



Announcing a Partners in Flight Workshop on Conservation Design: Exploring methods for linking bird population goals with spatially-explicit habitat objectives.

When and where: St. Louis, MO 11-13 April 2006.

The goal of the workshop will be to help participants better understand spatial models and other approaches that can be used to develop landscape-level habitat models, bird-habitat association models, and predictive models. We will discuss how to use these models to inform our population estimates, set population goals, and quantify habitat objectives needed to reach those goals. The focus of the workshop will be at the BCR scale. However, the importance of creating models that are scaleable to larger or smaller scales will be addressed.

Discussions among participants will be a key component of this meeting, in addition to presentations by experts who are actively working on landscape-scale modeling applications. The workshop is likely to identify gaps in the current knowledge and modeling approaches that will need to be addressed with future research or development of new technology.

Target Audience – BCR and JV coordinators and their science staff, representatives of PIF and other bird initiatives, researchers involved in various aspects of spatial modeling with interest in applying those approaches to bird populations, government wildlife agency (state and federal) personnel involved in conservation planning and implementation. People working on these issues at other (non-BCR) scales also will benefit from the workshop.

Outcomes/Products - A Partners in Flight publication summarizing the information presented during the workshop and identifying additional information/technological capabilities needed to keep the development of BCR-based population goals and habitat objectives moving forward.

Tentative Agenda:

Day 1

Introduction to the workshop (background, framework, etc.)
GIS-based Habitat Assessment and Landscape Characterization
Methods for Linking Current Bird Distribution/Abundance with Habitat Assessments (Presentations)

Day 2

Methods for Linking Current Bird Distribution/Abundance with Habitat Assessments (Panel/Group discussions)
Projecting Bird Numbers and Habitat Conditions into the Future (Presentations)
Projecting Bird Numbers and Habitat Conditions into the Future (Panel/Group discussions)

Day 3

Applying the Methodologies Discussed to General Habitat Types and Ecoregions (Break-out Groups)
Summation and Thoughts on Where We Go from Here?