

Selecting Species for Design of Landscape-scale Conservation: COMMENTS NEEDED ON DRAFT TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

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Federal Areas

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Conservation Challenges

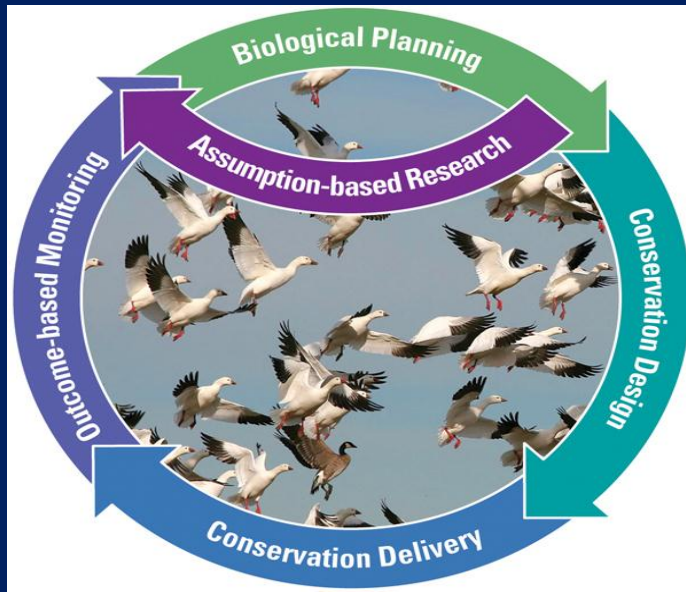
- Climate change
- Development
- Declining budgets
- Economic and fiscal accountability



Credit: Loren Holmes



Strategic Habitat Conservation



Strategic Habitat Conservation

Learn, Adapt, Change

- Biological Planning
 - Conservation Design
 - Conservation Delivery
 - Outcome-based Monitoring
 - Refinements
- ← Surrogate Species

Evaluation



Implementation

Surrogate Species

Species used to represent other species or aspects of the environment (e.g., water quality, habitat condition).



Tim Caro (2010),
Conservation by Proxy

Many types of surrogates

- Umbrella species
- Keystone species
- Indicator species
- Flagship species



DRAFT Technical Guidance on Selecting Species for Design of Landscape-scale Conservation



DRAFT Technical Guidance Steps

- Develop Conservation Objectives
- Choose Scale
- Determine Species in Landscape
- Select Criteria
- Establish Surrogates
- Species Requiring Special Attention
- Set Population Objectives
- Test for Logic and Consistency
- Identify Gaps and Uncertainties
- Monitor Effectiveness



Step 1: Develop the management or conservation objectives



Step 2: Identify geographic scale



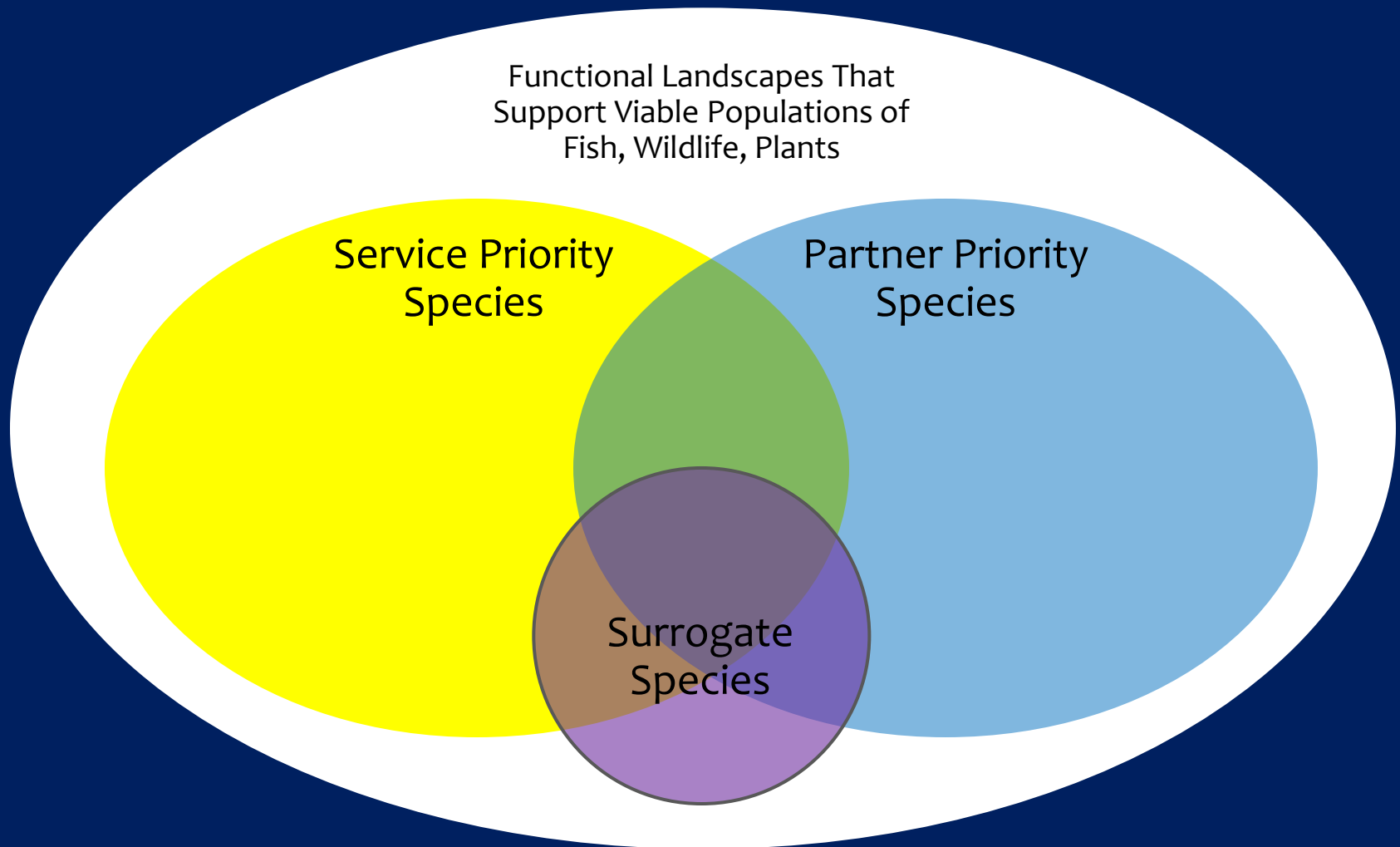
Step 3: Determine which species to consider on the landscape



Step 4: Decide which criteria to use in determining surrogate species



Step 5: Establish Surrogates



Step 6: Identify species requiring special attention



Step 7: Identify population objectives



Step 8: Test for logic and consistency



Step 9: Identify Knowledge gaps and uncertainties



Step 10: Monitoring the effectiveness of the surrogate approach



How will surrogate species selection affect our work?

- Identify and focus on strategic priorities (biological outcomes)
- Connect our conservation delivery to greater biological outcomes at landscape scales
- Increase long-term efficiencies and accountability



Questions/Concerns/Gaps

- Short-term inefficiencies vs. potential long-term pay offs
- Is a broader approach more effective/efficient
- Involves a transformative change within the FWS, culture, capacity
- Importance of partner input and participation
- Need to fill gaps in guidance while maintaining flexibility
- Largely in-tact ecosystems but lack of baseline information

**Draft guidance, background information
and feedback form
can be found at:**

<http://www.fws.gov/landscape-conservation/shc.html>

THANK YOU!!