

LANDSCAPE SCALE PLANNING

INNOVATIVE TOOLS USED BY MD SHA AND TX DOT

AASHTO TIG Project | Texas Department of Transportation | Maryland State Highway Administration

**Maryland State Highway Administration
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**Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Christine Conn**

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Craig Shirk**

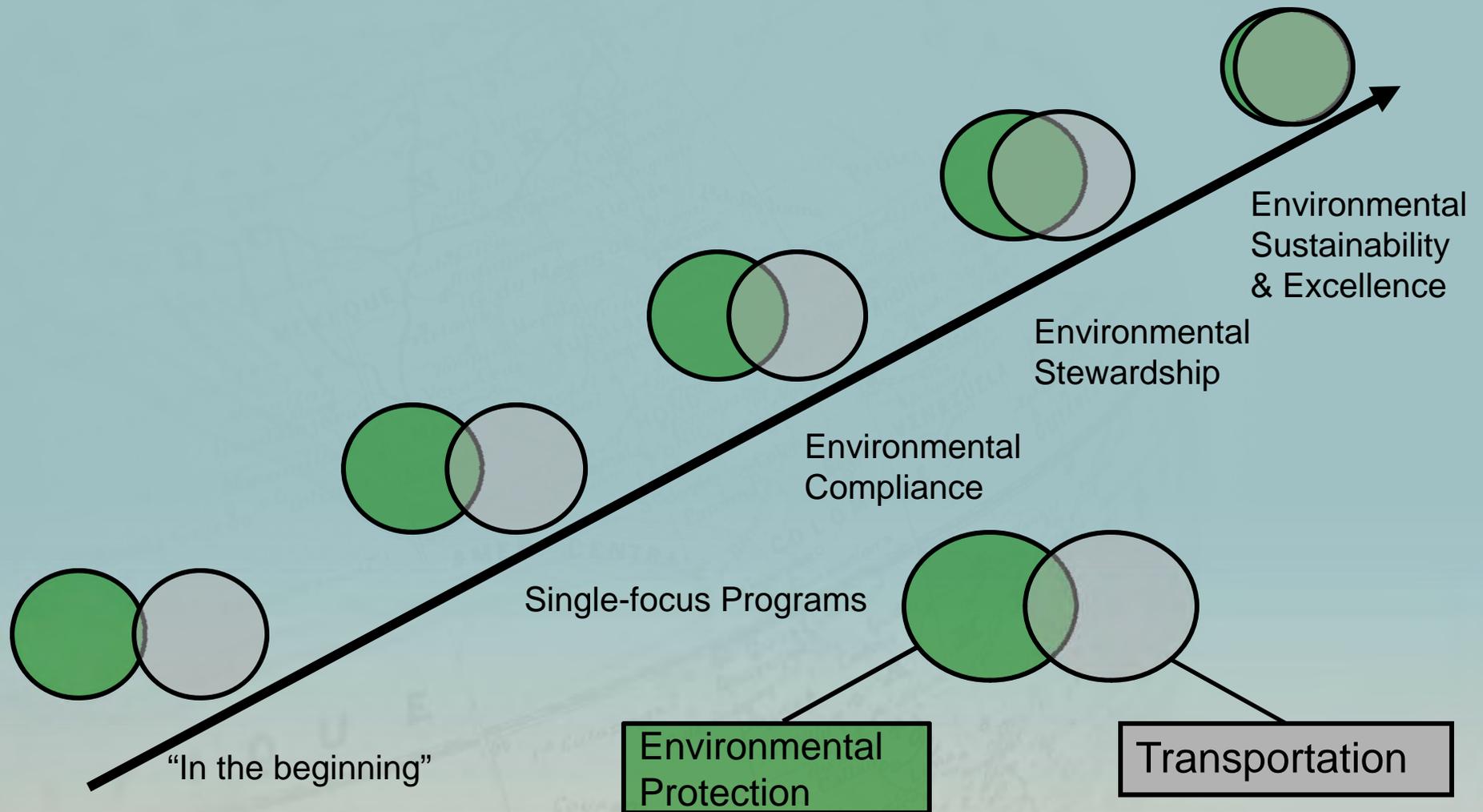
February 3, 2011

OVERVIEW

- AASHTO TIG Joint Lead States Team
- Texas DOT GIS Screening Tools
- Maryland's Green Infrastructure Assessment
- US 301: A Green Infrastructure Approach
- Looking Down the Road



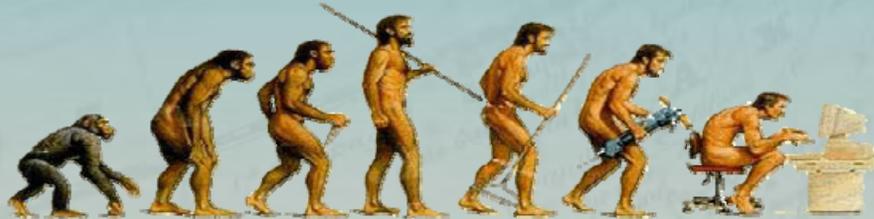
GOALS & MISSIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND TRANSPORTATION ARE MERGING!



TRANSPORTATION PROJECT DEVELOPMENT IS EVOLVING

Key Milestones:

- 1970 NEPA signed into law
- 1970's Metropolitan Planning Organizations for populations > 50,000
- CAA 1972
- ESA 1973
- 1966 Section 4(f) USDOT
- Clean Water Act 1972, 1977
- CAAA 1990
- **2002 Executive Order 13274**
- 2005 SAFETEA-LU
- **2005 Green Highways Partnership**
- **2006 ECO-LOGICAL**
- 2008 CWA 404 Compensatory Mitigation Rule
- **2008 FHWA Planning and Environment Linkages**
- 2010 Chesapeake Bay TMDL



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COMPARISON

THEN

- Focused on transportation needs
- Scoped projects without 1st understanding community and natural environmental resource context
- Environmental compliance in Isolation (permit-based)
- Stakeholder involvement was reactionary

NOW

- Transportation, environmental, social and economic needs given equal priority
- Scoped projects with the understanding of community and natural environmental resource context
- Compliance and Stewardship with a systems approach
- Stakeholder involvement throughout the transportation process

WHY USE THESE TOOLS?

- **Compliance with existing & emerging regulations**
- **Transparent decisions**
- **Accelerated project delivery**
- **Improved resource protection**
- **Scalable solution**
- **Sustainable planning**
- **Supports a watershed approach**
- **Can be integrated with existing GIS data**

TEXAS: A BIG STATE WITH BOTH RURAL AND URBAN POPULATIONS

Land Area

- 171.1 Million Acres
- Ranks 2nd
- 84% Private Land

Estimated Population

- 25.4 Million
- Ranks 2nd
- By 2030 – 33.3 Million



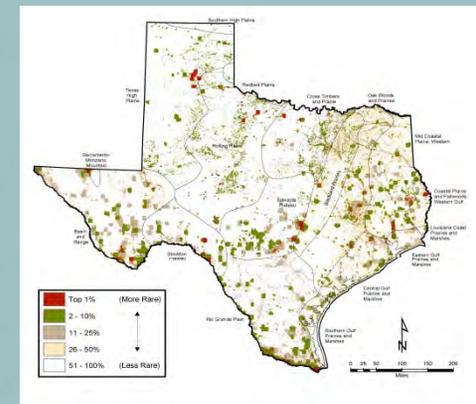
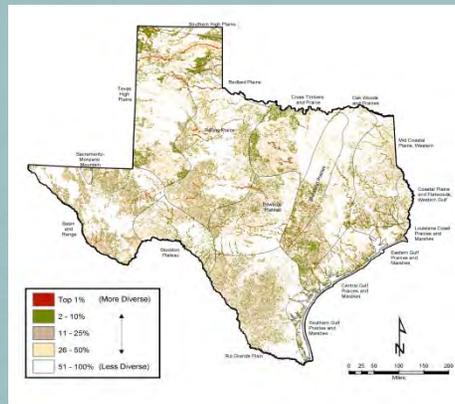
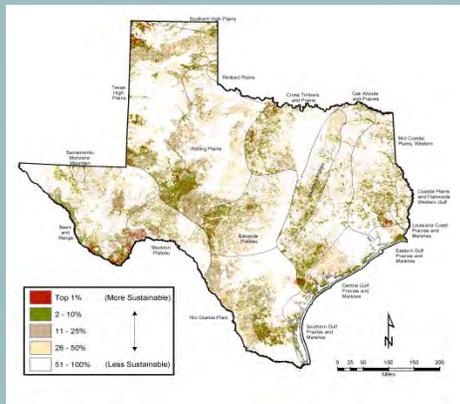


ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING TOOLS

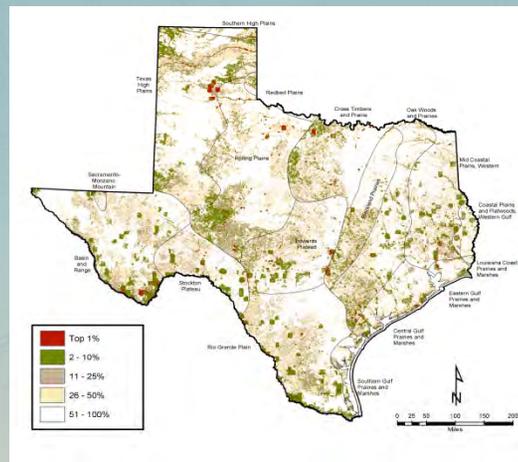


- **Texas Ecological Assessment Protocol (TEAP)**
- **GIS Screening Tool (GISST)**
- **NEPAssist**

TEXAS ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL (TEAP)



Composite: identifies important ecological resources in each ecoregion across Texas



GIS SCREENING TOOL (GISST)

The image shows a screenshot of the ArcMap software interface with the GISST (GIS Screening Tool) tool open. The tool has three tabs: 'Graphic', 'Feature', and 'Buffer'. The 'Graphic' tab is active, and a red circle highlights a specific area on the map. A red line is drawn across the map, and a red point is also visible. The map displays various land use categories, including roads, water, and vegetation. The GISST tool interface includes a 'Tools Help' button and a 'Buffer' input field. The map is titled 'REGION 6 GISST' and shows a detailed view of a geographic area with various land use categories.

Feature Calculation

Digitize a line

Tools Help

Polygon Graphic Calculation

Digitize a point

Enter buffer size

GISST.mxd - ArcMap - ArcInfo

File Edit View Bookmarks Insert Selection Tools Window PLTS Help

Georeferencing Layer

Editor Task: Create New Feature Target:

Legend Graphic Feature Buffer

Set Selectable Layers...

Layer: State

1:38,622

500

REGION 6 GISST

- State
- Highway
- Major Road
- Roads
- TRI
- Facility
- Hydrography
- Nonattainment
- Huc
- Water
- Aquifer
- Flood
- Statosp
- NLCD
- 11 - Open Water
- 12 - Perennial Ice/Snow
- 21 - Developed, Open S
- 22 - Developed, Low Int
- 23 - Developed, Medium
- 24 - Developed, High In
- 31 - Barren Land
- 41 - Deciduous Forest
- 42 - Evergreen Forest
- 43 - Mixed Forest
- 52 - Scrub/Shrub
- 71 - Grassland/Herbace
- 72 - Sedge Herbaceous
- 81 - Pasture/Hay
- 82 - Cultivated Crops
- 90 - Woody Wetlands
- 95 - Emergent Herbacec
- 127 - No Data
- Block

Geostatistical Analyst Tools

Linear Referencing Tools

Mobile Tools

Multidimension Tools

Network Analyst Tools

PLTS Foundation Tools

PLTS MPS-Atlas Tools

Samples

Schematics Tools

Server Tools

Spatial Analyst Tools

Spatial Statistics Tools

Tracking Analyst Tools

Graphic Feature Buffer

Tools Help

Buffer

Display Source Selection MPS Atlas Favorites Index Search Results

Drawing

Arial

10

B I U

-10994.99 135410.23 Feet

GISST SCORE CALCULATION

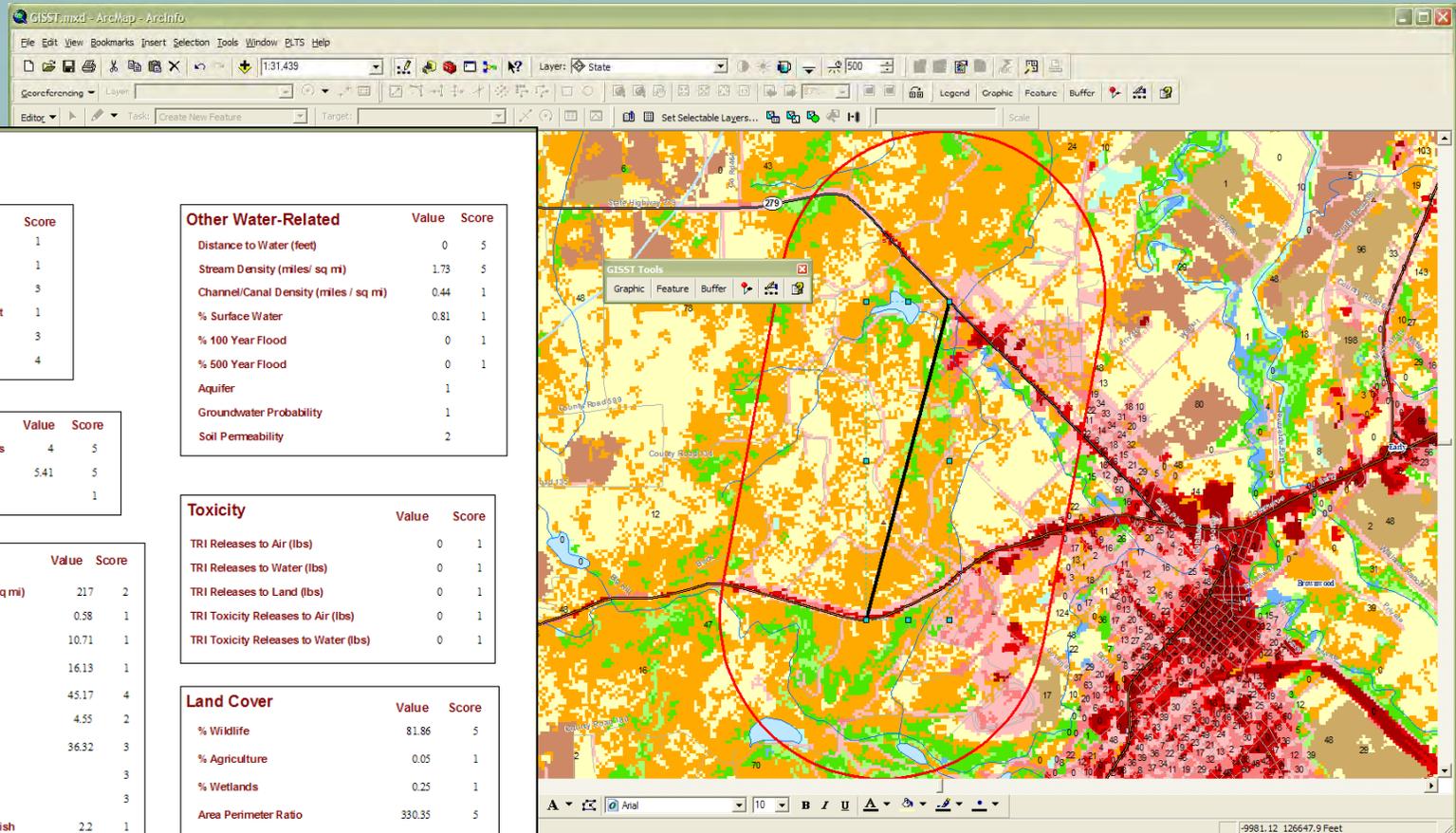
% Wildlife

Percentage of cell that is identified as wildlife habitat

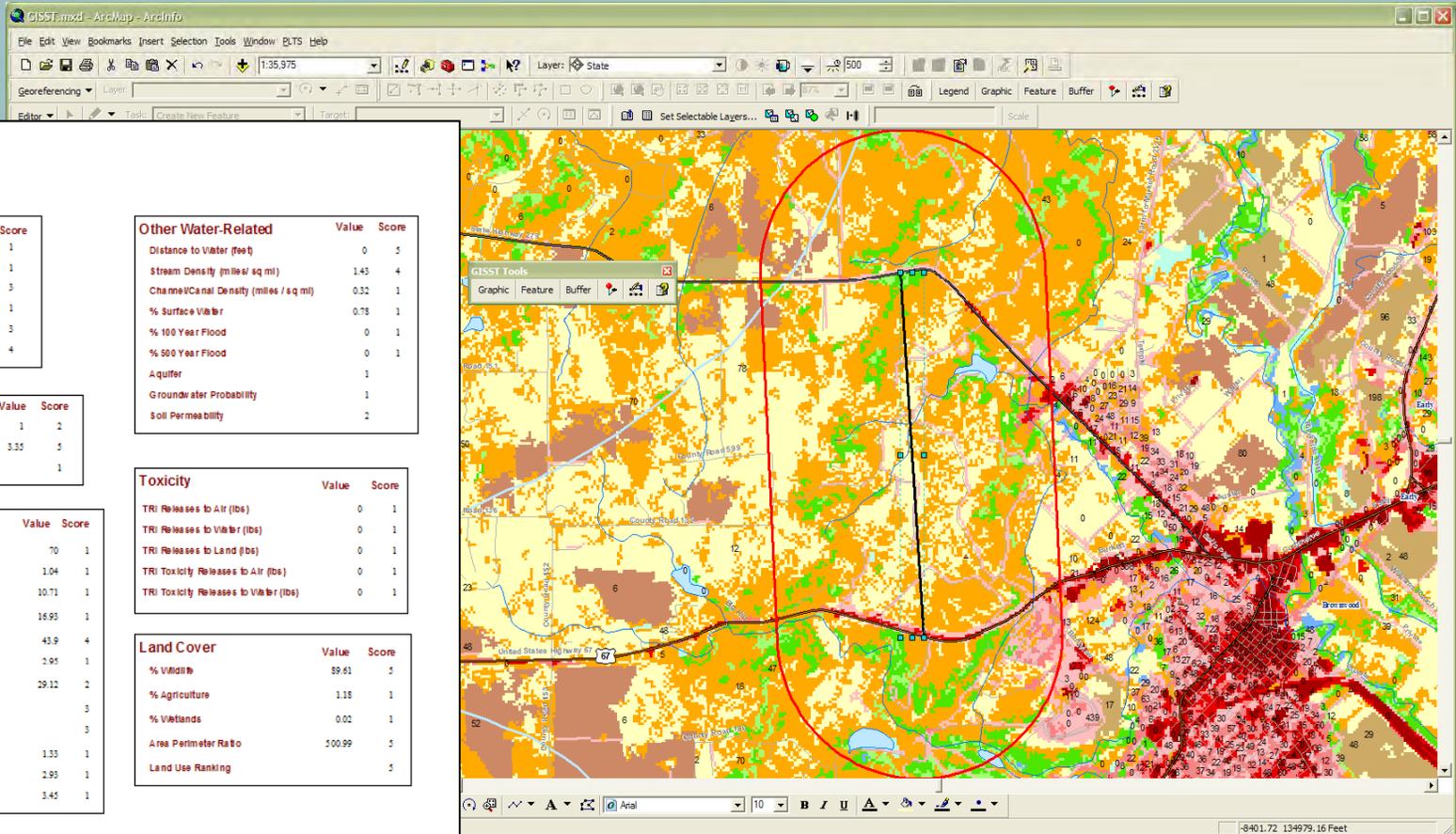
Rank	Value
1	< 20% of the grid cell
2	20-29% of the grid cell
3	30-39% of the grid cell
4	40-49% of the grid cell
5	\geq 50% of the grid cell

In general, a score of “5” indicates a high degree of concern and a “1” indicates a lower degree of concern

ALTERNATIVE 1: GISST REPORT DIRECT IMPACTS



ALTERNATIVE 2: GISST REPORT DIRECT IMPACTS



GISST DATABASE COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Corridor Alternative	1	2	3	4	5	6
% Wildlife	79.78	60.92	89.96	86.05	68.01	75.11
	5	5	5	5	5	5
% Agriculture	10.05	32.16	3.68	2.56	25.96	15.42
	1	3	1	1	2	1
% Wetlands	75.98	59.81	87.17	80.54	67.96	74.88
	5	5	5	5	5	5
stream density	2.61	2.71	1.63	3.56	1.69	2.43
	5	5	5	5	1	5
% 100 year floodplain	84.9	70.9	88.92	87.17	75.56	84.53
	5	5	5	5	5	5
% 500 year floodplain	100	99.99	88.92	100	99.99	99.99
	5	5	5	5	5	5
Land Use Ranking	5	4	5	5	4	4

