

The Next Step in Strategic Habitat Conservation: Moving Forward with Landscape-scale Conservation

Organized by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
October 2 and 3, 2012

Agenda

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

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

Tuesday, October 2, 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**

E. J. Williams, Assistant Regional Director,
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

Steve Patrick, Assistant Executive Director,
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Nashville, TN

Paul Schmidt, Chief Conservation Officer,
Ducks Unlimited, Memphis, TN

9:45 Break

10:00 **Historical Role of Conservation and the Role of Selecting Species for Landscape-scale Conservation**

Bob Ford, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Science
Applications, USFWS, Memphis, TN

10:30 **Strategic Habitat Conservation Overview**

Randy Wilson, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist,
Mississippi Migratory Bird Field Office, Jackson, MS

SELECTING SPECIES THE 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



Location

Ducks Unlimited Headquarters
1 Waterfowl Way, Memphis, TN

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 its mission in the 21st Century
- Introduce and solicit feedback on the Service Draft Technical Guidance on Selecting Species for Design of Landscape-scale Conservation
- Engage conservation partners to facilitate discussion, coordination and implementation of conservation actions at a landscape-scale.

- 11:00 **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
- 11:30 Lunch
- 12:30 **Selecting Species as Drivers for Landscape-scale Conservation - Key Concepts**
John Tirpak, Science Coordinator, Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative, USFWS, Lafayette, LA
- 1:15 **USFWS Regional Efforts of Selecting Species**
Jack Arnold, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
- 1:45 **Working Example: Tennessee NWR Conservation Planning and Implementation**
Barron Crawford, Project Leader, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS, Paris, TN
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 **Draft Technical Guidance on Selecting Species for Design of Landscape-scale Conservation**
E. J. Williams, Assistant Regional Director, Migratory Birds, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
- 3:00 **Facilitated discussion related to purpose of the Draft Technical Guidance and the use of species as focal points for landscape-scale conservation design**
Ricky Campbell, Hatchery Manger, Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery, USFWS, Tupelo, MS
Randy Wilson, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, Mississippi Migratory Bird Field Office, USFWS, Jackson, MS

Adjourn for the Day

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

- 8:00 **General Refresher/Overview from Yesterday's Discussions**
Moderator: Jim Boggs, Project Leader, Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office, USFWS, Conway, AR
- 8:15 **Overview of the Draft Technical Guidance on Selecting Species for Design of Landscape-scale Conservation – Field Examples and Discussion**
Bob Ford Deputy Assistant Regional Director Science Applications, USFWS
Barron Crawford Project Leader, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS
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 Examples: Alligator Gar work on St. Catherine's Creeks NWR

Ricky Campbell, Hatchery Manger, Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery, USFWS, Tupelo, MS

Field Example: Migratory Bird example

Randy Wilson, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, Mississippi Migratory Bird Field Office, USFWS, Jackson, MS

Questions and Discussion

12:15 Catered Lunch

1:15 **Group Discussion on the Draft Technical Guidance - Continued**

Bob Ford, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Science Applications, USFWS, Memphis, TN

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

2:15 Break

2:30 **Providing Feedback on the Draft Technical Guidance**

Jim Boggs Project Leader Arkansas Field Office, USFWS

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**

