

Northeast Regional Conservation Needs Program: Topic 10

Geospatial Condition Analysis of Northeast Habitats Based on the Northeast SGCN Habitat Maps

Project Summary

We will evaluate and summarize the current condition of terrestrial and aquatic habitats across a region of thirteen states using newly available region-wide habitat maps of streams (Olivero and Anderson 2008) and terrestrial ecosystems (Ferree and Anderson 2011). Each habitat will be described and characterized as to environmental setting and associated species. To evaluate each habitat, we will overlay compatible datasets relative to factors that elucidate the extent, condition and quality of each habitat. The selection of metrics will build on Anderson and Olivero (2011) and Tomajer et. al. (2008). The metrics will be calculated relative to each habitat type, for example, dams, impervious surfaces and toxic release points for stream systems, or road density, patch size, canopy closure and projected housing density for terrestrial forests. The work will be guided by a science steering committee representing the thirteen states. The committee will also review results and help design the format for the final report.

Oct – Dec 2011: Prepare data sets

Jan-March 2012: Establish team, Develop outline, Characterize habitats

April – June 2012: Begin overlay analysis of terrestrial and freshwater habitats

July –Sept 2012: Continue analysis. Revise data based on feedback. Start Writing

Oct –Dec 2012: Complete analysis and circulate draft report to committee

January 2013: Revise and finalize report

Citations

Ferree C. and Anderson, M.G. 2011. A Terrestrial Habitat Map for the Northeastern United States. The Nature Conservancy, Eastern Conservation Science.

Anderson M.G. and A. Olivero Sheldon, 2011. Conservation Status of Fish, Wildlife and Natural Habitats in the Northeast Landscape: Implementation of the Northeast Monitoring Framework. The Nature Conservancy. Eastern Conservation Science. 289 pp.

Olivero, A., and M.G. Anderson. 2008. The Northeast Aquatic Habitat Classification. The Nature Conservancy, Eastern Conservation Science. 90 pp. <http://www.rcngrants.org/spatialData>

Tomajer T. et al. 2008. Monitoring the Conservation of Fish and Wildlife in the Northeast: A Report on the Monitoring and Performance Reporting Framework for the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies