Terrestrial Ecosystem Core Areas for Review by the Terrestrial / Wetlands Subteam
September 2014 Draft

Name	Core area number and size	Weighting of IEI	Rare communities	Amount of landscape in core areas	Scaling
Scenario 1	Fewer / larger	Weighted	Without	25%	**HUC8**
Scenario 2	Fewer / larger	Weighted	Without	25%	**Full Conn. R. Watershed**
Scenario 3	Fewer / larger	Weighted	Without	25%	Hybrid
Scenario 4	**More / smaller**	Weighted	Without	25%	Hybrid
Scenario 5	Fewer / larger	Weighted	**With**	25%	Hybrid
Scenario 6	Fewer / larger	Weighted	Without	**20%**	Hybrid
Scenario 7	Fewer / larger	Weighted	Without	**30%**	Hybrid
Scenario 8	Fewer / larger	**Unweighted**	Without	25%	Hybrid

Description of Columns:

2. Core area number and size: two variations have been prepared. The "fewer / larger" core area approach starts with the top 5% of the landscape (as scored by UMass IEI and TNC terrestrial resiliency) and then "grows out" these core areas until the amount of the landscape in column 5 (e.g., 25%) is reached. The "more / smaller" core area approach is similar but uses the top 10% of the landscape to grow out into cores. (Minimum size cutoff = 9 acres for the fewer/larger and 4.5 acres for the more/smaller approaches.)

3. Weighting of IEI: two variations. The weighted version reflects higher priority for particular ecosystem types (e.g., floodplain forests) expressed by the team; it also places higher weight on IEI vs. TNC resiliency. The unweighted version places equal weight on ecosystem macrogroups (within IEI) as well as equal weights for IEI and TNC resiliency.

4. Rare communities: two variations. In one option "With," all rare natural communities automatically are "seeds" for core areas. In the "Without" option, rare natural communities are not automatic seeds for core areas, although frequently they do occur in core areas. Note: in the "Without" option, rare natural communities will be incorporated into the design as high priorities with equivalent statue to core areas *after* the connectivity analysis is used to illustrate priority linkages among core areas.

5. Amount of landscape in core areas: three variations. Core areas are grown until they encompass either 20%, 25%, or 30% of the landscape.

6. Scaling: three variations. For "HUC8" scaling, best core areas are identified within each of the 14 HUC8 subwatersheds separately. For "Full Conn. R. Watershed," best core areas are selected across the watershed without regard to which subwatershed they occur in. The "Hybrid" approach represents a combination of these two approaches.