

WORKING DRAFT Strategic Outline Table of Next Steps for the  
NEAFWA Landscape Wildlife Conservation Committee  
(Recommended Subset of Next Steps for Initial Focus on last two pages)

Fall 2023-2024 (November 2023 Version)

Category	Subcategory	Task	Who	When
<b>1) Maintain, Strengthen and Coordinate NEAFWA Landscape Wildlife Conservation Committee</b>	a) Executive Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue weekly check in meetings with Coordinator and ad hoc meetings as needed.</li> </ul>	EC, Coord	Weekly, as needed
	b) Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly (and as needed) virtual Steering Committee meetings with Coordinator and Working Group.</li> </ul>	SC, WG, Coord	Quarterly, Next Meetings October 2023, January 2024
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include Steering Committee Representation on landscape/watershed partnerships (Dave Golden appointed to Highlands Conservation Act partnership, consider others).</li> </ul>	SC	2023
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider inclusion of other partners in Steering Committee potentially USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit/Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center member.</li> </ul>	SC	2023 Fall Directors Meeting/2024 NEAFWA meeting
	c) Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have regular bi-weekly and as needed meetings with coordinator.</li> <li>Annual self-evaluation of progress and needs to improve effectiveness</li> </ul>	WG, Coord	Biweekly
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing check in and feedback by members with their Associations, Committees and Programs represented</li> </ul>	WG	At relevant Association, Committee and Program meetings
	d) Partnership Committee (proposed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider development of a northeast landscape partnership committee to share NEAFWA landscape priorities and get input and increase collaboration with</li> </ul>	EC, SC, WG	2023-2024 Discuss with Executive and Winter 2024.

Category	Subcategory	Task	Who	When
		additional partners and partnerships. Consider model of Midwest Landscape Initiative Technical Committee. As a first step, scope out potential membership and purpose with Working Group then Steering Committee		Steering Committee Input from NEFAA, NEWAA, NEFWDC
	e) Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate need and consider additional agency and/or contract staff support including technical support, project development, administration, outreach (see barriers under funding category below)</li> </ul>	EC, FWS SA, WSFR	2023-2024
<b>2) Coordinate with NEAFWA, AFWA, other regional AFWA landscape partnerships and other key regional partnerships</b>	<u>NEAFWA</u> a) Directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief Directors at Fall and Spring Director's meeting and as needed.</li> </ul>	EC, SC	October 31- November 2 Directors meeting, Portsmouth, NH
	<u>NEAFWA</u> b) NEFAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape Conservation session/discussion at Joint NEFAA/NEWAA fall meeting, NEAFWA spring meeting.</li> </ul>	WG, Coord.	Fall, 2023; Spring 2024
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and map potential restoration projects for priority fish species and associated habitats in priority landscapes building on state, Service and partner tools including Regional Conservation Synthesis</li> </ul>	NEFAA, Rivers and Streams Comm., NEFWDC	2023-2024
	<u>NEAFWA</u> c) NEWAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape Conservation session/discussion at Joint NEFAA/NEWAA fall meeting, NEAFWA spring meeting.</li> </ul>	WG, Coord.	Fall, 2023, Spring 2024
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and map potential restoration projects for priority wildlife species and associated habitats in priority landscapes</li> </ul>	NEWAA, Habitat, Upland	2023-2024

