PROGRESS REPORT Science Delivery

BACKGROUND

- In FY11 and FY12, NALCC funded a series of demonstration projects designed to show how landscape science is being used across the Northeast Region --*all demonstration projects are now complete.*

- In FY13/14, the steering committee formalized a Science Delivery Program, and obligated funding to increase staff capacity ($140K) and to competitively fund projects ($300K).

- In FY14/15, the steering committee allocated funds to maintain or increase capacity, to develop customized applications of existing data, and to support technical assistance through a variety of means ($300k).

- In FY2015/16, funds allocated in the prior year were spent to support staff capacity and the remainder are now being obligated to develop customized applications of existing data, and to support technical assistance through a variety of mean.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Science Delivery Program is to advance the best-available science by establishing a knowledge base in the conservation community and facilitating a network of partners to apply landscape science products to conservation at multiple scales across the NALCC region.

CURRENT FUNDING

SCIENCE DELIVERY NEEDS		
CATEGORY	ALLOCATION	OBLIGATED
1 Improved user-interface for DataBasin	$30,000	**$30,000**
2 Initial knowledge transfer (staff and supporting services)	$150,000	**$105,000**
3 Focused science applications for terrestrial/aquatic/coastal systems	$70,000	***$70,000****
4 Technical assistance provider grants	$25,000	***$25,000****
5 Coordination of conservation networks	$25,000	***$25,000****

* Contract negotiations are in progress to obbligate funds by year end.

RECENT ACTIVITY

- NALCC recently completed RCOA version 1.0, and has begun developing contracts to obligate the 2015 funding allocation in support of delivery of the new conservation design products.

- More than 60 key managers, GIS technicians, and scientists participated in RCOA workshops, including representatives from most Northeast states, and most of these participants received in depth training on the use use of the RCOA products.

- When fully obligated this year, the 2015 funds will expand our capacity by leveraging training provided to partners and experts that participated in RCOA development and engaging their expertise as part of a technical assistance network.

- 2015 funds will further enhance the delivery of RCOA products by supporting customization of the tools to support specific conservation applications, including land management, salt marsh migration, identification of specific roads, aquatic barriers, and priority sites limiting regional connectivity, and evaluation of threats and strategic opportunities to conserve priority species for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

- To date, the 2015 funding allocation has supported staff, DataBasin updates, technical assistance. Continued dedicated funding is necessary as we work to galvanize a network capable of significant technical assistance capacity.

STATUS OF GRANTS

- **Open Space Institute** has delivered the final draft of "Conserving Nature in a Changing Climate: A Guide for Land Trusts in the Northeast" and has disseminated the document within the land trust community.

- **Wildlife Conservation Society** has prioritized Northern New England Towns based on their land use regulations. Final case studies and guidance documents supporting technical assistance to priority towns are in review.

- **Chesapeake Conservancy** continues to convene stakeholders throughout the Envision the Susquehanna landscape, and is now providing training on data developed for the RCOA project.

NEXT STEPS

The completion of RCOAs is a major step in translating science to products that are relevant and useful for on the ground implementation. Dedicated capacity and funding support is necessary to achieve our vision for use and adoption of these products by partners engaged in SWAP implementation and landscape conservation throughout the region. Over the coming months, we will begin to implement a strategic approach to Science Delivery, leveraging RCOA products in support of SWAP implementation.