North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Setting the Stage for Conservation Design and Delivery in the Northeast Region

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LCC Fundamental Objective:

To define, design, and deliver landscapes that can sustain natural and cultural resources at levels desired by society.
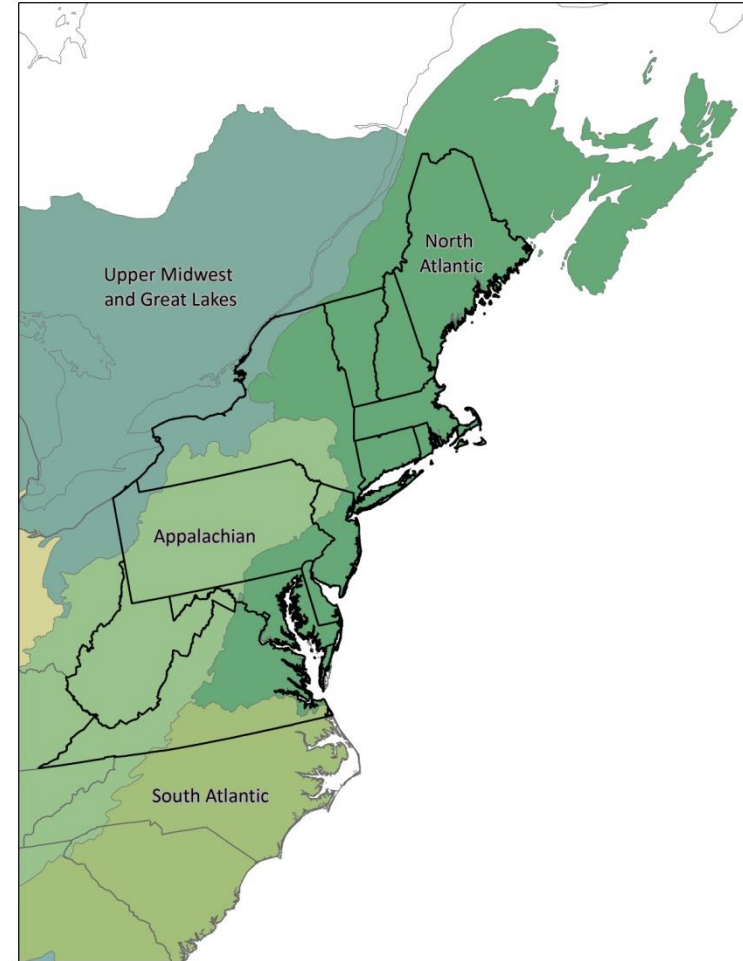
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North Atlantic LCC

Mission:

What: a partnership where the conservation community works together to address increasing land use pressures and resource threats amplified by a rapidly changing climate

How: by jointly developing and delivering scientific information and tools needed to prioritize and guide more effective conservation actions towards common goals

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ROLE:
LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

❑ **facilitate planning at a scale and scope beyond the reach or resources of any one organization**

❑ **leverage funding, staff, and resources**

❑ **agree on common goals**

❑ **develop tools and strategies to inform landscape-level management decisions and link science to management**

❑ **provide a forum for exchange between partners.**

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Role: Partners

❏ define and share their individual landscape-level priorities

❏ help shape a common landscape level conservation framework, targets, priorities, and science and conservation tools needed across the region by multiple partners

❏ use the tools developed, such as maps of priority areas to aid in the implementation of conservation actions

❏ provide feedback to the LCC on the utility and effectiveness of LCC products and approaches

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North Atlantic LCC Partnership

Steering Committee

– 33 Members (14 State, 1 Tribal, 8 Fed., 1 Canadian, 8 NGO, CSC)

Technical Committees

– 43 members (7 State, 24 Fed., 1 Can., 8 NGO, 3 LCC) aquatic, terrestrial/wetland and coastal/marine sub-teams

– Multiple project oversight teams

Science Delivery Team

– 30 members (8 State, 10 Fed., 9 NGO, 3 LCC)

LCC Staff - (4 full time, 3 part time)

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Major Challenge:

How do we organize our separate agencies, organizations and missions to collectively achieve the conservation outcomes that society wants and expects from us?

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What is a Conservation Framework?

- What are we trying to achieve?
- What are the steps necessary to get there?
- Who is going to do what?
- How will we know when we get there?

*A framework helps to <u>visualize</u>, <u>organize</u> and <u>prioritize</u> the work to best contribute to the <u>outcome</u>

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Northeast Conservation Framework

GOAL-SETTING
Which species/habitats to conserve?
At what levels?
Who decides?

CONSERVATION DESIGN
What should landscapes look like to conserve species at goal levels

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
What do we know about the status of priority wildlife?

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
How will we manage the demand for and creation of data?

SCIENCE TRANSLATION
How do we make science solutions useful?

PRIORITIES
Which species and issues demand immediate attention?

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND RESEARCH
What new information will we gather to support conservation?

CONSERVATION ADOPTION
How do we get communities and landowners engaged in conservation?

CONSERVATION DELIVERY
How will we most efficiently put conservation on the ground?