Category	Subcategory	Task	Who	When
		building on state, Service and partner tools including Regional Conservation Synthesis	Gamebird, NEFWDC	
	<u>NEAFWA</u> <i>d) NEFWDC</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing coordination of landscape and RSGCN conservation and RCN projects on NEFWDC calls/meetings</li> </ul>	WG, Coord, NEFWDC	Regular calls/meetings Fall 2023 meeting, NEAFWA spring meeting
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider incorporating NEAFWA landscape conservation section into existing Fish and Wildlife Diversity website (see outreach below)</li> </ul>	WG, Coord NEFWDC	2023-2024
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and map potential restoration projects for RSGCN species and associated habitats in priority landscapes (building on existing and planned RCN, Regional Conservation Synthesis and other NEFWDC work, <a href="http://northeastwildlifediversity.org">northeastwildlifediversity.org</a>)</li> </ul>	WG, Coord NEFWDC	2023-2024
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinator participation in SWAP Coordinators calls as needed; Discuss landscape conservation needs and Landscape Committee support for 2025 SWAP updates.</li> </ul>	WG, Coord, NEFWDC SWAP Coord.	2023-2024
	<u>NEAFWA</u> <i>e) Other Committees/Associations associated with habitat restoration/conservation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage existing Habitat, Upland Gamebird, Rivers and Streams and other NEAFWA committees and Associations regarding priorities, issues and projects associated with habitat restoration and conservation</li> </ul>	WG, Coord	2023-2024 Fall 2023 meetings, NEAFWA spring meeting
	<u>AFWA</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in and provide updates for <i>Joint Task Force</i> meetings</li> </ul>	EC, Coord	next meeting art AFWA in Calgary

Category	Subcategory	Task	Who	When
	<i>f) National Landscape Conservation Joint Task Force</i>			(September 23, 2023); Grand Rapids March 2024
	<u>AFWA</u> <i>g) Midwest Landscape Initiative (MLI)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in MLI meetings/calls to facilitate coordination across regions. Utilize species Watchlist deferral to other regions.</li> </ul>	Coord	next MLI meeting (Oct 24-26, 2023)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with MLI on conservation planning with NWRs and WMAs for Northern Forest IRA.</li> </ul>	Coord. NWRs State WMAs	2023-2024
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with MLI on Appalachian landscape and Appalachia Keystone Initiative.</li> </ul>	Coord	2023 and ongoing
	<u>AFWA</u> <i>h) Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in SECAS meetings/calls to facilitate coordination across regions. Utilize species Watchlist deferral to other regions.</li> </ul>	Coord, common SC members (VA, WV)	SECAS calls, SECAS Summit
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with SECAS on Appalachian landscape and Appalachia Keystone Initiative.</li> </ul>	Coord, EC	2023, ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with SECAS on Atlantic Coast landscape and Salt Marsh Keystone Initiative.</li> </ul>	Coord, EC	2023, ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess conservation design/blueprint overlap and connection between Southeast Conservation Blueprint Midwest Conservation Blueprint and Natures Network. (see conservation planning below)</li> </ul>	Coord, FWS SA	2023, ongoing
	<i>i) Key Regional Partnerships</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect and maintain relationships with key regional species and habitat partnerships including: <i>Atlantic Coast Joint Venture</i> <i>Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture</i></li> </ul>	Coord, WG, SC	ongoing

Category	Subcategory	Task	Who	When
		<p><i>Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture</i>  <i>Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership</i>  <i>Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation</i>  <i>Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society</i>  <i>New England Cottontail Technical Committee,</i>  <i>Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative</i>  <i>Others as determined by Working Group</i></p>		
<p><b>3) Coordinate Landscape Conservation in High Priority Landscapes</b></p>	<p>a) Atlantic Coast: Coastal Resiliency and Coastal Habitat Restoration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop full multistate proposal to 2023 America the Beautiful Challenge.</li> </ul>	<p>State applicants, Coord</p>	<p>Submitted July 20, 2023</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop multistate preproposal to America the Beautiful Challenge for 2024 round ahead of and/or after RFP.</li> </ul>	<p>State applicants, Coord</p>	<p>RFP, early spring 2024</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with DOI Salt Marsh Keystone Initiative.</li> </ul>	<p>Coord, FWS staff, EC</p>	<p>Summer-Fall 2023</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize project and partner information and atlas complementing ACJV SALS salt marsh restoration tools.</li> </ul>	<p>Coord, FWS staff, WG</p>	<p>2023-2024</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close coordination with Atlantic Coast Joint Venture.</li> </ul>	<p>Coord</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with NOAA on CRRC, Transformational Habitat Restoration</li> </ul>	<p>Coord, WG</p>	<p>2023, 2024</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek other federal funding for coastal habitat restoration.</li> </ul>	<p>Coord, FWS staff, WG</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize information on RSGCN and At-Risk species that could benefit including from RSGCN Database and Regional Synthesis (diamondback terrapin, shorebirds, other spp., <a href="http://northeastwildlifediversity.org">northeastwildlifediversity.org</a>)</li> </ul>	<p>Coord, FWS staff, WG, NEFWDC</p>	<p>2023-2024</p>

