



# 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

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 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