

Abstract

Evaluating Habitat Suitability for Focal Species in the Southern Appalachians

Track: Ecology, Archaeology, and Conservation

Author(s): Hugh Irwin

Certain species are considered "focal species" in conservation area planning because they are species that require the type of healthy conditions that tend to support key ecological processes and the recovery of other species. Recovery of focal species is a key aspect of protecting and restoring ecological functioning in regional conservation plans. A methodology for evaluating habitat suitability for key focal species in the Southern Appalachians will be presented. The study, which uses ArcGIS and ArcGIS Spatial Analyst extension, will demonstrate the assessment of current and potential future habitat for focal species even if they are extirpated from areas.

Hugh Irwin

Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition

Conservation Planning

46 Haywood Street

Suite 323

Asheville , NC 28801

USA

Phone: 828-252-9223

Fax: 828-252-9074

E-mail: hugh@safc.org