NEPAssist



NEPAssist

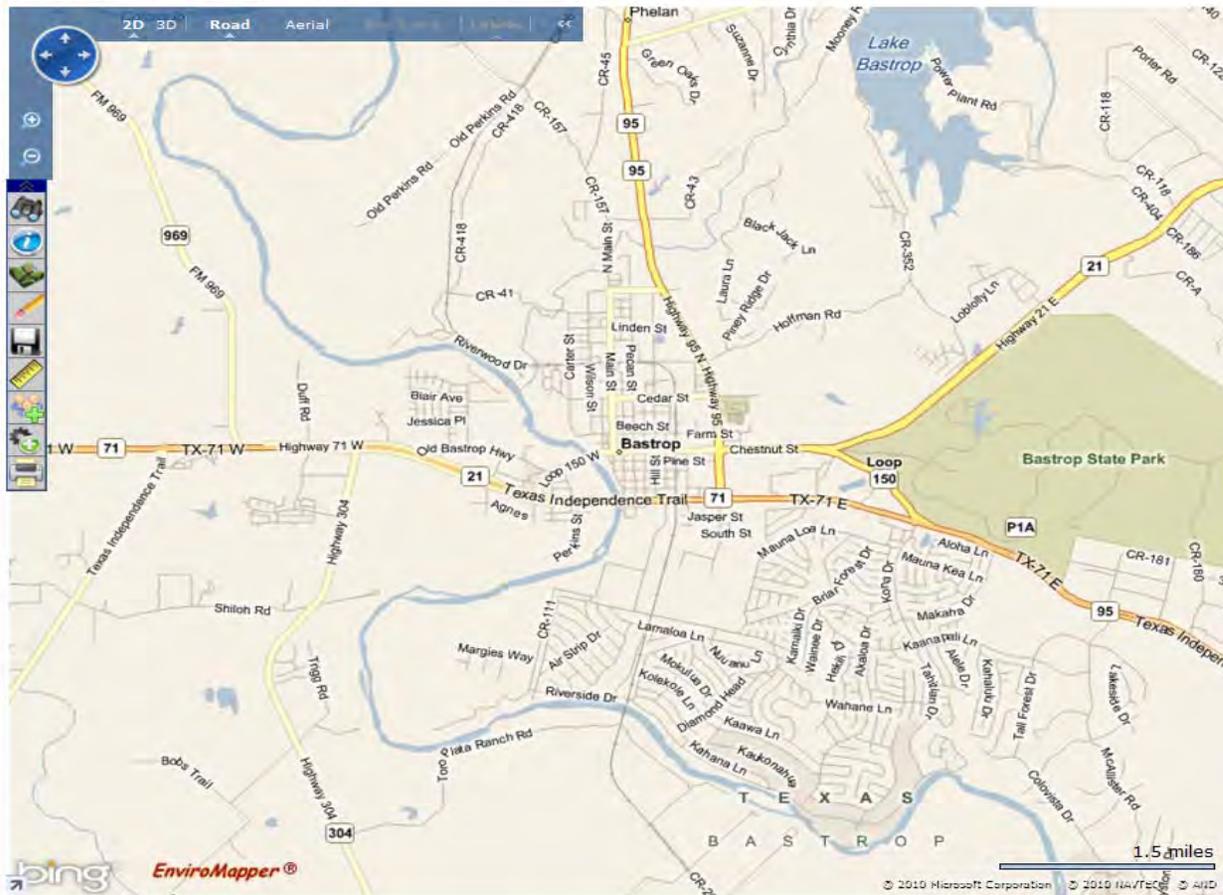
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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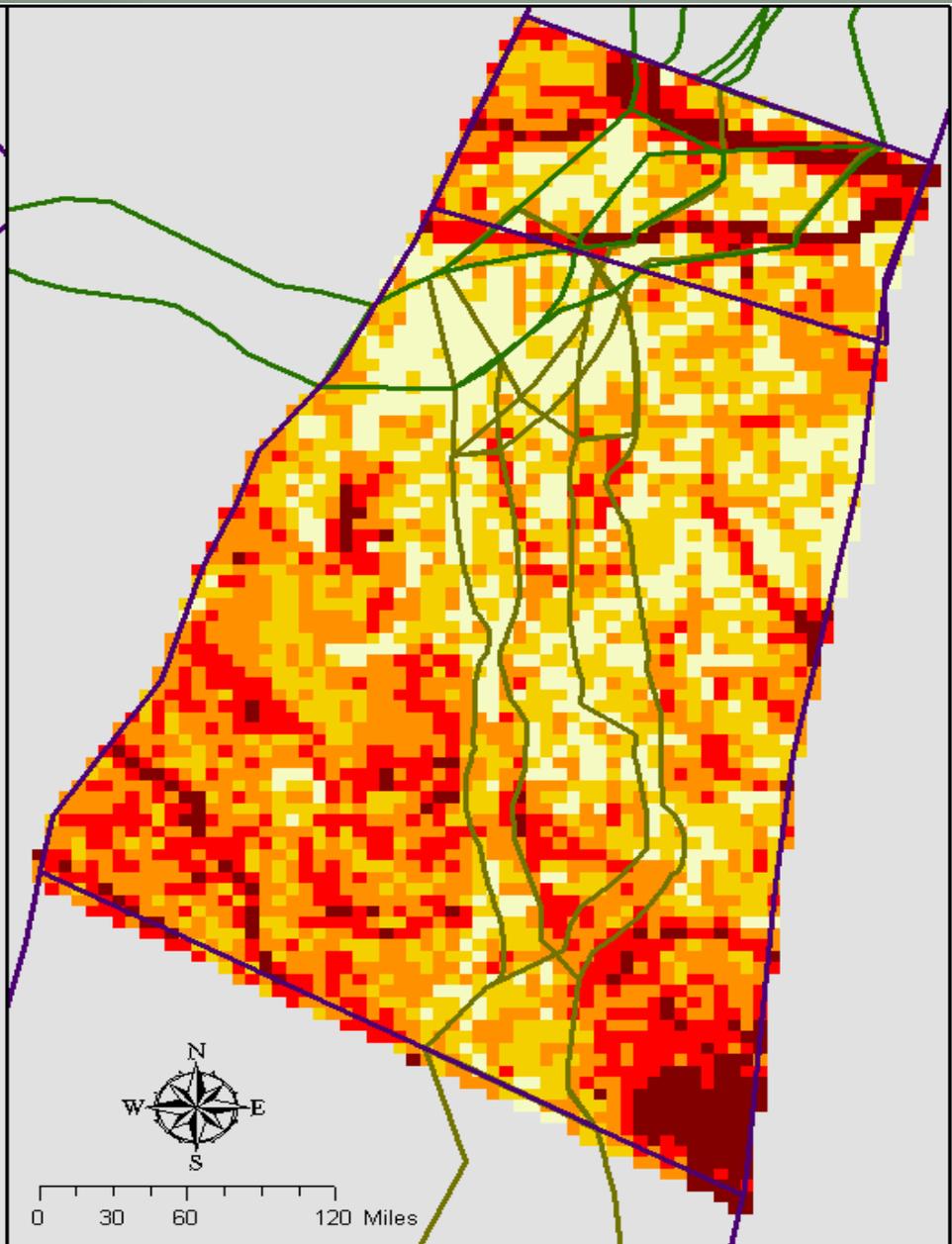
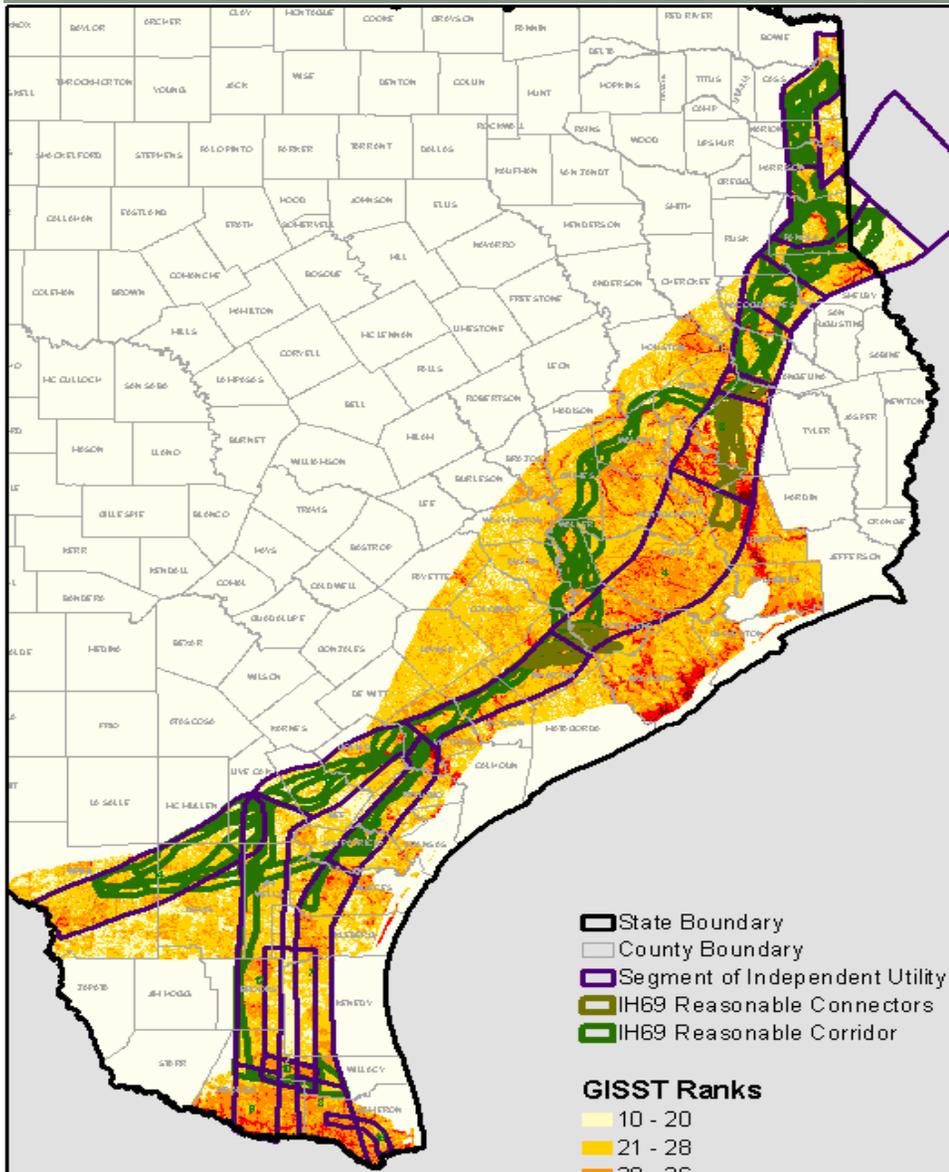


- EPA Facilities
- NEPAssist EPA Data
- NWI Wetlands
- GlobeExplorer Image
- TerraServer
- National Land Cover 2001

