

Landscape-Scale Conservation

Updating and advancing multistate priorities

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



Description: *Landscape-scale conservation* happens when multiple landowners pursue common conservation goals across large blocks of land. Conservation on a landscape scale requires both coordination and a commitment across all types of ownerships—private, State, and Federal. All three branches of the U.S. Forest Service are working together and collaborating with partners to meet shared landscape conservation goals. The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (Northeastern Area) is well positioned and authorized to facilitate landscape-level efforts. Ultimately, landscape-scale conservation allows the Northeastern Area to make the most effective use of resources and program authorities to meet regional conservation goals.

The Northeastern Area's landscape conservation projects support multistate priorities in [State Forest Action Plans](#). Secretary Vilsack's "all-lands" policy and the regional position paper, [Landscape Scale Conservation in the Northeast and Midwest](#), also guide our activities. The position paper, developed jointly by the Northeastern Area, Eastern Region of the National Forest System, Northern Research Station, Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF), and others, describes the basis for collaboration among the signers.

Key Issues:

- Advance multistate priorities expressed in State Forest Action Plans.
- Maintain and enhance forest benefits such as water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest products by facilitating cooperation among multiple landowners across large blocks of land.

Accomplishments:

- Developed comprehensive documents that describe each multistate priority area and issues using information from State Forest Action Plans, updates, and interviews with State forest planners.
- Inventoried Federal landscape-scale conservation (LSC) initiatives. We collaborated with the U.S. Forest Service Eastern Region to develop dynamic maps of priority areas for LSC initiatives in the region.
- Facilitated a workshop with State forest planners at the NAASF Forest Resource Planning Committee meeting. State forest planners discussed multistate priorities and connected to existing LSC initiatives to enhance planning efforts and collaborative project proposals.

Future Direction: The Northeastern Area will identify how to advance specific multistate efforts that achieve our strategic goals, especially where resources can be leveraged for the greatest return on investment. NAASF and State forestry agencies can also use the tools we have developed to identify landscape-scale conservation projects to submit for the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Competitive Allocation Request for Proposals and other grant opportunities.

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