

# The Next Step in Advancing Strategic Habitat Conservation:

*Moving Forward with Landscape-scale Conservation*

*Organized by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

*October 24 and 25, 2012*

*Location: National Marine Fisheries Service Building*

*646 Cajundome Boulevard*

## SELECTING SPECIES THE STEPS

100 STEPS

- Develop Conservation Objectives
- Choose Scale
- Determine Species In Landscape
- Select Criteria
- Establish Surrogates
- Special Species Requiring Attention
- Set Population Objectives
- Test for Logic & Consistency
- Identify Gaps and Uncertainties
- Monitor Effectiveness

BIOLOGICAL PLANNING

MONITORING & RESEARCH

SHC

CONSERVATION DESIGN

CONSERVATION DELIVERY

- Introduce and solicit feedback on the Service Draft Technical Guidance on Selecting Species for Design of Landscape –scale Conservation
- Engage conservation partners to facilitate discussions, coordination, and implementation of conservation actions at a landscape-scale.

*By the end of the two-day workshop, participants should have:*

1. A clear understanding of the Service’s business model and the rationale (purpose and need) of selecting species for design of landscape-scale conservation;
2. A working knowledge of the essential portions of the Draft Technical Guidance on Selecting Species for Design of Landscape-scale Conservation, and how to provide informed feedback on the Draft Technical Guidance.
3. Ample opportunity to share respective approaches for achieving landscape-scale conservation;

### Wednesday, October 24, 2012

7:30 - 8:30 Registration

8:30 - Welcome, key points about objectives of these two days, what it is and what it isn’t

Moderator: Dean Demarest, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, Migratory Birds, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

8:45 - The vision – where is FWS headed with surrogate species and why

Mark Musaus, Deputy Regional Director Southeast Region, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

9:00 - A conservation conversation

Mark Musaus, Deputy Regional Director, Southeast Region, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

Kenny Ribbeck, Chief, Wildlife Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, Baton Rouge, LA

Phil Turnipseed, Director, National Wetlands Research Center, USGS, Lafayette, LA

9:30 - BREAK

9:45 - Historical role of conservation and the role of selecting species for landscape-scale conservation

### Needs Statement:

The conservation community must continue to evolve and work closely to meet today’s threats to the nation’s natural resources. If we don’t move aggressively to determine the conservation landscape of the future, it will be determined for us. As part of this process the Service has developed Draft Technical Guidance on Selecting Species for Design of Landscape-scale Conservation and is seeking feedback on this draft guidance.

### Objectives of the Workshop:

- Review the Service’s business model (Strategic Habitat Conservation) for achieving our mission in the 21st Century

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bill Uihlein, Assistant Regional Director, Science Applications, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

10:15 - Strategic Habitat Conservation overview

Dean Demarest, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, Migratory Birds, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

10:45 - Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Greg Wathen, Coordinator, Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Nashville, TN

11:15 - Open Discussion / Questions

Noon - Catered Lunch

1:00 - Selecting species as drivers for landscape-scale conservation - key concepts

John Tirpak, Science Coordinator, Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC, Lafayette, LA

1:30 - USFWS regional efforts of selecting species

Keith McKnight, Coordinator, Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture, Tyler, TX

2:00 - Working example: Tennessee NWR conservation planning and implementation

Barron Crawford, Project Leader, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS, Paris, TN

2:30 - BREAK

3:00 - Draft Technical Guidance on Selecting Species for Design of Landscape-scale Conservation

Bill Uihlein, Assistant Regional Director, Science Applications, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

3:30 - Facilitated discussion related to the Draft Technical Guidance

Steve Brock, Partnership Coordinator, Lower Mississippi Valley JV, USFWS, Ridgeland, MS

### Adjourn for the Day

#### DAY 2

8:00 - General refresher/overview from yesterday's discussions;

Moderator: Janet Ertel, Deputy Chief, Inventory & Monitoring, R4 NWRS, Starkville, MS

8:15 - 12:15 Draft Technical Guidance on Selecting Species for Design of Landscape-scale Conservation – field examples and discussion

Keith McKnight, Coordinator, Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture, Tyler, TX

Step 1: Develop and clearly specify management or conservation objectives for the surrogate species approach.

Step 2: Identify geographic scale.

Step 3: Determine which species to consider in the identified landscape.

Small Break (10 minutes)

Step 4: Decide which criteria to use in determining surrogate species.

Step 5: Establish surrogate Species.

Step 6: Identify species requiring special attention.

Step 7: Identify population objectives.

Small Break (10 minutes)

Step 8: Test for logic and consistency

Step 9: Identify knowledge gaps and uncertainties

Step 10: Monitor the effectiveness of the Approach

Field Example: Alligator Gar work on St. Catherine Creek NWR

Glenn Constant, Project Leader, Baton Rouge Fish & Wildlife Office, Baton Rouge, LA

Field Example: Waterfowl in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley

Bob Strader, Project Leader, Lower Mississippi River Refuge Complex, USFWS, Natchez, MS

12:15 - Catered Lunch

1:15 - Continued Group Discussion on each of the steps

Keith McKnight, Coordinator, Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture, Tyler, TX

2:15 - BREAK

2:30 - Providing feedback on the Draft Technical Guidance

Bill Uihlein, Assistant Regional Director, Science Applications, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

3:30 - Next steps and continuing the conversation and engagement

Mark Musaus, Deputy Regional Director Southeast Region, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

4:00 - Closing thoughts: questions, comments, feedback from participants

### Adjourn