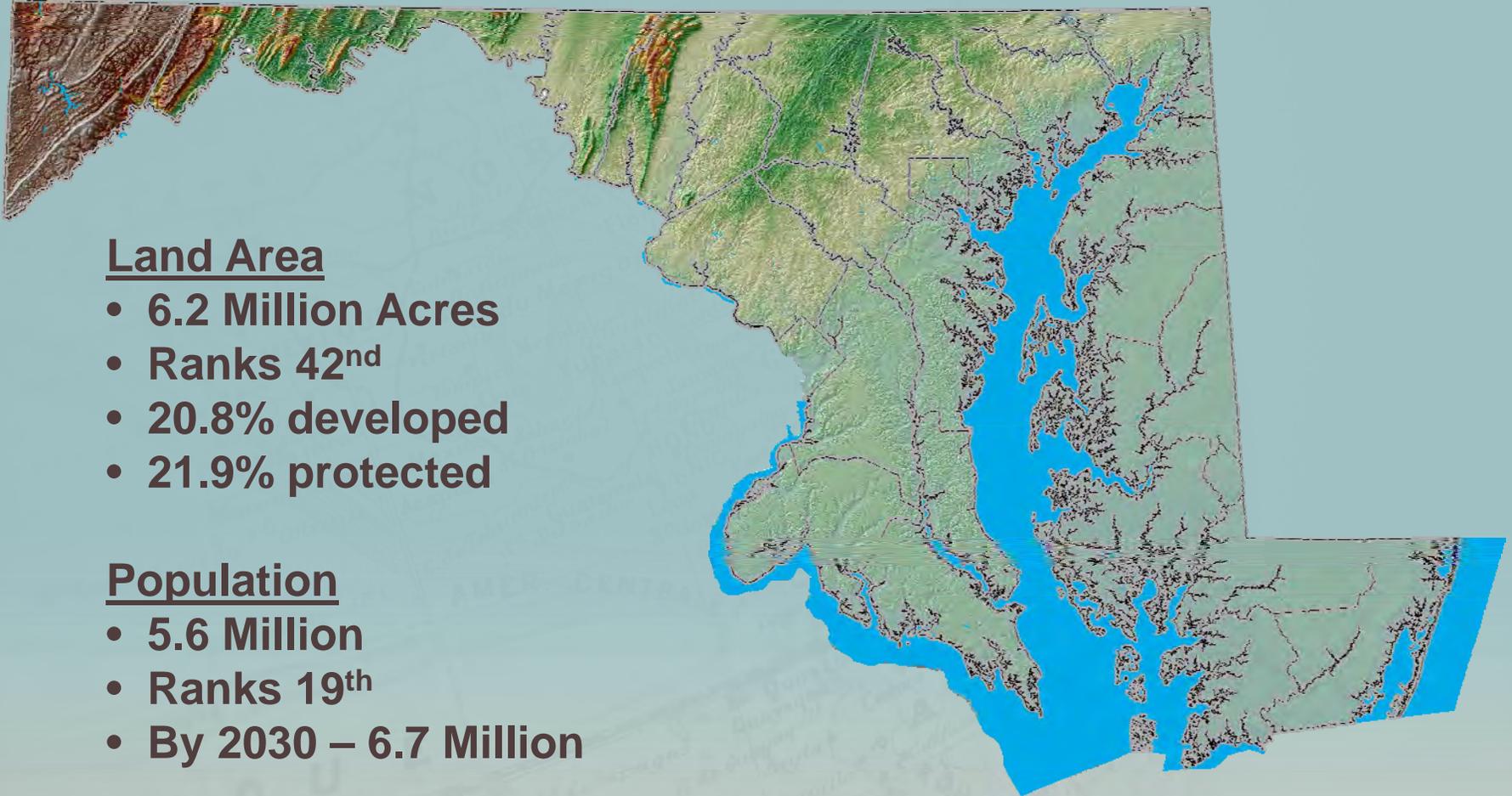
Done

Internet | Protected Mode: Off

104%



MARYLAND



Land Area

- 6.2 Million Acres
- Ranks 42nd
- 20.8% developed
- 21.9% protected

Population

- 5.6 Million
- Ranks 19th
- By 2030 – 6.7 Million



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Green Infrastructure

Conserving and Restoring Maryland's Most
Ecologically Important Lands

WHAT IS INFRASTRUCTURE?

Infrastructure – “*the substructure or underlying foundation on which the continuance and growth of a community depends*”

- Webster's New World Dictionary



- A **necessity**, not an amenity
- A primary public **investment**
- Must be constantly **maintained**
- Must be developed as a **system**, not as isolated parts

WHAT IS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE?



“Strategically planned and managed **networks** of natural lands, working landscapes and other open spaces that **conserve ecosystem functions**, and provide associated **benefits to human populations**”



Jane Hawkey, Jane Thomas, IAN Image Library (www.ian.umces.edu/imagelibrary/)

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IS A NATIONAL MOVEMENT ACROSS MANY SECTORS

- National Community of Practice is a network of organizations promoting and implementing the green infrastructure approach
- Planning applications go far beyond land conservation...
 - Transportation
 - Energy
 - Public Health and Air Quality
 - Food Production
 - Climate Change
 - Smart Growth
 - Green Jobs
 - Water Management
 - Natural Hazards Mitigation

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Green Infrastructure Community of Practice. At the top, it says "Green Infrastructure Community of Practice" and "Collaborative network of strategic conservation professionals". Below this is a navigation menu with links for "Main", "My Page", "Members", "Groups", "Events", "Library", "Forum", "Photos", and "Chat". The main content area is divided into several sections: "Latest Activity" with a list of recent posts, "Events" with a list of upcoming conferences, and "Photos" with a large image of a tree. On the right side, there is a user profile for "Christine Conn" and a "Badges" section.

<http://greeninfrastructure.ning.com>

OUR # 1 CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

**Accelerated Consumption and Fragmentation
of Natural and Working Lands**



Source: Audubon Magazine, March/April 2000

HAPHAZARD CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND LAND USE PLANNING

- **Reactive**
- **Site-Specific**
- **Narrowly Focused**
- **Poorly Integrated with Other Efforts**



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IS THE LAND PLAN SCIENCE

What is it?

- **A GIS analysis developed to help identify and prioritize areas for**
 - **Conservation,**
 - **Restoration, and**
 - **Smart Growth**

The Benefit:

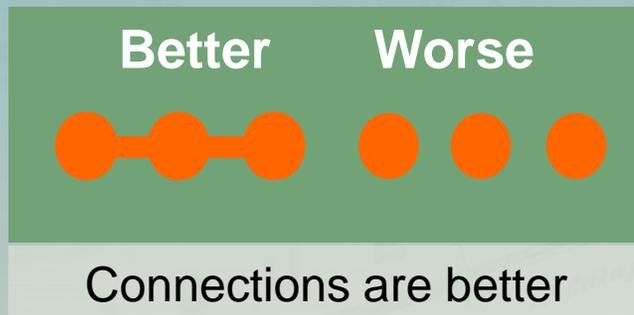
- **Provides a consistent, objective and defensible approach to land management decisions**

