


# Regional Conservation Partnerships (RCPs) in New England




- 1 Belknap Range Conservation Coalition
- 2 Chateaugay Notown Conservation Project
- 3 Cold Hollow to Canada Forest Link Project
- 4 Downeast Research and Education Network
- 5 Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership
- 6 Forest Works!
- 7 Forever Farmland Initiative
- 8 Friends of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge
- 9 Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership
- 10 High Peaks Initiative
- 11 Kennebec Woodland Partnership
- 12 Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative
- 13 Lower Penobscot Watershed Coalition
- 14 MA-VT Woodland Partnership
- 15 Mahoosuc Initiative
- 16 Mass-Conn Sustainable Forest Partnership
- 17 Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative
- 18 Staying Connected Initiative
- 19 Newfound Land Conservation Partnership
- 20 North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership
- 21 Orange County Headwaters Project
- 22 Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership
- 23 Quiet Corner Initiative
- 24 Rensselaer Plateau Alliance
- 25 River Link
- 26 Salmon Falls Watershed Collaborative
- 27 Sandy Brook Conservation Corridor
- 28 Southern New England Heritage Forest Partnership
- 29 Taconics Landscape Partnership
- 30 Taunton River Coalition
- 31 The Chittenden County Uplands Conservation Project
- 32 The Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange
- 33 The RI Woodland Partnership
- 34 Twelve Rivers Collaborative
- 35 Upland Headwaters Alliance
- 36 West Suburban Conservation Council
- 37 Taylor Valley Conservation Project
- 38 Nashua River Forest Partnership
- 39 Merrimack Conservation Partnership

# Why an SAP?

- ▶ Can organize diverse thinkers toward a common goal.
  - ▶ Allows quick integration of new members
  - ▶ New members feel they were growing their organizations by participating in new set of positive goals
- 

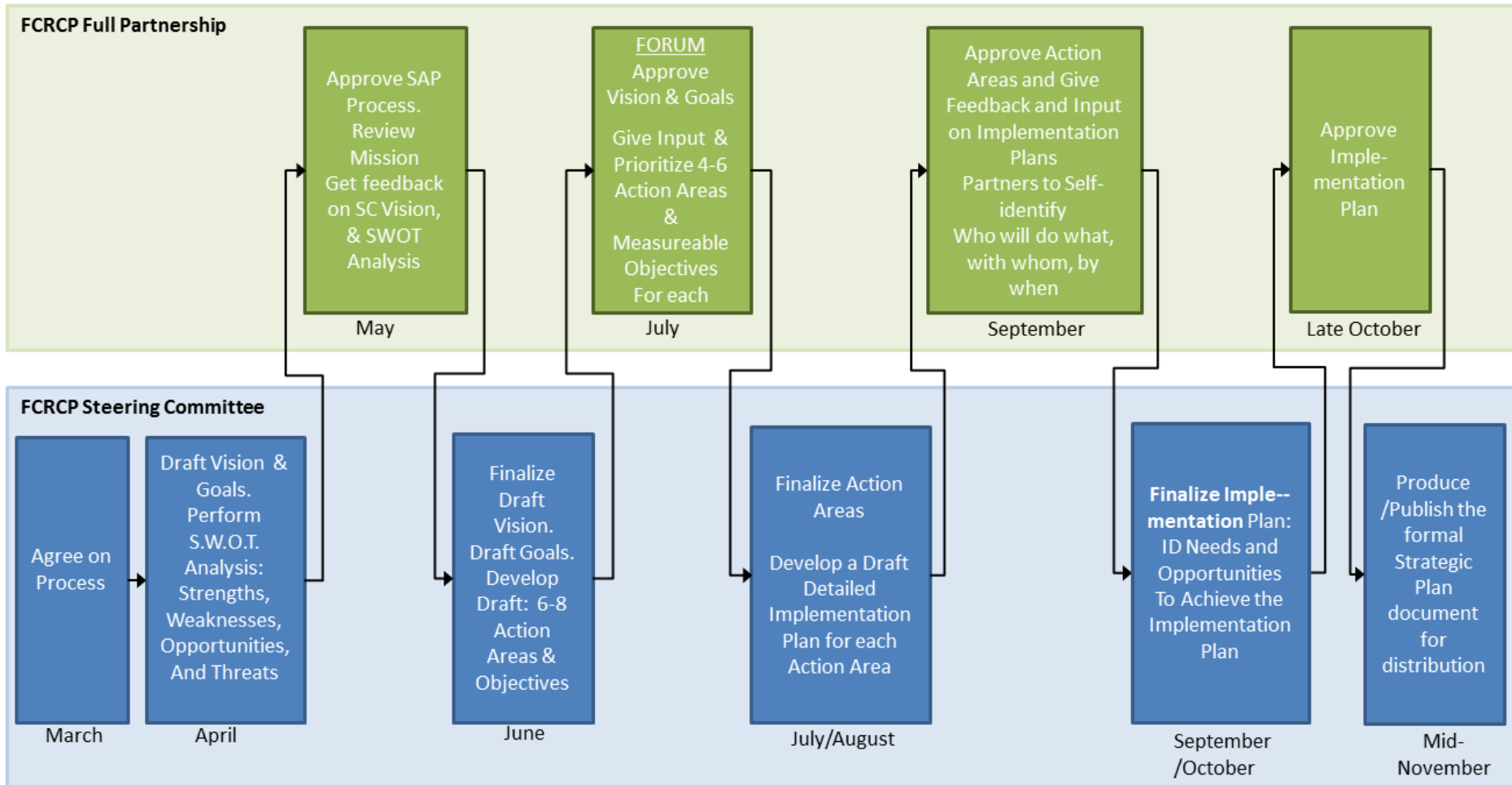
# First, a Steering Committee:

