Remaining Questions for the Core Team
Connecticut River Pilot Core Team Meeting
November 21, 2014, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1) Do we want to use HUC 6 for scaling the selection index?

2) Do we want to use ecological systems subgroups [recently developed] (Kevin will refer to them as groups) or macrogroups [previous system] for scaling IEI?

3) Do we want to target 25% of the landscape for terrestrial species core areas?

4) What combination of aquatic, terrestrial, ecosystem and species core areas should be used for "the" landscape design?

5) Should some version of the "M&M cookie" approach to grouping core areas be used?

6) What approach should be used to incorporate landscape change for both the ecosystem and species core area selection process ?

Conservation Goals for the watershed (ecosystems + species)

1. The Connecticut River watershed sustains a diverse suite of intact, connected, and resilient ecosystems that provide important ecological functions and services that benefit society, such as clean water, flood protection, and lands for farming, forestry, and recreation.
2. The Connecticut River watershed sustains healthy and diverse populations of fish, wildlife, and plant species for the continuing benefit and enjoyment of the public.

Ecosystem Fundamental and Means Objectives

"Fundamental objectives" – objectives that we are trying to achieve (collectively contribute to the overall ecosystem goal):

1. Ensure the existence of a spectrum of ecosystems that encompasses a full range of biodiversity (genetic, species, and natural community) and supports a multitude of ecosystem functions and services.
2. Ensure that ecosystems are of a size and condition, and situated in a landscape context, that will preserve their long-term resilience.
3. Maintain ecosystems in a well-distributed, interconnected network that 1) facilitates short-term movements and long-term range shifts of a diversity of both aquatic and terrestrial species and 2) allows ecological processes such as aquatic flows to operate at large scales.

"Means objectives" – means by which the conservation design helps achieve these fundamental objectives:

1. The conservation design will depict areas of the highest priority ("core areas") that can be considered the most important locations for achieving the fundamental objectives (best or most urgent places to start). However, by themselves they are unlikely to be sufficient to fully achieve the objectives.
2. The conservation design will also depict additional tiers of priority, including priority connections areas or corridors, which collectively contribute to the fundamental objectives.
3. The conservation design will include priorities for management and restoration that over time can enhance ecological value and improve natural processes that link ecosystems.