

Subcommittee Name: Landscape/Habitat

Membership: Mike Daulton, Rene Braud, Rob Manes, Rich Rayhill, Robert Robel, Aimee Delach.

Status of Subcommittee Work:

The subcommittee has begun reviewing tools used to assess and manage wildlife at a landscape level. Briefed on National Audubon Society's Important Bird Areas program and The Nature Conservancy's efforts to develop landscape level maps of fully intact and otherwise valuable landscapes. The subcommittee also has decided to explore the National Wetlands Inventory and the Fish and Wildlife Service's IPAC (Information, Planning, and Consultation) database for endangered species consultations.

The group has devoted significant time and debate to a purpose statement and development of goals. The draft subcommittee purpose is:

- The key purpose of this subcommittee is to assist the full FAC in maintaining an essential and consistent focus on the potential impacts on habitats, particularly on a landscape level.
- Inventory various landscape mapping and analysis tools and other techniques and the methods and parameters by which these tools characterize the status of habitats.
- Evaluate:
 - The accuracy and objectivity of the tools, including their ability to incorporate and characterize individual species' landscape habitat needs, ecologically important landscapes, and cumulative impacts; and
 - The user-friendliness and cost-effectiveness of the tools.
- Produce a statement of needs for development of landscape mapping and analysis tools.
- Based on the subcommittee's findings, develop appropriate recommendations to the full FAC (e.g., standards or processes for acquiring and applying maps and other information and tools), and address varying degrees of scientific rigor in application recommendations.

The subcommittee has discussed the pros and cons of preparing maps and the use of maps, particularly with regard to their use for prioritizing sites, and has agreed that it needs much more time to further discuss these concepts.

The subcommittee recommends to the full FAC that the subcommittee explore this question more extensively and report back to the FAC in July.

Materials for review (discuss any materials you plan on distributing to the group):

- Draft statement of subcommittee purpose
- Summary of presentations, April 1, 2008 Conference Call: Audubon Important Bird Areas and TNC landscape mapping

Identify Next Steps:

- Receive briefings on FWS IPAC system and NWI
- Continue exploring the mapping issue more extensively and report back to the full FAC in July.