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- **Conservation Biology**



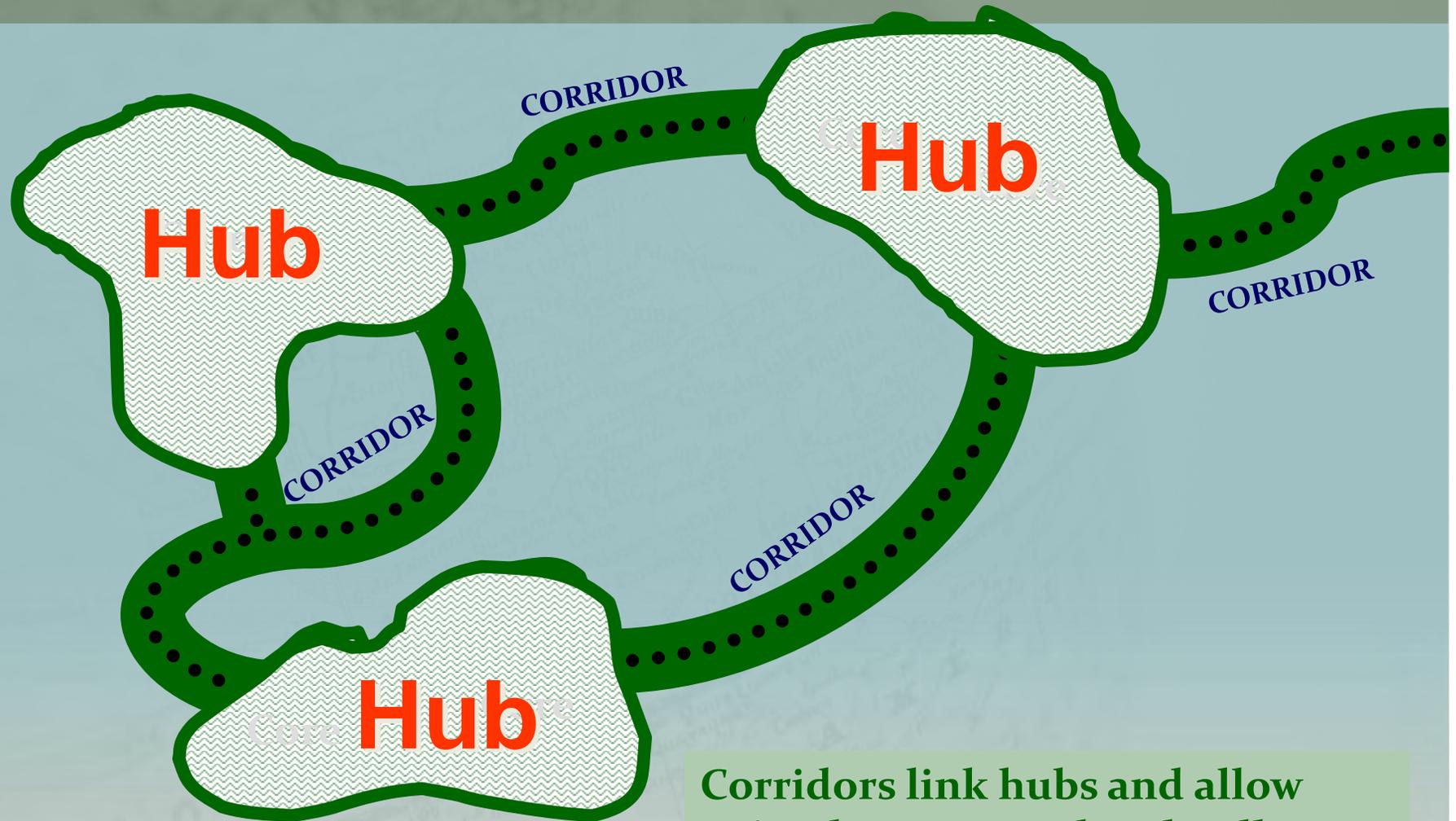
- **Landscape Ecology**



Forest Interior Dependent
Species (FIDS)



THE NETWORK CONCEPT



Corridors link hubs and allow animal, water, seed and pollen movement between hubs

MARYLAND'S GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT



Identification of Hubs

- **Large, contiguous blocks of forests and unmodified wetlands**
(250 acres and up)
- **Other important plant/wildlife habitats**
(100 ac. Minimum)
- **Existing protected conservation lands with at least 100ac**

MARYLAND'S GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

Identification of Corridors

- Assess landscape between hubs for best ecological linkage
- Includes riparian, upland, and “mixed” connections
- Width based on 1100’ or FEMA flood plain, whichever is greater



GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) ANALYSIS

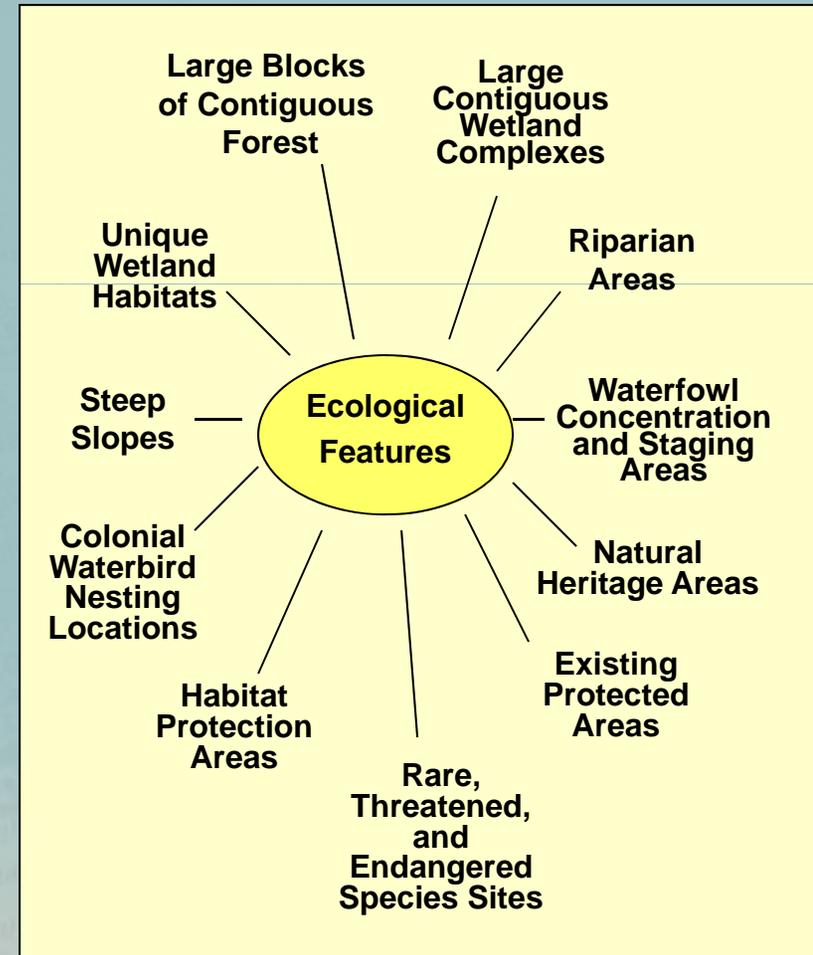
SELECTION OF ECOLOGICAL COMPONENTS

Strive to include full range of ecosystem elements vs. single species focus

Consultation with

- MD Biological Stream Survey
- Wildlife and Heritage
- Forest Service
- Scientific Community

