

SUMMARY

Science Delivery: Workshops and Case Studies

BACKGROUND


- At our fall 2016 meeting, the committee charged NALCC to utilize science delivery resources to deliver RCOA and related science products, focusing on workshops and training developed around specific conservation challenges identified in advance through dialogue with participants. The committee identified states, NEAFWA committees, Joint Ventures, and initiatives such as the Chesapeake Bay Program and Delaware Basin as priorities for science delivery because these audiences are actively engaged in ongoing landscape conservation efforts.
- NALCC and state representatives agreed that states would serve as hosts and provide staff collaborate with LCC staff to organize workshops, identify topics, and to invite relevant partners within their respective geographies.
- The remainder of FY14/15 science delivery funds were obligated in January 2017 to support expanded science delivery workshops and development of case studies. Specifically, the competitive science delivery grant awarded to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in 2014 was amended. A primary deliverable of the WCS grant was case studies on science applications in municipal land use planning. Their staff also contributed significantly to the development of RCOAs, and are therefore uniquely qualified to assist with the development of RCOA case studies and workshops.
- The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) is hosting our pilot workshop on April 27, focused on a 3-state geography (MD, WV, and VA). For the pilot workshop, NALCC staff and grantees are engaging VDGIF and attendees, collaborating on workshop development, customizing case studies, and jointly inviting state, federal, and NGO conservation partners.

DESIRED
OUTCOMES

1. We want to identify 3-4 volunteer host states for multi-state workshops, including specific staff contacts to help specify meeting content and attendees, and a time frame for scheduling the workshops.
2. We need assistance from Federal and NGO partners to identify expertise as needs are identified by workshop planners, including participation by partners as trainers.

EXAMPLE CASE
STUDIES

- **Appalachian glades:** Land managers in Virginia and elsewhere are interested in restoring this unique habitat type, which is rich in SGCN (Species of Greatest Conservation Need). The habitat requires fire and



other disturbances to maintain and open canopy. We used the NALCC-funded Habitat Guides to clarify the ecosystems associated with the habitat, then used Nature's Network to identify the places most strongly associated with SGCN. Among these, the index of ecological integrity was applied to locate the most intact and degraded sites, and the restoration tool was applied to locate opportunities for management.

- **American woodcock:** The Wildlife Management Institute was awarded an RCPP grant to conduct habitat management for woodcock and other early successional species in seven states. The Institute, partners, and NRCS wanted focus areas to inform landowner recruitment efforts. Representative species, forest condition, and other models were incorporated in the Nature's Network restoration tool to identify focus areas for forest management, emphasizing working landscapes and avoiding the most intact forest blocks. Building on Nature's Network assessment of SGCN habitats, and their association with riparian areas, important habitats for SGCN were incorporated in a complementary set of riparian focus areas. In these areas, an emphasis will be placed on increasing cover in riparian zones to benefit a broad suite of terrestrial and aquatic SGCN.
- **Connectivity & Transportation:** Two Countries, One Forest is a partnership of Canadian and U.S. organizations focused on advancing cross-border collaboration toward forest conservation issues. The organization leads a project called "The Staying Connected Initiative," which focuses on cross-border forest connectivity issues in critical locations across the border region, conserving over 500,000 acres in the last decade, and successfully advocating for resolution of the Canadian Premiers and New England Governors to prioritize connectivity. The initiative has requested that Nature's Network be used to update their connectivity focus areas. WCS is a recipient of NALCC science delivery funding, and they are engaged in delivering updated focus areas to Staying Connected.
- **Land trusts and historic sites:** The state of Virginia was approached by the Civil War Land Trust, which is interested in aligning their historic resource priority areas, which include large sites such as battlefields, with natural resource focus areas. The land trust shared their information with NALCC, and we have identified intersections with Nature's Network. National Park Service has a similar interest in the intersection between natural resources and battlefields, because these significant holdings usually harbor a substantial resource inventory relevant to development of an interpretive sense of place.