

Habitat Connectivity Project Meeting #6 (6/13) Summary

Agendas and more detailed notes can be found under the appropriate core team on the working group webpage: http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/ensp/connectivity_proj.htm.

In the **Mapping** meeting we talked briefly about which terrestrial species to consider in developing the mapping, and the questions related to data availability and species ecology that went out to the species leads of those species. All data is not back yet, but when it is, Gretchen will summarize and send out to the team for review between meetings. We talked again about how a landscape integrity type of approach for the mapping is very appealing and the coding and valuations we use could be informed by other similar projects that have been done in the state including the Pinelands Ecological-Integrity Assessment, Garden State Greenways, Landscape Project, etc. Gretchen will work with biologists in the northern region (as well as anybody else interested) in applying the landscape integrity approach used by Washington in the habitat connectivity analysis of the [Columbia Plateau ecoregion](#) in the Highlands. We will review different options for using a landscape integrity approach to define cores and corridors at the August meeting. We will also discuss open space coverage options to use for the mapping.

In the **Guidance Document** meeting we continued to review federal transportation funding options for implementation work and also continued to flesh out elements to include in an economic feasibility analysis related to the Habitat Connectivity Project. Both funding options for implementation of work related to increasing habitat connectivity and an economic feasibility study are likely components that we'll want to include in the Guidance Document.

And in the **Communication** meeting we brainstormed some snazzier names for the project that didn't have HCP as their acronym. We reviewed a research template to use on the working group website to help inform the group about work going on in the state that relates to this project, and also as a way to potentially facilitate collaboration amongst researchers. We discussed the need for a leader of the Communication team other than Brian and Gretchen and discussed various ideas to explore between meetings for getting more help on some of the tasks that the Communication team has outlined, including the development of a public website for the project. *If anyone in the full working group has an interest in the communications side of this project, please let us know.*

In all of the meetings we also briefly discussed the June 17th webinar 'Addressing Habitat Connectivity in NE Washington forest plan revisions'. It is a good example of how the habitat connectivity analysis can be applied to management plans. The recording and papers mentioned are posted on our working group website: http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/ensp/connectivity_proj.htm under Resources/Listservs Social Media and Webinars/Webinars

The **next set of meetings will be August 20** - we will not be meeting in July. We will meet following the usual schedule at Assunpink:

Mapping: 9:30 – 11:30 am
Guidance Doc: 12 – 2 pm
Communication: 2:30 – 4:30 pm

Thanks!

Gretchen