

# Conservation of At-Risk Species in the Northeast

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A scenic autumn landscape. In the background, a tall, slender tree with green and yellowing leaves stands against a clear blue sky. The foreground is filled with dense, low-lying vegetation, including bushes and grasses, with leaves in various shades of green, yellow, and red. A few fallen logs are visible on the ground.

## Objectives:

- Identify a few more key listing decision points; and
- Describe the at-risk species conservation effort.



# Listing Determination

Endangered Species Act, Section 4(a)(1) - “ \* \* \* shall . . . determine whether any species is an endangered species or a threatened species because of the following factors:

- (A) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
- (B) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
- (C) disease or predation;
- (D) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms;
- (E) other natural or man-made factors affecting the continued existence of the species.”



# Listing Determination

Endangered Species Act, Section 4(b)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act states that the listing decisions will take

“\* \* \* into account those efforts . . . to protect such species \*.”



# Listing Determination

## Policy for the Evaluation of Conservation Efforts (PECE)

- guides our section 4 (b)(1)(A) analysis

### Factors Evaluated

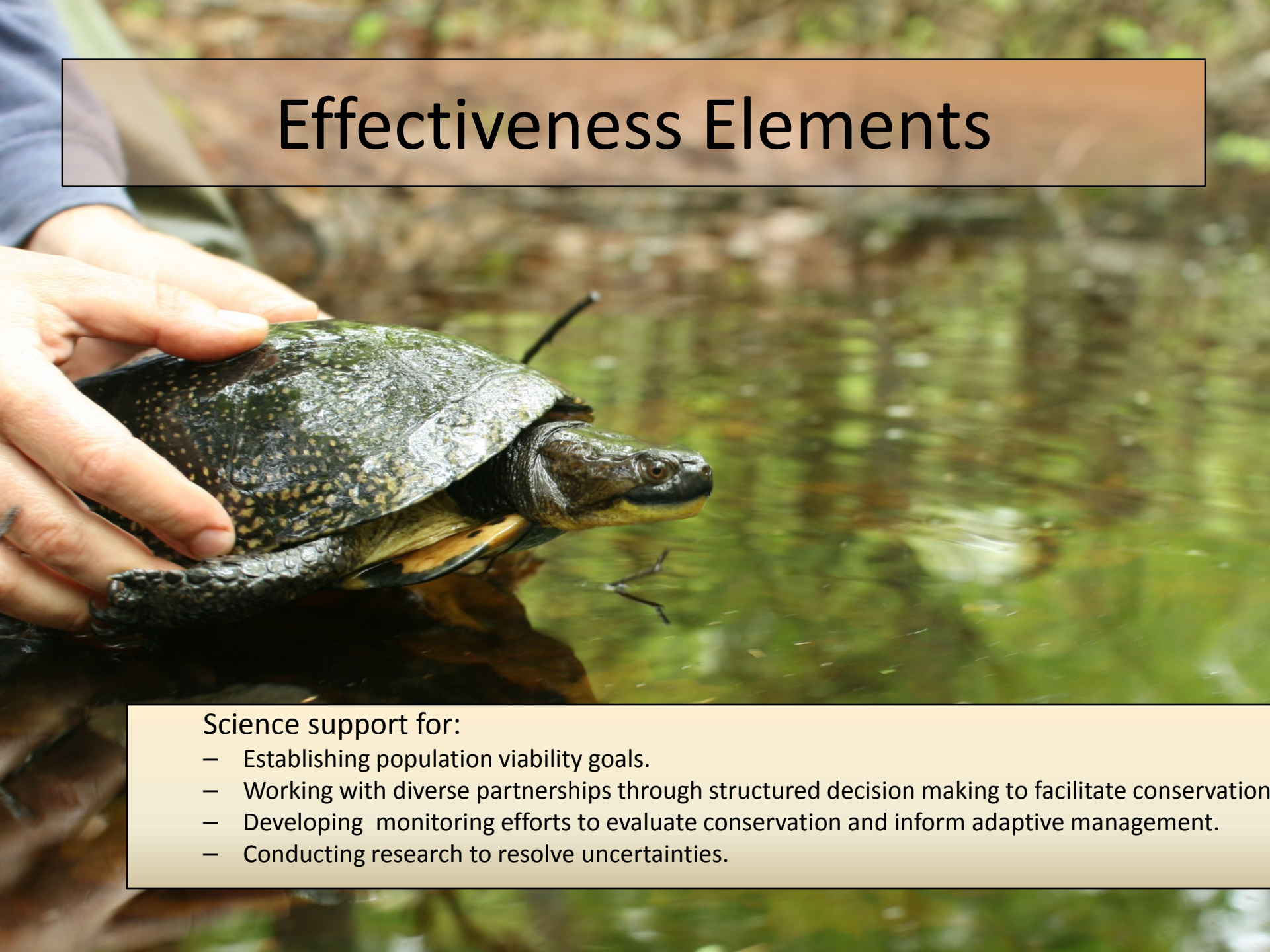
Certainty of Implementation (9 elements)

Certainty of Effectiveness (6 elements)

(68 FR 15100, March 28, 2003)



# Effectiveness Elements



## Science support for:

- Establishing population viability goals.
- Working with diverse partnerships through structured decision making to facilitate conservation
- Developing monitoring efforts to evaluate conservation and inform adaptive management.
- Conducting research to resolve uncertainties.