Category	Subcategory	Task	Who	When
	b) Appalachian Corridor Highlands and Streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop full multistate proposal to 2023 America the Beautiful Challenge.</li> </ul>	State applicants, Coord	Submitted July 20, 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop multistate preproposal to America the Beautiful Challenge for 2024 round ahead of and/or after RFP.</li> </ul>		State applicants, Coord	RFP, early spring 2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with Appalachia Keystone Initiative. Works with FWS programs and state partners to identify and submit project proposals.</li> </ul>		Coord, FWS staff, EC	Summer-Fall 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize project and partner information and atlas.</li> </ul>		Coord, FWS staff, WG	2023-2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close coordination with Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture</li> </ul>		Coord	ongoing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage relevant public and private forest management partners and partnerships and forest product markets.</li> </ul>		Coord, WG, Habitat and Upland Game Bird Committee	2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek other federal funding for Appalachian habitat restoration.</li> </ul>		Coord, FWS staff, WG	ongoing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize information on RSGCN and At-Risk species that could benefit (<a href="http://northeastwildlifediversity.org">northeastwildlifediversity.org</a>).</li> </ul>		Coord, FWS staff, WG, NEFWDC	2023-2024	
<b>4) Coordinate Landscape Conservation in Other NEAFWA Priority Landscapes</b>	a) River, Stream and Watershed Restoration (Source to the Sea) A) Aquatic Connectivity, B) Riparian & Floodplain Restoration C), Conservation of Freshwater Mussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with Rivers and Streams Committee on potential projects</li> <li>Coordinate among risk turtle, freshwater mussel and aquatic connectivity teams.</li> <li>Identify projects benefitting all three restoration categories.</li> <li>Organize information on priority locations and projects including from the Regional Conservation Synthesis.</li> </ul>	Coord, FWS staff, WG, NEFWDC, Rivers and Streams Technical Committee	2023-2024

Category	Subcategory	Task	Who	When
	b) Appalachian and Northern Forests A) Young Forest/Early successional B) Mature forest C) Restoration of Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate Northern Forest Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) conservation planning and implementation. Engage relevant public and private forest management partners and partnerships and forest product markets. Coordinate with the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture.</li> </ul>	Coord, FWS staff, State WMAs	2023-2024
	c) Pine Barrens, Grasslands and other Xeric Habitats and Dependent Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build on NEFWDC and FWS At Risk ongoing barren habitat restoration, surveys and projects.</li> </ul>	WG, NEFWDC	Ongoing
	d) Support and Coordination for Watershed and Other Delivery Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate watershed and landscape conservation planning and design including from Regional Conservation Synthesis.</li> <li>Align watershed and landscape and regional priorities.</li> <li>Consider NEAFWA representation on leadership teams (see specific watersheds/landscapes below).</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, SC, FWS SA	Ongoing
	<i>Delaware River Watershed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate watershed and landscape conservation planning and design including from Regional Conservation Synthesis.</li> <li>Align watershed and landscape and regional funding priorities.</li> <li>Consider NEAFWA representation on leadership team.</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, SC, FWS SA	Ongoing
	<i>Chesapeake Bay Watershed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate watershed and landscape conservation planning and design including from Regional Conservation Synthesis.</li> <li>Align watershed and landscape and regional funding priorities.</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, SC, FWS SA	Ongoing