Limited to features with GIS data available statewide



MARYLAND'S GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

Hubs

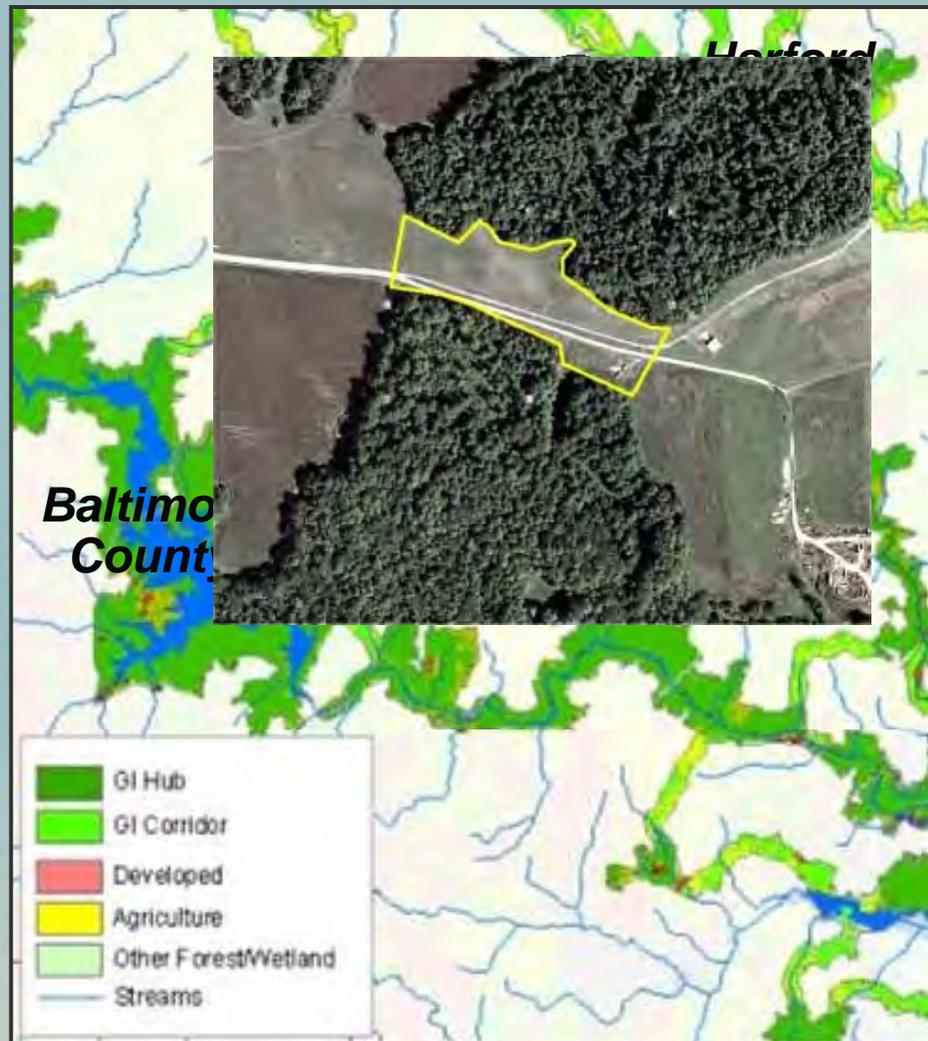
250 acres or
Important habitat > 100
acres

