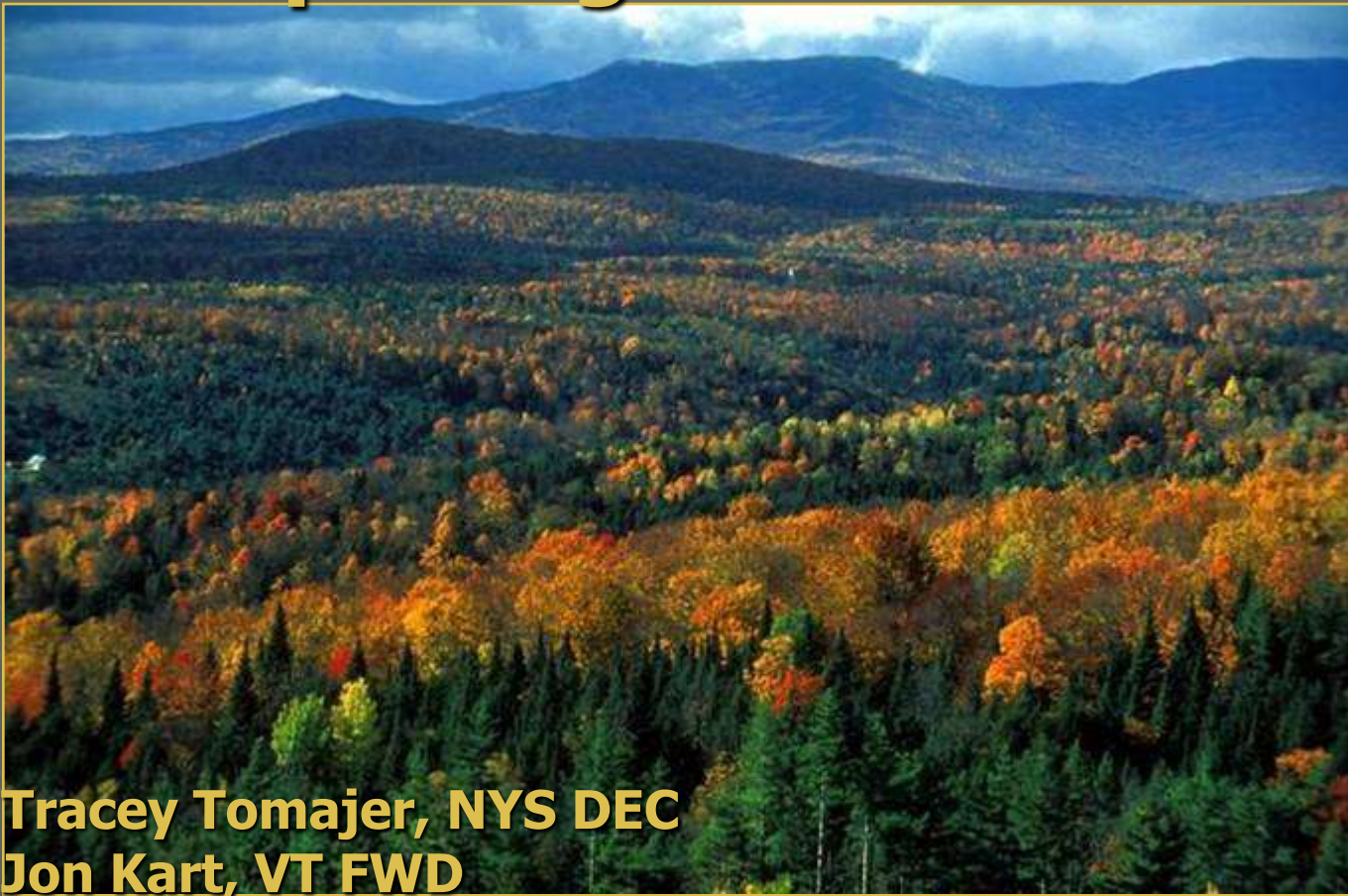


A Northeast Monitoring & Performance Measures Reporting Framework



Tracey Tomajer, NYS DEC
Jon Kart, VT FWD

Wildlife Action Plans (aka CWCS)

A milepost in the maturation of wildlife conservation...

...agencies moving from conservation/ mgmt of abundant and R,T&E species, to all wildlife conservation



Statewide Conservation Blueprints



- Action Plans not just for Fish & Wildlife Agencies
- Require the participation of local, regional and state-wide agencies, NGOs, municipalities, individuals and more
- Beyond states: Action Plans adopted by DOD, NRCS, USGS, USFWS...

The Great Promise of Action Plans & State Wildlife Grants

“The nation’s core program
for keeping wildlife from
becoming endangered”

“Our investment in wildlife &
natural places now, before
they become more rare and
more costly to protect”

“Keeping common species
common”



Great Promises Produce Great Expectations



USFWS, Interior Dept,
Congress, & Office of
Management & Budget
now expect effective,
cost-efficient outcomes

Wildlife Action Plan

Monitoring Requirements

(Element 5)

1. Species of Greatest Conservation Need Status
2. Habitats for Species of Greatest Need
3. Effectiveness of Conservation Actions



State Action Plan Monitoring Targets



- Individual species, indicators, & guilds
- Habitats, natural communities & landscapes
- Threats
- Actions

How will your state meet these obligations?