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider NEAFWA representation on leadership team.</li> </ul>		
	<i>Highlands</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with Appalachian Highlands and Streams priority landscape.</li> <li>Align watershed and landscape and regional funding priorities.</li> <li>NEAFWA representation on leadership team (Dave Golden appointed).</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, SC, FWS SA	Ongoing
	<i>Connecticut River Watershed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in watershed partnership development and “Special Resource Study”.</li> <li>Align watershed and landscape and regional priorities.</li> <li>Consider NEAFWA representation on partnership development team and future leadership team (Todd Richards on planning team)</li> <li>Participate in partnership workshop.</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, SC, FWS	Ongoing
	<i>New York-New Jersey Watershed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Track progress on legislation (New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act) and consider role for NEAFWA.</li> <li>Align watershed and landscape and regional priorities.</li> <li>Consider NEAFWA representation on partnership development team and future leadership team</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, SC, FWS	Ongoing
	<i>Gulf of Maine</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore alignment of priorities for Coastal and Appalachian Priority Landscapes with Gulf of Maine partners and initiatives.</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, SC, NEAFWA	Ongoing
	<i>Great Lakes/Lake Champlain</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities to align NEAFWA priorities through Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Great Lakes Fishery Commission and other Great Lakes initiatives</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, SC, NEAFWA NEFAA	Ongoing

Category	Subcategory	Task	Who	When
	<i>Northeast One Health Initiative: Wildlife Disease Monitoring, Response, Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with Regional Fish and Wildlife Health Coordinator on relevant landscape conservation actions.</li> <li>Identify pilot landscape/one health projects.</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, SC, NEAFWA Northeast One Health Coord.	Ongoing
<b>5) Increase Outreach and Communications with a Broad Range of Partners</b>	a) Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options for new website modeled on MLI (<a href="https://www.mlimidwest.org/">https://www.mlimidwest.org/</a>).</li> <li>Explore options for building landscape conservation into the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity website and web-enabled Regional Conservation Synthesis to ensure coordinated messages (<a href="https://northeastwildlifediversity.org/">https://northeastwildlifediversity.org/</a>).</li> <li>Outline content and purpose.</li> <li>Explore options for funding.</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, FWS NEFWDC DJ Case or other contractor.	2023-2024
	b) Regular email updates to NEAFWA and partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send out formatted quarterly or bi-monthly Northeast Landscape email updates to NEAFWA &amp; FWS Directors, Associations, Committees, Programs and Teams.</li> <li>Utilize new <i>Adobe Campaign</i> software</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, EC, FWS EA	Quarterly, ongoing
	c) Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present information on Northeast Landscape Conservation Initiative as requested by partners, partnerships, associations and committees at meetings and conferences. Develop set presentation for use by Working Group and Steering Committee members and others.</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, SC	ongoing
	d) Regional Landscape Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore need and feasibility of a regional conservation meeting bringing together state federal and other partners working</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, EC, SC, NEFAA,	2024?

Category	Subcategory	Task	Who	When
		on strategic landscape and species conservation.	NEWAA, NEFWDC	
<b>6) Seek and coordinate funding for priority regional and landscape scale conservation projects</b>	a) America the Beautiful Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with AFWA Landscape Conservation Joint Task force to support regional AFWA priorities through this program.</li> <li>Develop and submit multi-state landscape scale preproposal and proposal suites.</li> <li>Work on out-year proposals before RFP.</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, EC	Consistent with grant deadlines, prepare ahead of anticipated March 2024 RFP
	b) Department of the Interior Keystone Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regional leadership and other DOI agencies on potential projects to align regional landscape priorities with Keystone Initiatives and overall DOI Ecosystem Restoration.</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, EC	Consistent with KI Team timeline
	<i>Appalachia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in Appalachia Keystone Initiative Team on NEAFWA landscape and priorities</li> <li>Compile and provide specific potential projects that align with the Keystone Initiative Goals</li> <li>Overlay areas impacted by mining and wells with restoration priorities.</li> <li>Develop atlas of priority areas and potential projects.</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, EC	Consistent with KI Team timeline
	<i>Salt Marsh</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in Salt Marsh Keystone Initiative Team and Salt Marsh Sparrow Executive Committee.</li> <li>Identify opportunities to address additional RSGCN and At-Risk species including Atlantic shorebirds (American Oystercatcher and others) diamondback terrapin and river herring building on Regional Conservation Synthesis</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, EC	Consistent with KI Team timeline

