

Proposal for remainder RCN funds:

# Additional support to facilitate state SWAP data delivery and population of the RCN Regional Database

In support of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies identifying regional priorities through centralized access to 14 NE SWAP data

## Need:

The goal of this project is to facilitate and support regional collaboration on shared priorities identified in state wildlife action plans by compiling key information from the remaining NEAFWA Wildlife Action Plans in a database with simple query and report functions. This effort will allow identification of regional patterns and priorities of species of greatest conservation need, habitats, threats and conservation actions. This work was initiated in 2014/2105, but states have been unable to provide their specific information to the regional system in the format that was initially envisioned.

## Objectives:

This \$25,000 enhancement to the current project will allow contractor to work with individual states to resolve compatibility issues between the regional standard and state level data so it can be included in the analyses and database.

## Expected Results and Benefits:

Regional priority species, habitats, threats and actions are identified from State SWAPS. This database allows the NEFWDC to identify the priority species, habitats, threats, and actions that were most commonly cited in NE SWAPS. States can then further prioritize and implement key regional actions to address key regional threats.

NEAFWA State Agency programs can query all NE SWAPS for which data were received in one easily accessible database to find and compare priority species, habitat, threats and actions with those listed in their state. The database is designed to allow users to search for a species by taxa and to review its status in each state. Threats specific to that species and the habitats in which it is found can also be reviewed along with any proposed conservation actions. This allows state wildlife managers, their partners, and stakeholders a convenient method to share their Wildlife Action Plan data. This will lead to increased coordination of efforts to monitor species populations and address threats to those species and habitats.

States can work together on these identified priority actions and share them with partners to leverage additional resources for further implementation through partnerships at both the state and regional levels, such as Competitive State Wildlife Grants, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, Atlantic Coast

Joint Venture and other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant programs, U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service, etc.

This effort will allow identification of regional patterns and priorities of species of greatest conservation need, habitats, threats and conservation actions, further informing the NEAFWA RCN initiative and its priorities. States can work together on these identified priority actions and share them with partners for further implementation through partnerships at both the state and regional levels.

### Approach:

1. A new, streamlined database is developed with key SWAP fields for the 4 essential elements
2. Simplified forms are developed for states to enter data
3. Assistance to states to compatibly format and export their data
4. Data entry into the regional database; provide QA/QC for data consistency/clean up
5. NEFWDC members work with their respective state database and SWAP staff to send their SWAP data in the requested format.

Key fields for the 4 SWAP elements of species, habitats, threats and actions were developed using the NE Lexicon (Crisfield and the NEFWDC 2013) and the Synthesis (Terwilliger and NEFWDC 2013) based on the RCN habitat classification projects (Anderson et al 2011 and 2013, Gawler 2008, and Olivero and Anderson 2008) as well as the Northeast Regional Conservation Framework (Riexinger et al 2007). This allows states to more easily assemble and export their data in the proper format in a more condensed data request that most state agencies have capacity to provide.

The Northeast Region Wildlife Action Plan Database is designed to capture and analyze Elements 1 through 4 of the region's fourteen Wildlife Action Plans. Thirteen states and D.C. were contacted and asked to provide data from their Wildlife Action Plans. The data requested included species of greatest conservation concern, key habitats, and the threats and actions affecting those species and habitats. Currently, species data have been received from D.C. and all thirteen states. Habitat, threat, and action data (in different stages of completion) have been received from 10 states (CT, DE, MA, ME, NH, NY, PA, WV, VA, MD). NJ and DC promise to deliver data asap and several states (MD, MA, VA, WV) have additional work to provide compatible formatted data. The database contractor is working directly with these states to provide customized data entry and edit tools.

### Deliverables:

- Immediate, additional assistance to states whose data are incompatible or incomplete to convert/import to the regional database, with the development of customized data entry interfaces for the remaining states
- Built-in standard queries and reports
- Preliminary reports of regional priority species, habitats, threats and conservation actions
- Final version of the regional database will be housed on the North Atlantic LCC website. A completed, streamlined database will be populated with key state SWAP data and delivered by December 31, 2017.

Cost: \$25,000 RCN funding to cover final 2016 expenses

Cost will cover contractor costs to provide technical assistance to states, develop built-in standardized queries and reports, and generate preliminary reports of species, habitats, threats and actions.

**Match:** Contractor will provide \$25,000 in-kind match.

	<b>GRANT FUNDS</b>	<b>MATCH*</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b><u>Personal Service Cost</u></b>			
Salaries and/or Wages		\$25,000	
Fringe Benefits			
Personal Service Indirect Cost %			
<b><u>Non-personal Service Cost</u></b>			
Travel			
Equipment			
Supplies & Materials			
Contractual Services	\$25,000		
Other			
Non-personal Indirect Cost___%			
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000

**Match:**

Budget estimates are based on time estimates for tasks and hourly rates (\$135/ and \$150/hour). Consultants are Conservation Biologist Regional Planners with masters level education (or higher) in a related environmental field and a minimum of 10 years’ experience in a related ecological field and strong verbal and written communication skills. Costs associated with time on monthly conference calls (as updates on the project), corresponding and working with states to enter and format their data, the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee Annual Meetings, and has been waived as described in TCI’s letter of support and commitment of match.

**References**

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Crisfield, E. & Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee. (2013) The Northeast Lexicon: Terminology Conventions and Data Framework for State Wildlife Action Plans in the Northeast Region. A report submitted to the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Committee. Terwilliger Consulting, Inc., Locustville, VA.

Gawler, S.C. (2008) Northeastern Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat Classification. Report to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries on Behalf of the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. NatureServe, Boston, MA.

Olivero, A.P. & Anderson, M.G. (2008) Northeast Aquatic Habitat Classification System. The Nature Conservancy in collaboration with the Northeast Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Boston, MA.

Riexinger, P., Whitehurst, D., Kanter, J., Bennett, K., Day, D., Williamson, S., Blanton, D., Elowe, K., Fuller, S. & Milliken, A. (2007) The Northeast Regional Conservation Framework.

Terwilliger Consulting Inc. & Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee. (2013) Taking Action Together: Northeast Regional Synthesis for State Wildlife Action Plans. A report submitted to the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Committee, Locustville, VA.