

Project: Critically Evaluating Existing Methods and Supporting a Standardization of Terrestrial and Wetland Habitat Classification and Mapping that Includes Characterization of Climate Sensitive Systems

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Project overview: We will coordinate with partners to provide a systematic comparison of existing habitat classification and mapping products within the footprint of the Northeast Climate Science Center (NECSC), a merged and improved map product as far as possible, an evaluation of habitats vulnerable to climate change within the region, and recommendations for needed improvement in habitat mapping products for the future.

Maps included in project/analysis:

- 1) LandFire - Existing Vegetation Type (EVT); USFS; see Rollins et al. 2006, Rollins 2009
- 2) The Nature Conservancy (TNC); see Ferree and Anderson, 2013
- 3) Southeast GAP (SEGAP); see metadata for SEGAP data layer
- 4) NatureServe (National Map); see Smyth, Drake and Menard 2013

Workshop: Primary target attendees are 1) the producers of the maps, 2) key sponsor participants (NE CSC and NA LCC), and 3) key potential users of the maps. Workshop to be held either at F&W in Hadley, MA or at UMass Amherst in May or June 2014; Approximately 30-40 in person participants and 10-15 remote participants via WebEx.

Workshop Focus: (additional topic recommendations welcome)

- Describe how the existing maps were produced
- Compare mapping targets and outcomes in areas of overlap
- Describe efforts to improve the existing maps & known follow-up projects
- Find out who is using which maps
- Address how to use the existing maps and how to make them better in the future;
- Identify current plans for map revisions;
- What should the next generation maps look like from the perspective of different users;