



Etowah Habitat Conservation Planning Process

Institute of Ecology
University of Georgia

Sept. 17, 2002



Introduction

- Otis White, facilitator, Civic Strategies, Inc.
- Laurie Fowler, UGA Institute of Ecology/School of Law

“Kickoff event” of Etowah HCP Process

- Learn about HCPs, this proposed process
- Help UGA team figure out how to structure the process, do the work



Proposed Agenda

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|-------|---|
| 9:30 | Overview of HCP – Laurie |
| 10:00 | Roundtables: What questions need answers today? |
| 10:45 | Break |
| 10:55 | Roundtables: Help us structure the process, do the work |
| 11:40 | Where do we go from here? |
| 12:00 | Adjourn |



What questions do you have?

In your roundtable groups

Task: What are your group's three most important questions that need answering before you will feel comfortable with this proposed Regional HCP approach?

Possible process:

- Introduce yourselves, elect a spokesperson
- Spend 10 minutes talking about your understanding of this proposed process
- Spend 10 minutes coming up with top three questions



Are we ready to move forward?

- Have enough of your questions/concerns been addressed to help the UGA team design a planning process?



Structuring the process

Three big tasks:

- Legal, “Big P” Political
 - Represent the plan before federal agencies
 - Recommend the plan to local governments
- Scientific/technical
 - “Good science” (i.e., will protect imperiled species)
 - Will meet the requirements of the law
 - Can be done (governments, landowners, developers can comply)
- Stakeholder outreach, “Little P” Political
 - People who ought to be consulted are consulted
 - They know what’s going on, have a voice



Structuring the process

To work, the process must be “jointly owned” by local governments and UGA.

- Elected officials/staff: Must sell it to their communities
- UGA team: Must vouch for it (federal agencies, state government etc.)



Structuring the process

One way to do this: three committees

- Steering Committee
 - Approves planning process
 - Finalizes eventual plan
 - Represents plan to federal agencies/local governments
- Technical Committee
 - Oversees research for the plan
 - Drafts the plan
 - Presents plan to Steering Committee
 - Makes revisions, if needed, for approval
- Stakeholder Outreach Committee
 - Creates, manages two-way communications with stakeholder interests
 - Facilitates educational/listening events with stakeholders
 - Briefs Technical, Steering Committees on stakeholder concerns



Structuring the process

Who should serve on committees?

- Ideal size for working committee: 12 voting members
 - Can bring in outside experts, stakeholders, as needed, for additional information, views

Local governments:

9 county gov'ts

4 authorities

6 municipal gov'ts

19 gov'ts

Three committees:

12 Steering Committee

12 Technical Committee

12 Stakeholder Committee

36 total members

One possibility: Local governments choose 19 representatives, UGA chooses 17 representatives to serve on these three committees



Structuring the process

Who should serve on committees?

- Idea: It's OK to “weight” the committees

Example:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------|
| Steering Committee: | 8 local gov't | 4 UGA |
| Technical Committee: | 4 local gov't | 8 UGA |
| Stakeholder Outreach: | 7 local gov't | 5 UGA |



Structuring the process

In your roundtable groups

- Decide the committees we should begin with
- Decide their most important/critical duties
- Decide who should serve

- (Time permitting) Indicate reporting relationships/work flow