Host organization + strong partners + people from diverse geography


- ▶ Could act like a Board of Directors
  - ▶ Make recommendations
  - ▶ Allow for quick decisions
- 

# Process & Timeline

## Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership 2013 Planning



# S.W.O.T. Analysis

- ▶ Performed by Steering Committee
  - ▶ Excellent way to organize information
    - Strengths and weaknesses
    - Opportunities and Threats:
- 

## Goals, Objectives

- ▶ proposed by Steering Committee and finalized by voting of partners


## Strategies

- ▶ became the action plan


## Actions

- ▶ narrowed down and ranked
- 

# Produced a Formal SAP Document

- ▶ Introduction
  - ▶ Index
  - ▶ List of Partners
  - ▶ Executive Summary: Listed our 3 goals and 3 strategies for each of these goals
  - ▶ Full SAP including 3 Goals, 16 Objectives, 23 strategies and 53 Actions
- 

# Many SAPs never get implemented


- Importance of a strong steering committee
  - Allow enough time to get buy-in
  - Recognize that LTs are volunteer organizations requiring great communication to engage and energize.
- 



# Couldn't agree on a mission statement

- Left this to the end which allowed it to “bubble up”

# We were not skilled facilitators

- Practiced active listening
  - Incorporated feedback into plan
- 


We risked “turf battles” with the higher functioning LTs who perceived us as interfering with their own missions.

- In collaboration we can do what can't be done alone
- RCP's purpose is to make partners stronger

# Partners reluctant to step forward to assume leadership on actions

- Ask for participation in activities that **MIGHT** be of interest
- Relied on Steering Committee to take the lead

# Difficulty in communication with partner's Boards and Commissions

- Produced a written brochure
  - Extended personal invitations to all board members to attend RCP meetings
- 

# Lessons learned

- ▶ Moving diverse thinkers towards a common goal achieved by listening, then incorporating the feedback.
  - ▶ To get partners to step up and “own” an action, must allow them to improvise within the structure.
  - ▶ Important to keep door open to spontaneity
- 