- Do you have sufficient funds and staff to monitor *and* implement your Action Plan?
- Can your state afford to monitor wide-ranging & rare SGCN with sufficient rigor?
- Reporting “acres & miles” no longer acceptable
- Will Congress wait for slow responding SGCN & habitats?



Wildlife Action Plan

Regional Implementation Grants



- NFWF grant
- Regional F&W Associations invited to submit proposals
- NEAFWA met in March 2006 to identify top six regional implementation projects
- Two ultimately submitted—and funded: Regional Habitat Classification & Monitoring/ Performance Measurement

Benefits of a Regional Framework

- Multi-state monitoring may be vital to conservation success for rare & wide-ranging species
- Region-wide data increases sample sizes and the power to detect population or condition changes



Benefits of a Regional Framework



- Economies of scale will make some data collection and analyses more affordable
- Standardized protocols and measures improve our ability to compare strategies and program effectiveness

Benefits of a Regional Framework

- A standardized framework—a common set of indicators & measures—will simplify and speed up reporting



Regional Framework: Getting Started



- NY “volunteered” to lead project on behalf of NEAFWA
- 1-year (2007) grant \$72,000
- Foundations of Success as Framework contractor
- Survey of state monitoring & reporting programs
- Website in development

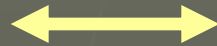
Steering Committee

- Tracey Tomajer – NYS Dept. Environmental Cons.
- Jon Kart – VT Fish & Wildlife Dept
- Dave Day – PA Fish & Boat Commission
- Dan Brauning– PA Game Commission
- Steve Fuller – NH Fish & Game
- Becky Gwynn – VA-Dept Game Inland Fisheries
- George Matula – ME Dept Inland Fisheries/Wildlife
- Jonathan Mawdsley – Heinz Center
- Brian Stenquist – Organization of Wildlife Planners
- Dan Lambert – American Bird Conservancy
- Genevieve Pullis-Larouche – USFWS
- Dave Chadwick - AFWA

Balancing Acts

Broad scale monitoring, and particularly performance measurement, are inherently top-down activities. Tradeoffs are inevitable:

Growing need for evaluative data/adaptive info and multiple endpoints of Action Plans



Limited funds and staffing

The need to compare across programs and across states



Responding to local conditions

The benefits of putting our work in larger context



Focusing on our state's issues

Project Focus

- Decision to focus first on performance measurement
- Decision to focus first on terrestrial & freshwater elements of state's Action Plans
- Primary target audiences: Congress and OMB



Regional Framework

- NOT intended to replace individual state monitoring
- No new data will be collected in developing this framework
- The Framework will include recommendations for Status *AND* effectiveness measures
- First step in approximately a 5-year process



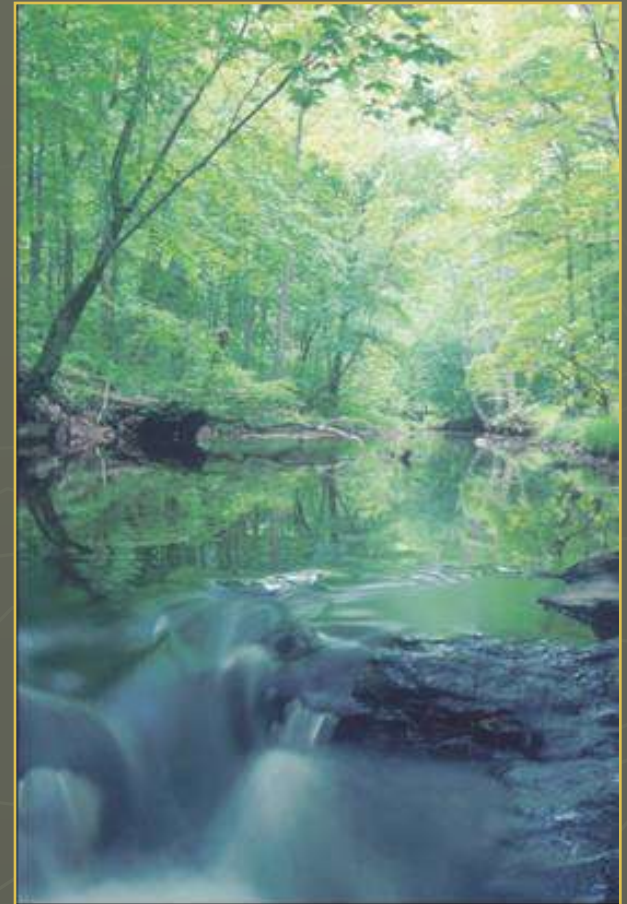
Next Steps



1. Convene states and partners to identify draft targets and explore indicators
2. Technical Advisory Committee (in development) meets (Sept) to complete a draft framework
3. States/partners review/finalize framework
4. Final technical report to states
5. The Framework will provide a template for reporting to Congress & USFWS, etc.

Vision of Regional Framework

- Standardized monitoring and measurement protocols
- Suitable, practical, and cost-effective indicators
- Existing data sets/programs at a landscape level
- Data gaps
- Data collection/management standards
- Serve as a national model for regional collaboration and coordination



Project Success

- Participation and support of all states, NEAFWA, and AFWA
- Communication with the NE Habitat Classification and mapping project
- Partnerships with NGOs, academia, and federal agencies
- Collaboration on regional/multi-state projects and resources

Northeast Monitoring & Performance Reporting Framework



Our common goals will allow us to develop a framework that meets our multiple shared needs