Category	Subcategory	Task	Who	When
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compile and provide specific potential projects that align with the Keystone Initiative.</li> </ul>		
	c) Watershed/landscape funding programs in the region (funded and proposed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate NEAFWA regional priorities (including from Regional Conservation Synthesis) into funded and proposed watershed/landscape programs and criteria in the region including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Delaware River Basin Conservation Act</i> (funded)</li> <li>○ <i>Chesapeake WILD</i> (funded)</li> <li>○ <i>Highlands Conservation Act</i> (funded, being revised)</li> <li>○ <i>New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act</i> (introduced)</li> <li>○ <i>Connecticut River Watershed Conservation Act</i> (introduced)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Coord, WG, FWS SA, SC, NEAFWA	ongoing
	d) Coordinate with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) on other programs in NEAFWA Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief and coordinate with NFWF on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program</i></li> <li>○ <i>Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund</i></li> <li>○ <i>Long Island Sound Futures Fund</i></li> <li>○ <i>National Coastal Resilience Fund</i></li> <li>○ <i>Northeast Forests and Rivers Fund</i></li> <li>○ Others?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Coord, WG	2023-2024
	e) Coordinate with other Federal Agency Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities for multistate proposals with U.S Department of Agriculture               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife</i></li> <li>○ <i>NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Coord, WG, SC?	2023-2024

Category	Subcategory	Task	Who	When
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>USFS State and Private Forestry Program</i></li> <li>○ <i>NRCS/USFS Joint Chiefs Program</i></li> <li>● Explore opportunities for multistate proposals with U.S Department of Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program</i></li> <li>○ <i>National Culvert Removal, Replacement &amp; Restoration Grants</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Explore coordinated NEAFWA opportunity through NOAA grant programs including Transformational grants</li> <li>● Explore other relevant federal funding</li> </ul>		
	f) Identify and address barriers for state agencies in applying for and administering federal funding and participating in landscape scale projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consider Working Group subcommittee or separate team for focus on barrier and solutions.</li> <li>● Request input from state agency federal aid coordinators on barriers to applying for additional federal grant funding especially for landscape-scale multi-state projects.</li> <li>● Consult with agency habitat restoration practitioners on barriers and needs that committee can help address.</li> <li>● Ask USFWS Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program to support evaluation and summarize state capacity trends, needs, and challenges for managing federal funding.</li> <li>● Highlight issues with federal agencies, NFWF and other grantors.</li> <li>● Work with grantors to modify grant programs for multi-state projects.</li> </ul>	WG, SC, WSFR, NEAFWA, (Federal Aid Coord., NEFAA, NEWAA, NFWDC, other committees)	2023-2024

