



# Landscape Conservation Design in the Connecticut River Watershed and Northeast Region

## Discussion on Goals and Objectives

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North Atlantic  Landscape Conservation Cooperative



# *Proposed Starting Point:* Conservation Goals for the Watershed

1. The Connecticut River watershed sustains a diverse suite of intact, connected, and resilient ecosystems that provide important ecological functions that benefit society
2. The Connecticut River watershed sustains healthy and diverse populations of fish, wildlife, and plant species



# Criteria for Objectives

- **S**pecific
- **M**easurable
- **A**ttainable
- **R**ealistic
- **T**ime-sensitive

# Possible Steps in Setting Species Objectives

1. Consider existing national or regional objectives

## Exs.:

American Woodcock – increase populations about 50%

Eastern Brook Trout – ensure healthy populations throughout their historic range

# Possible Steps in Setting Species Objectives

1. Consider existing national or regional objectives
2. Consider feasibility of existing objectives in light of future landscape changes
3. Consider importance of watershed for species
4. Given these considerations, identify quality and quantity of habitat needed
5. Revisit as necessary as multiple species are considered simultaneously

# Possible Steps in Setting Ecosystem Objectives

- Adapt the species steps, as appropriate
- Consider functions/services wish to retain, or recover if lost
  - E.g., habitat for species; clean water; flood control; recreation
- Identify extent, connectedness, and distribution of ecosystems necessary to achieve these functions and services