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Most importantly-

- The framework represents a direction and a willingness of the partners to collectively and intentionally work in an organized fashion towards a larger landscape conservation vision

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Northeast Conservation Framework Workshop Results

Overall priorities

- Expedited delivery of the right actions in the right places (focus areas, landscape design)

- Effective information management

- Communications, dissemination and adoption

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LCC Science Projects

- Over 20 completed or ongoing science projects providing foundational data, assessments and decision support for terrestrial, aquatic and coastal systems

- http://www.northatlanticlcc.org/projects

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Summary: Where is the NA LCC?

- **LCC has developed the partnership and capacity to achieve its mission**

- **LCC and partners have supported projects consistent with the northeast conservation framework and LCC strategic plan**

- **Projects are at the stage where information and tools are available**

- **Information is being made available through information management systems**

- **We are working on the best ways to deliver the information through Science Delivery**

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Where NA LCC is Going

- **Continued strategic investments in science development**

- **Science Delivery at scales and in formats needed**

- **Putting the information and tools together for effectively prioritizing decisions including:**

Landscape Conservation Design

- **Collaborative process for agreeing on goals and developing common landscape conservation designs to achieve those goals**
- **How <u>much</u> of <u>what</u> conservation actions are needed <u>where</u> to sustain natural and cultural resources across the region and landscapes within the region?**

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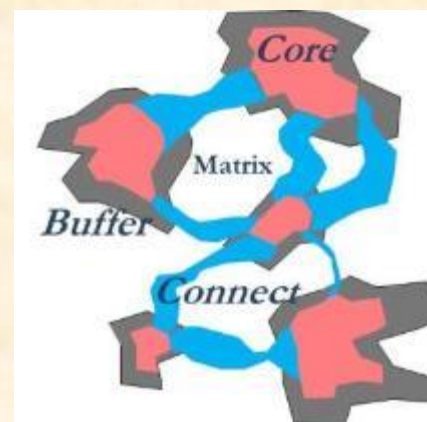
Why landscape-level conservation?

An **interconnected, resilient network** of lands and waterways has many benefits for society:

- Fish and wildlife populations
- Clean water
- Flood and erosion control
- Storm protection
- Forest and farm products
- Recreation and tourism
- Quality of life
- Employment

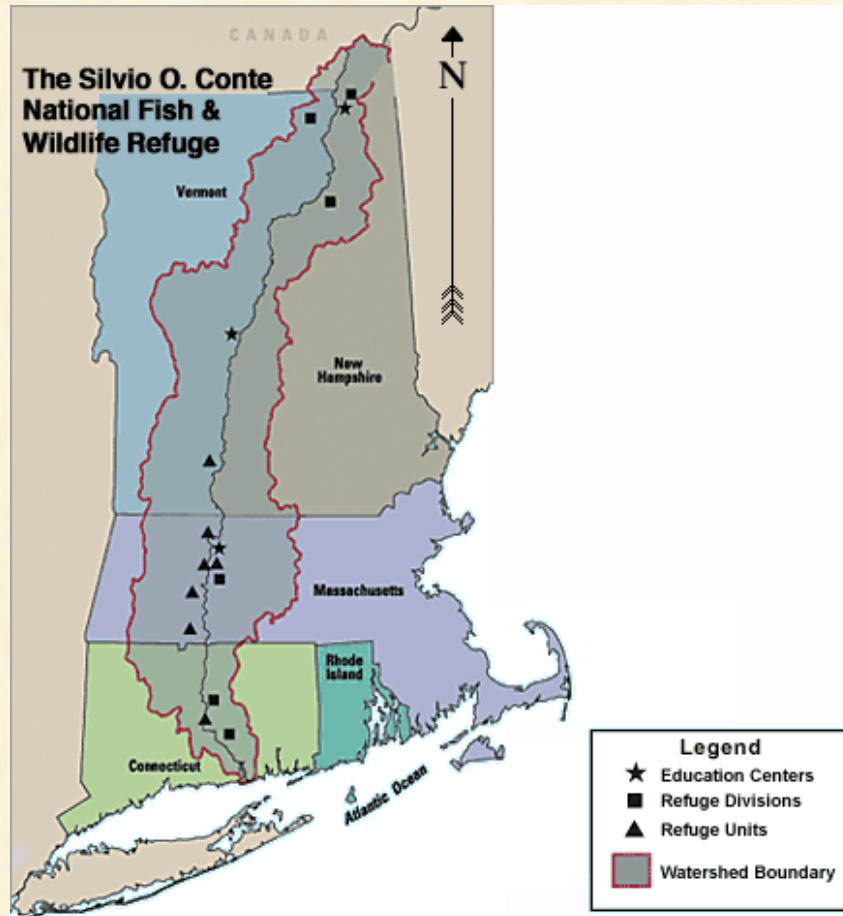North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

What is "Landscape Conservation Design?"

- ## A planning process
  - – a collaborative effort among partners, which includes agreeing on common priorities, after considering best science and information available

- ## A product
  - – a spatial plan for conservation decisions in an adaptive framework

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Why the Connecticut River Watershed?

The Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge

Legend
★ Education Centers
■ Refuge Divisions
▲ Refuge Units
▨ Watershed Boundary

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Objectives for the Connecticut River Conservation Design?

1. <u>Collaboratively prioritize</u> places and identify strategies and actions necessary to conserve ecosystems, and the fish, wildlife, and plants they support, into the future

2. <u>Deliver information</u>, maps and tools with options to prioritize at scales and in formats needed by partners

3. <u>Establish a process</u> for conducting landscape conservation design that can be applied and adopted elsewhere in the Northeast

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