographic framework when species ranges span outside individual LCC boundaries?



Determine Which Species to Consider



SELECTING SPECIES THE STEPS

1
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Develop Conservation Objectives
Choose Scale

Determine Species In Landscape
Select Criteria

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Special Species Requiring Attention

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Monitor Effectiveness



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Pool of Species From Which to Choose

“measurable expression of a desired biological outcome”

– TG page 12

Step 1 Objective:

...functional landscapes capable of supporting self-sustaining fish, wildlife, and plant populations

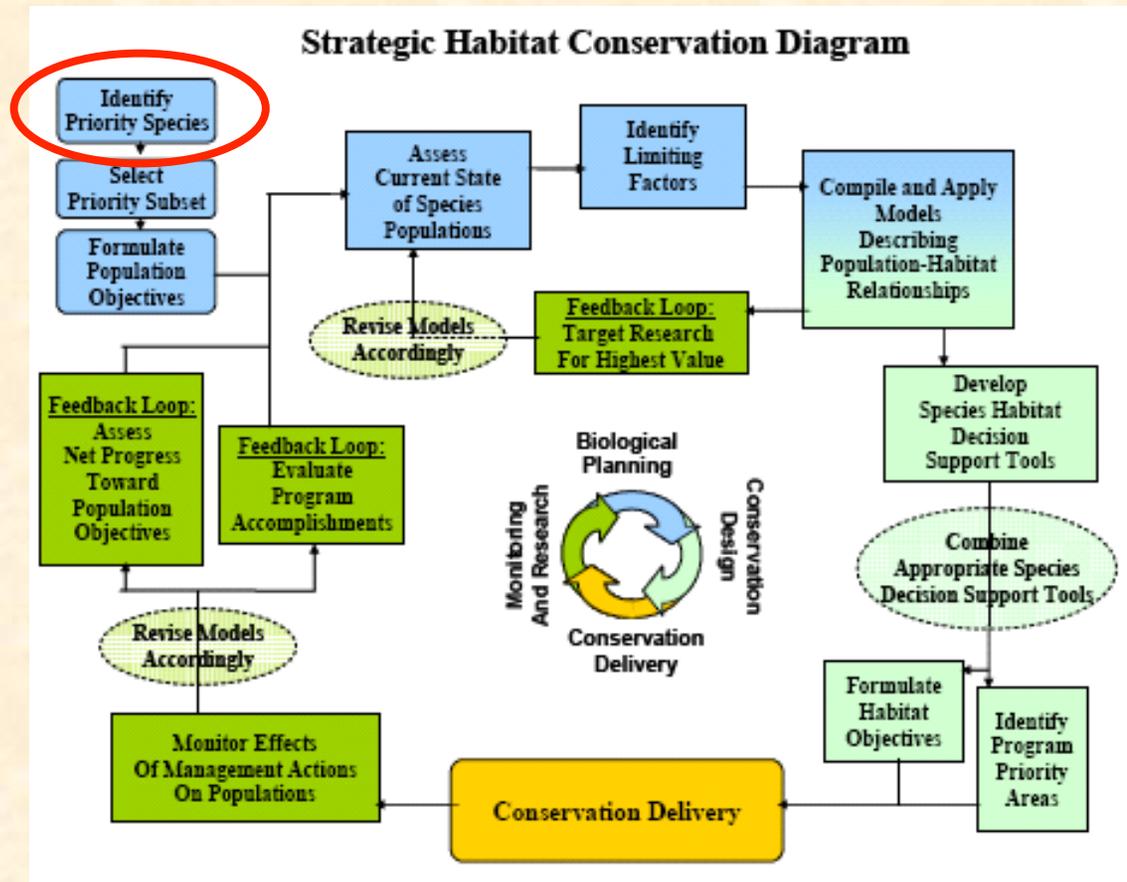


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Priority Species Lists

Sources of Priority Species List Provided In NEAT Report Element 1, Sub-elements 1.1, 1.2 (USFWS and USGS 2006)

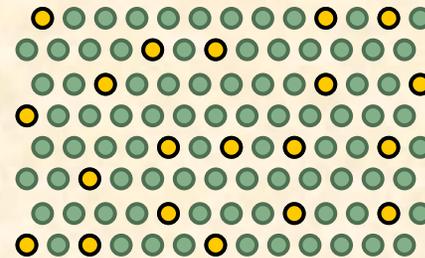


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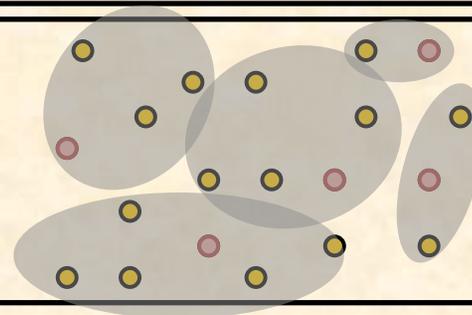


