Please consider the follow points as guidance in evaluating the adequacy of each potential activity or research investigation as you identify and build the Portfolio elements. (This list is not presented in order of importance or priority, nor does it imply that all points must be satisfied to be included within the Portfolio.)

1. BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE PORTFOLIO: Identified activity or research investigation fits within the broader Appalachian LCC Conservation Priorities Science Needs Portfolio, both in terms of outcomes, products, timeline and sequence (i.e., a foundational elements or components already in place and this represents the next integrative step).
2. ADDRESSES COMMON IMPACTS/THREATS: The activity or research investigation addresses common impacts (i.e., threats to the conservation of natural lands or resources that multiple Cooperative members are dealing with…*“lift all boats”)*.
3. ADDRESSES REGIONALLY UNIQUE RESOURCES OR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY: The activity or research investigation addresses unique threats or addresses the needs of highly significant and unique habitats or endemic populations but safeguards resources unique to the region or sub-region (i.e., conservation units which have a more limited distribution and may not be common to all).
4. ADDRESSES LANDSCAPE SCALE (LCC) ISSUES: The activities or research contribute toward addressing global or regional threats which require a landscape-level (LCC-scale) spatial approach in order to formulate a coordinated response or investigation *(“No single entity has the capacity or resources to address the issue alone”).*
5. ENHANCE CONSERVATION PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING TO ENHANCE DELIVERY: Production of a broad landscape-planning analytical or decision support tool or integration of existing data to standardize and link across administrative or state boundaries and serve the needs of multiple conservation delivery members across the LCC. *Examples of this are the “Designing Sustainable Landscape” tool developed in the NE (ACJV + NALCC) or the “Optimal Conservation Strategy” tool being developed in the SE region.*
6. SUPPORTS ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: Activity or research advance the LCC joint efforts to identify and incorporate effectiveness measures into landscape-level conservation planning, design, delivery, or monitoring and helps establish conservation targets. [Note: the use of the term ‘effectiveness monitoring’ as opposed to status monitoring -- effectiveness measures are defined as indicators used to assess whether a given conservation action is leading to its desired objectives and ultimate impacts (AFWA 2011 publication.)]  *Examples of this might include the use of representative species approach to assess habitat condition and set population objectives.*
7. SYNTHESIS AND EVALUATION: Activities or research support strategic review, evaluation, and synthesis describing the relative merits, proper application, and bounds of uncertainty of tools, methodologies, and strategies currently being applied with the intent of providing guidance to land and resource managers across the Appalachian LCC. *Example of this includes the review and guidance prepared by Katherine Hayoe on selecting appropriate climate downscale models.*
8. ENHANCE RISK MANAGEMENT: Activity or research investigation helps remove or resolve some uncertainty that is currently an impediment to the conservation community in planning, prioritizing, and taking action but must be integrated to manage risk to valued resources.
9. TEST PROMISING PROOF OF CONCEPT: Supporting the deployment of larger-scale/wider ranging system of experimental treatment or manipulation that reflect the application of promising result from a more narrow pilot study or demonstration activity.
10. CAPITALIZE ON UNFORESSEN OPPORTUNITIES, CHANGES, and/or IMPACTS: Activities or research investigations associated with unique, often time-sensitive opportunities or events to document and assess ecological response to impacts. Examples may include chemical spills or changes in disturbance regimes of fire, flooding, disease/pest/pathogen outbreaks.