# Working Together for the New England Cottontail

Search

The New England cottontail needs habitat to survive  
Photo By: D. Fecske/USFWS

## Conservation Strategy for the New England Cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*)

Developed by:  
Steven Fuller, Ph.D.,  
and  
Anthony Tur  
with input from the  
New England Cottontail Technical Committee

Approved  
November 20, 2012

Citation: Fuller, S. and A. Tur. 2012. Conservation Strategy for the New England Cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*)

### Helping Wildlife

We're cutting trees so that shrubs and other plants will grow into a dense "young forest" to help New England cottontails, whose numbers have been falling.

It may look messy at first, but soon this area will provide food, nesting spots, and hiding cover for many wild animals.



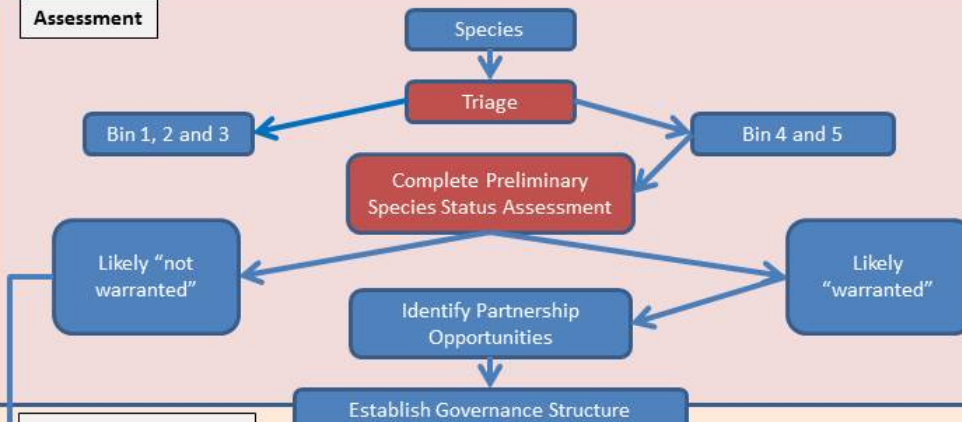
<https://newenglandcottontail.org/>



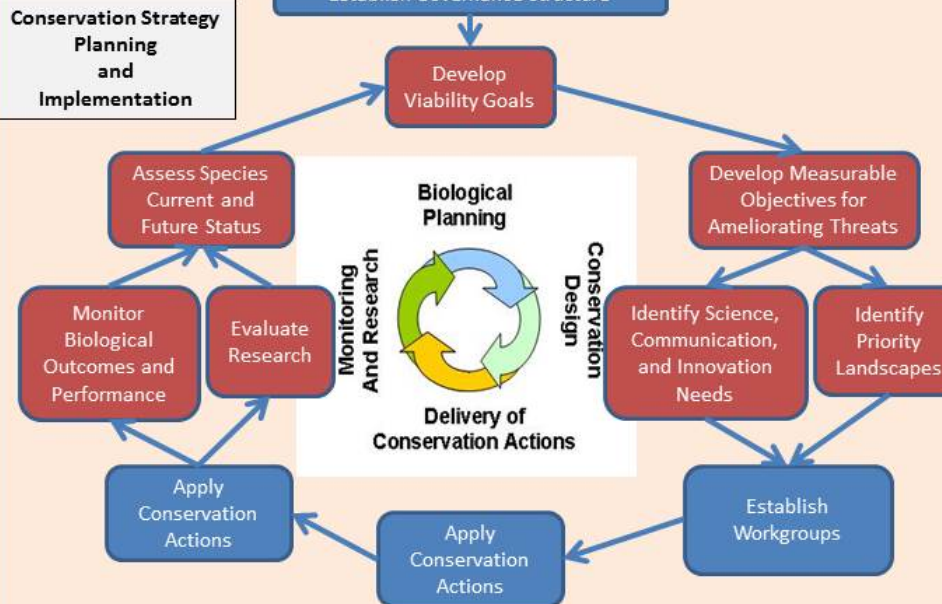
# Generalized Prelisting Conservation Workflow

DRAFT

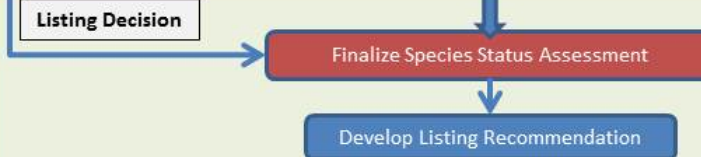
## Assessment



## Conservation Strategy Planning and Implementation



## Listing Decision





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## Wildlife At Risk



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<https://www.fws.gov/at-risk/>



# What is an at-risk species?

Those species that are, or are likely to be, affected by significant threats to their survival. May include listed, proposed, candidate, petitioned and those species identified by the Service or our partners as undergoing decline.





**Priority At-Risk  
Species in  
the  
Northeast  
Region**