Category	Subcategory	Task	Who	When
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider NGO and contract capacity for developing and managing projects.</li> <li>• Work on solutions to capacity and other barriers identified.</li> </ul>		
<b>7) Coordinate Regional and Landscape Conservation Planning/Design</b>	a) Compile and organize existing information and assess needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compile clearinghouse/atlas accessible to partners of available conservation designs and tools to support conservation in priority landscapes including from Regional Conservation Synthesis.</li> <li>• Incorporate <i>2023 Conservation Status of Natural Habitats in The Northeast</i></li> <li>• Identify priority conservation planning and design needs building on existing tools.</li> <li>• Evaluate use and updates and changes for Natures Network and components.</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, FWS SA NEFWDTC, NEFAA, NEWAA	2023-2024
	b) Coordinate planning and designs across regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with SECAS and MLI on regional blueprints.</li> <li>• Coordinate/Support for watershed/landscape scale designs.</li> <li>• Explore integration/overlap (“feathering the edges”) of Southeast Conservation Blueprint and Natures Network.</li> <li>• Explore integration of Midwest Conservation Blueprint and Natures Network in the Northern Forest.</li> </ul>	Coord, WG, FWS SA in Northeast, Southeast and Midwest	2023-2024

## **Recommended Subset of Next Steps for Initial Focus for Consideration by NEAFWA Landscape Wildlife Conservation Committee**

### **Identify and address barriers for state agencies in applying for and administering federal funding and participating in landscape scale projects**

- Establish Working Group subcommittee or separate team to focus on barriers and solutions
- Input from state agency federal aid coordinators on barriers to applying for additional federal grant funding for landscape-scale multi-state projects.
- Consult agency habitat restoration practitioners on barriers and needs that committee can help address.
- Ask USFWS WSFR Program to support evaluation and summarize state capacity trends, needs, and challenges for managing federal funding.
- Work with federal agencies, NFWF & other grantors to modify grant programs for multi-state projects.
- Consider NGO and contract capacity for developing and managing projects.

### **Increasing communication and outreach through a website and regular formatted email newsletters**

- Explore options and funding for new standalone regional landscape website modeled on MLI
- Consider options for aligning landscape conservation into the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity website and Regional Conservation Synthesis to ensure coordinated messages
- Send out formatted quarterly or bi-monthly Northeast Landscape email updates to NEAFWA & FWS Directors, Associations, Committees, Programs and Teams via *Adobe Campaign* or similar program

### **Consider a partnership committee to bring other partners to the table for their input at a technical level; and consider including others in the Steering Committee**

- Consider development of a northeast landscape partnership technical committee to share NEAFWA landscape priorities and get input and increase collaboration with additional partners and partnerships.
- Scope out potential membership and purpose with Working Group then Steering Committee
- Consider inclusion of USGS and others in Steering Committee

### **Address the relationship and align priorities between the NEAFWA regional landscape work with watershed and other delivery partnerships and funding in region**

Integrate NEAFWA regional landscape priorities into funded and proposed watershed/landscape programs and criteria in the region including:

- Delaware River Basin Conservation Act (funded)
- Chesapeake WILD (funded)
- Highlands Conservation Act (funded, being revised)
- New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act (introduced)
- Connecticut River Watershed Conservation Act (introduced, partnership committee)
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (existing)
- Gulf of Maine partnerships

**Continue to seek funding through the America the Beautiful Challenge and DOI Keystone Initiatives while working with the most relevant other federal funding programs**

- Work with AFWA Landscape Conservation Joint Task force to support regional AFWA priorities through AtB
- Develop and submit AtB multi-state landscape scale preproposal and proposal suites. (Work on out-year proposals before RFP)
- Work with USFWS and other DOI agencies on potential projects for Keystone Initiatives and overall DOI Ecosystem Restoration funding.
- Meet with other federal agencies funding restoration: USDA NRCS, USFS, NOAA, DOT & others
- Brief and coordinate with NFWF

**Organize atlas of available focus areas and prioritization tools and assess conservation designs including integration between designs in the Northeast, Southeast and Midwest.**

- Compile atlas accessible to partners of available conservation designs and tools to support conservation in priority landscapes (including from Regional Conservation Synthesis)
- Coordinate/Support for watershed/landscape scale designs
- Assess northeast regional scale conservation design options including Natures Network
- Explore integration/overlap (“feathering the edges”) of Southeast Conservation Blueprint, Midwest Conservation Blueprint and Natures Network and/or other Northeast designs