

## 2015 Maine Wildlife Action Plan

### Conservation Partner Meeting #2

September 30, 2014

#### Habitat Breakout Session: Uplands

*Facilitators: Mark Stadler (MDIFW), Nate Webb (MDIFW)*

*Notes: Nate Webb (MDIFW)*

Participants: Barry Burgason (MFPC), Tim Bickford (ME Army Nat. Guard), Kelly Boland (USFWS), Andy Cutko (MNAP), Sarah Demers (MDIFW), Molly Doherty (MNAP), Susan Gallo (ME Audubon), Bill Hancock (MDIFW), Shawn Haskell (MDIFW), Alan Hutchinson (FSM), Don Kleiner (MPGA), Kendall Marden (MDIFW), Deb Perkins (NRCS Contractor), Mark Stadler (MDIFW), Jym St. Pierre (Restore), Butch Tripp (MTA), Nate Webb (MDIFW), Andy Whitman (Manomet)

#### Habitat Classification System & SGCN Habitat Association

- Will the database be made available to partners and/or the general public once it is completed?
  - There hasn't been much discussion about this yet, but it should be possible.
  - Several partners expressed that the database would be very useful for their work.
- There is a need to associate habitats with quality and condition (i.e. successional stage). Species that use the same type of habitat often require very different seral stages.
  - This will likely not be possible for the Action Plan update process. This could be a Conservation Action for the future.
- SGCN assignments
  - There is a need to distinguish between 'preferred' and 'occasional' habitat for each species.
  - Also should distinguish between habitat specialists/obligates and generalists.
  - SGCN should be assigned to the greatest level of habitat specificity that is possible. Some species were only assigned to a high level in the habitat system, but it seems that this occurred for several different reasons. The reason should be specified (e.g. lack of knowledge).
  - PDFs of SGCN habitat associations, and the SGCN assigned to each habitat, should be made available to partners for review.

#### Identifying Priority Habitats

- Several approaches and factors that should be considered when identifying priority habitats were discussed, including:
  - The number of P1, P2, and P3 SGCN
  - The population size and distribution of the SGCN associated with the habitat

- Whether or not the habitat is critical for a species' persistence
- Triage: efforts should be prioritized where the potential for conservation success is high
- Habitat quality should be considered...the priority should be on habitats that are relatively intact
- Need to consider the number of landowners impacted

#### Determining the Appropriate Scale for SGCN Distribution

- The consensus was that species distribution should be characterized at the finest scale possible
  - Township for terrestrial systems
  - HUC 8? - for aquatic systems. Could also go finer, if possible.