

## COA-Threats Risk Assessment Worksheet

IDENTIFICATION	
Site Name (nearby roads)	
County/Counties	
Acreage	
Owner(s)	
River Basin	
HUC12(s) (# - name)	
Water Body Name and Classifications or Other Special Designations <sup>1</sup> (see <a href="#">NCDWR web map</a> )	
Nearest Game Land (name and how many miles away is it)	
Within a Wildlife Action Plan HUC12 Priority Area? <sup>2</sup> Tier 1, Tier 2, 1 km buffer	

<sup>1</sup> Outstanding Resources Waters (ORW); High Quality Waters (HQW), Nutrient Sensitive Waters (NSW); Trout Waters (Tr); Swamp Waters (Sw); for a full list of other classifications see this [NCDWR web page](#).

<sup>2</sup> Tier 1: presence of SGCN; Tier 2: protection of important upstream habitat (see [2015 NCWAP](#) Chapter 4 and Appendix J)

Other ArcGIS spatial or online map resources may be needed to complete a comprehensive COA – TRA analysis

- [NC Wildlife Resources Commission \(NCWRC\) Wildlife Action Plan HUC12 Priorities](#) (see Appendix J downloads)
- [N.C. Natural Heritage Program. Natural Heritage Data Explorer](#)
- [NC Dept. of Environmental Quality \(NCDEQ\) GIS Online Information](#)
- [Wetland GIS Data from NCDEQ Division of Coastal Management](#)
- [NC Dept. of Transportation \(NCDOT\) GIS Data](#)

<b>COAs: CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS (SGCN, HABITATS)</b>	
Does the Area of Interest (AOI) occur within or adjacent to COA Habitats?	
Which animal species with a federal or state listing protection status are listed for the HUC12 or have been documented by Natural Heritage Program as occurring in the HUC12? (May need ArcGIS to review or use <a href="#">NCNHP Data Explorer</a> )	
List any of the SGCN priority species in the AOI that are sensitive to disturbance, fragmentation, land use change (etc.).	
Does the proximity to existing game lands or other conserved lands (e.g., US/NC Forests or Parks, Wildlife Preserves, Natural Heritage Areas, Designated Nature Preserve, Conservation Easements, etc.) offer connectivity or act as a corridor between conserved lands?	

<b>Analysis of COAs (questions to consider)</b>
<p>At least a general knowledge of the area containing the tract will be needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is known about how land is currently being used in the AOI?</li> <li>• What can be reasonably predicted about future growth?</li> <li>• Are any of the habitats or species dependent on the habitats in the AOI considered rare or at risk of loss if ?</li> </ul>

Results based on AOI Shapefile Upload or other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Which threats occur within the Area of Interest (AOI)\***

THREAT NAME*	SEVERITY RATING (Percentile)

\*List all threats that are reported for each HUC12 in the AOI – or – attach copy of report from online threat tool.

Which additional threats occur within 5 km buffer of AOI? What is the severity rating?

Which additional threats occur within 12 km buffer of AOI? What is the severity rating?

**Analysis of Threats (questions to consider)**

- Which threats are relevant to the SGCN or habitats present? (consider the context between individual threat category and the habitat/ species likely to be impacted).
- Are the threats present across the 5 km and 12 km AOI buffers?
- Is there a percentile (severity rating) threshold minimum that should trigger concern?
- Does threat severity change over time? Look at 2 time stamps: 2030 as standard, then compare results to 2050.
- Acknowledge any factors that are likely to be hard to measure (unknown) effects.

Comments

**ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS and COMMENTS**

Are there known NHP element occurrences? What are they?

Are there known Natural Heritage areas within the HUC12? Within the 5 km or 12 km neighborhoods? What are they?

Are there any constraints to managing the tract? Any access concerns? Will management incur unusual costs?

Is the land already under protection? What is the conservation focus? (e.g., DOT mitigation site but that is not their primary focus vs. land owned by another conservation entity that manages the land for conservation of a specific species)

Are other activities allowed by the conservation easement (e.g., recreation, resource extraction)?

Bioenergy: is the area subject to short harvest rotations for bioenergy (timber, grasses)?

Is the tract situated so that it could function as a connectivity corridor between populations of concern? Is the tract likely to function as a movement corridor? (May need ArcGIS to review SALCC and SECAS data)