Priority Species Lists

All species in a geography



Priority Species



Surrogate Species

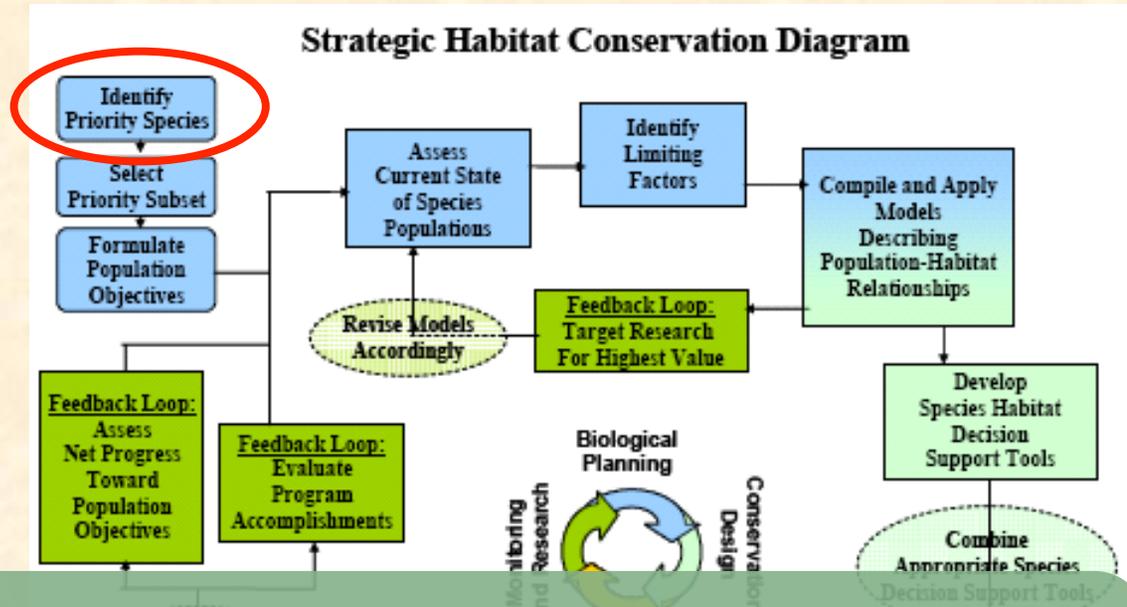


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Priority Species

Sources of
Priority Species List
Provided In
NEAT Report
Element 1,
Sub-elements 1.1, 1.2
(USFWS and USGS 2006)



“Although the FWS seeks to benefit all species and to contribute to the health, integrity and biodiversity of ecosystems, we have an obligation to benefit trust species first and foremost. Ideally we would address the needs of all trust species with equal energy, but with limited resources, it becomes necessary to prioritize.”



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Priority Species Lists Provide Pool of Potential Surrogate Species

Potential Surrogate Species

USFWS Priority Trust Species

- “Priority species are defined as those demanding extra time and resource commitments due to legal status, management need, vulnerability, geographic areas of importance, financial or partner opportunity, political sensitivity, or other factors.”



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Priority Species Lists Provides Pool of Potential Surrogate Species

Potential Surrogate Species

USFWS Priority Trust Species

- Federal Trust species include: migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, inter-jurisdictional fishes, and some marine mammals.
- Regions and Programs have existing lists of priority species, often by taxonomic groupings, at national, regional, and various landscape scales (see NEAT Report).



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Priority Species Lists Provides Pool of Potential Surrogate Species

Potential Surrogate Species

USFWS Priority
Trust Species

Partner Priority Species

- The Service can only achieve its desired biological outcomes by working with states, Tribes and other stakeholders, so consideration of partners' priorities in the same landscape is paramount for success.



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Priority Species Lists Provides Pool of Potential Surrogate Species

Potential Surrogate Species

USFWS Priority
Trust Species

Partner Priority Species

- Regions will engage with willing partners to identify and compile their conservation priorities.



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Priority Species Lists Provides Pool of Potential Surrogate Species

Potential Surrogate Species

USFWS Priority
Trust Species

Partner Priority Species

- Potential sources of priority species list include FWS Programs (e.g., Birds of Management Concern; List of Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species; Aquatic Resource Plans), State Wildlife Action Plans, state game management plans, Joint Ventures, Fish Habitat Partnerships, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, etc



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Priority Species Lists Provides Pool of Potential Surrogate Species

Potential Surrogate Species

USFWS Priority
Trust Species

Partner Priority Species

- A potential surrogate species list will be created for each LCC compiled from priority species lists and
- Compiled list should include associated population objectives (step 7) and other pertinent information (e.g., known limiting factors) where available.



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Documenting the Process

- Document potential sources for identification of priority species
- Describe engagement strategies for partners
- Evaluate potential sources and document selection process
 - Which species were selected?
 - What criteria were applied and what information was available?
- Assumptions, biological models, decision support tools, and/or other scientific information was used



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Food for Thought (Discussion?)

- Why are we starting with priority species rather than all species?
- What the strengths and weaknesses of this approach are?



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Learning objectives

- *Identify which species are to be represented by surrogate species*
- *Define priority species*
- *Document sources of information for identifying USFWS and partner priority species*