Corridors

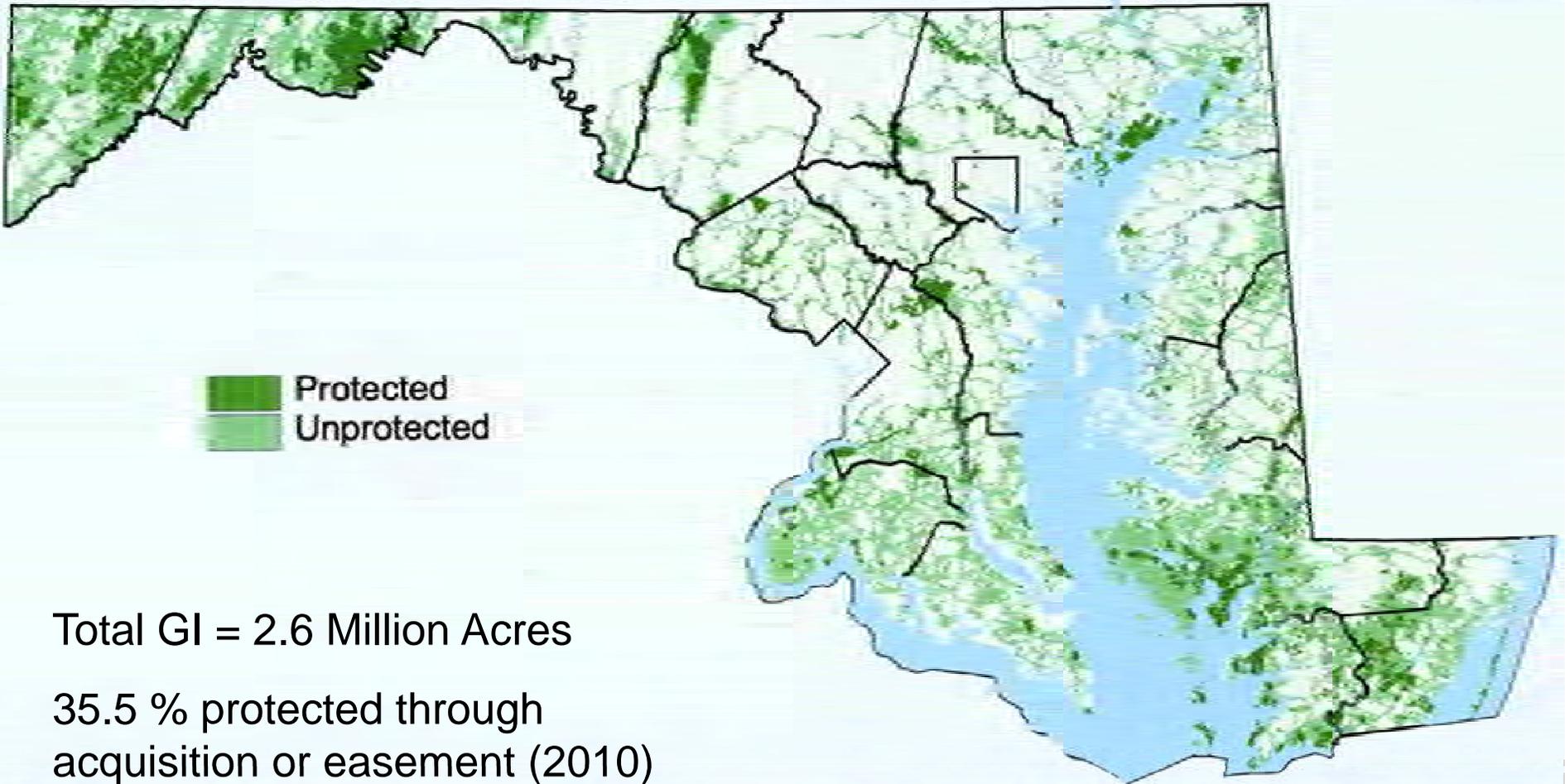
1100 feet or FEMA
floodplain

Gaps

Restoration
opportunities

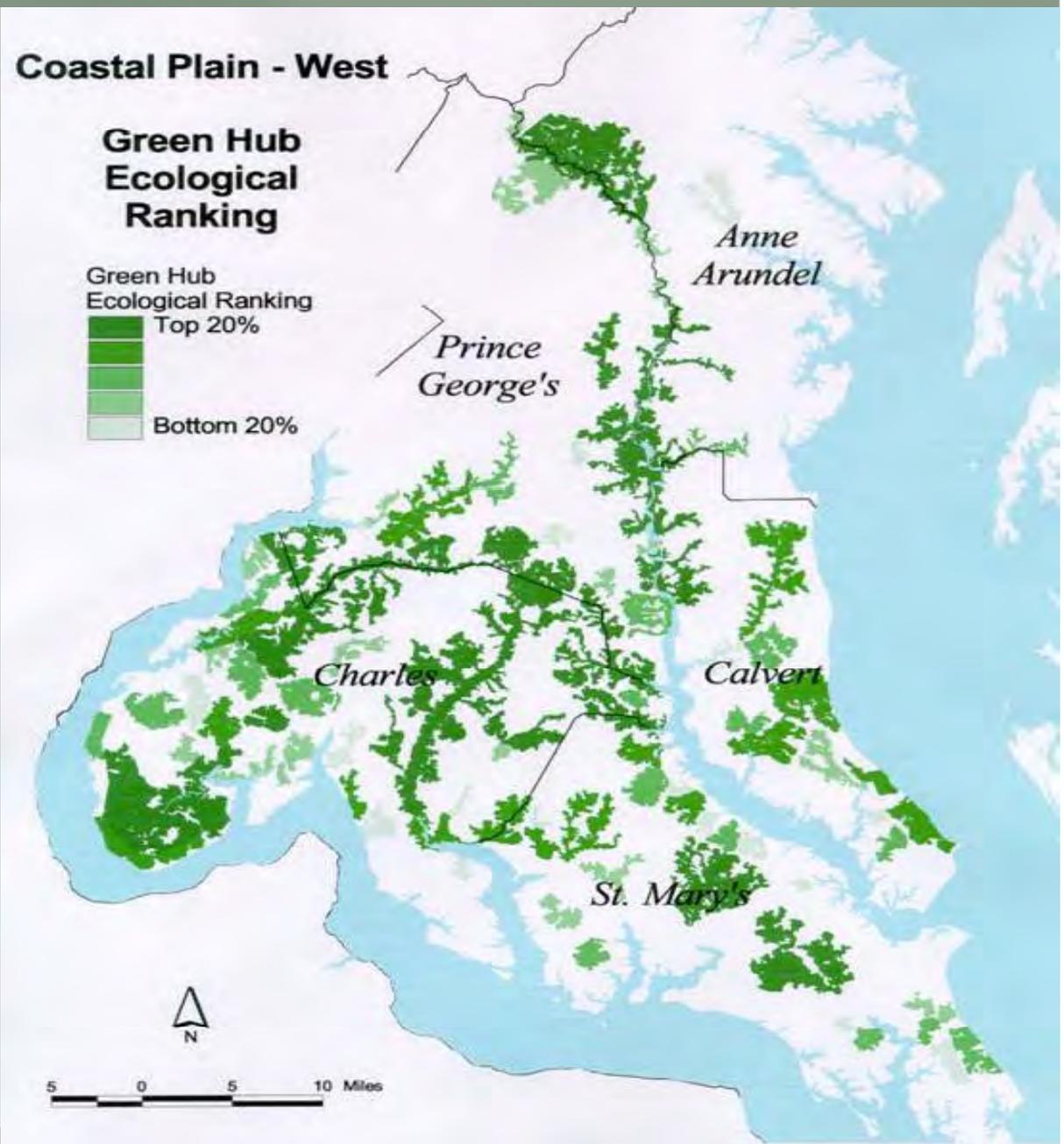


A STATEWIDE NETWORK



Ecological Importance of Hubs

Hubs ranked using multiple ecological factors



GREENPRINT IS MARYLAND'S LAND CONSERVATION VISION

MARYLAND *Smart, Green & Growing*

GREENPRINT

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Interactive MAP

ABOUT GREENPRINT

- Measuring Success
- Significance of Bay Stat
- Frequently Asked Questions
- GreenPrint Survey

PARTICIPANTS

- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Planning
- Department of Agriculture
- Office of the Governor
- Land Conservation Programs

Question...

What are the most ecologically valuable lands in Maryland and what are we doing to protect them for future generations?

There is not a simple answer to that question. The fact is that there are [many programs](#) within our State government that contribute to this effort: "to strategically target and protect the most ecologically valuable areas in Maryland." This is an effort to keep portions of Maryland as ecologically sound as possible, to ensure a healthy population of plants and animals, to keep our State beautiful, and to ensure our lands for our children before they are consumed by sprawling development.

Using tools like GreenPrint we can more effectively manage how our State takes care of its lands and its people.

1. Check out the Map



2. View Progress Protecting Land



3. Interact with This Map



What's New

This [The GreenPrint Map](#) is the first in a series of maps that will showcase the progress of State programs in conserving and protecting the State's most valuable lands. Today, the focus is on ecologically valuable lands. The next map will examine important agricultural lands. These maps will complement others being created that show where Maryland is planning on growing - together they will show the O'Malley-Brown Administration's vision of One Maryland.

Governor Martin O'Malley

MARYLAND GREENPRINT

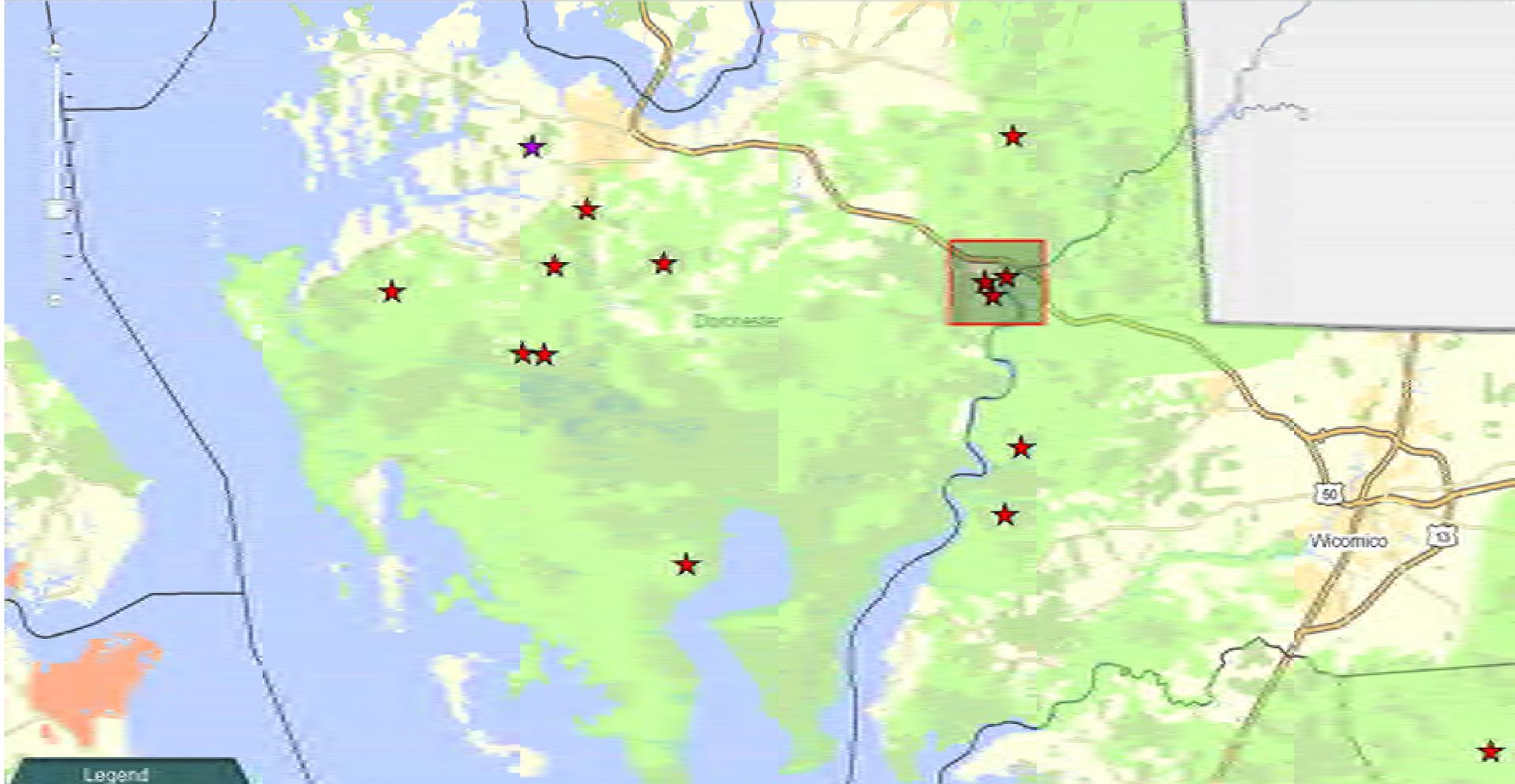
Map Documentation

Address: Go

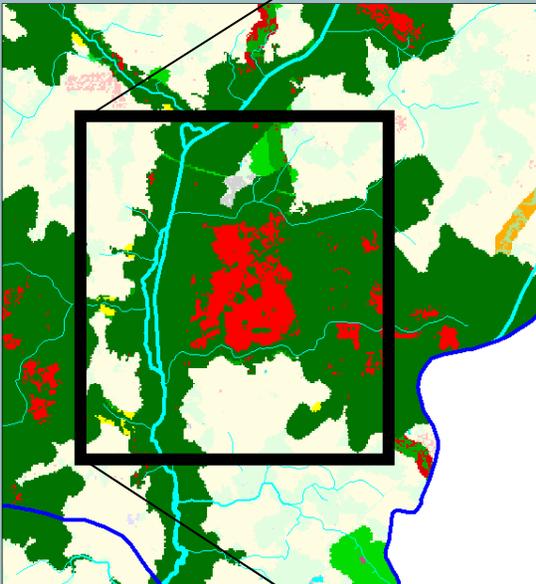
Select a County: State of Maryland

Info Select Layer

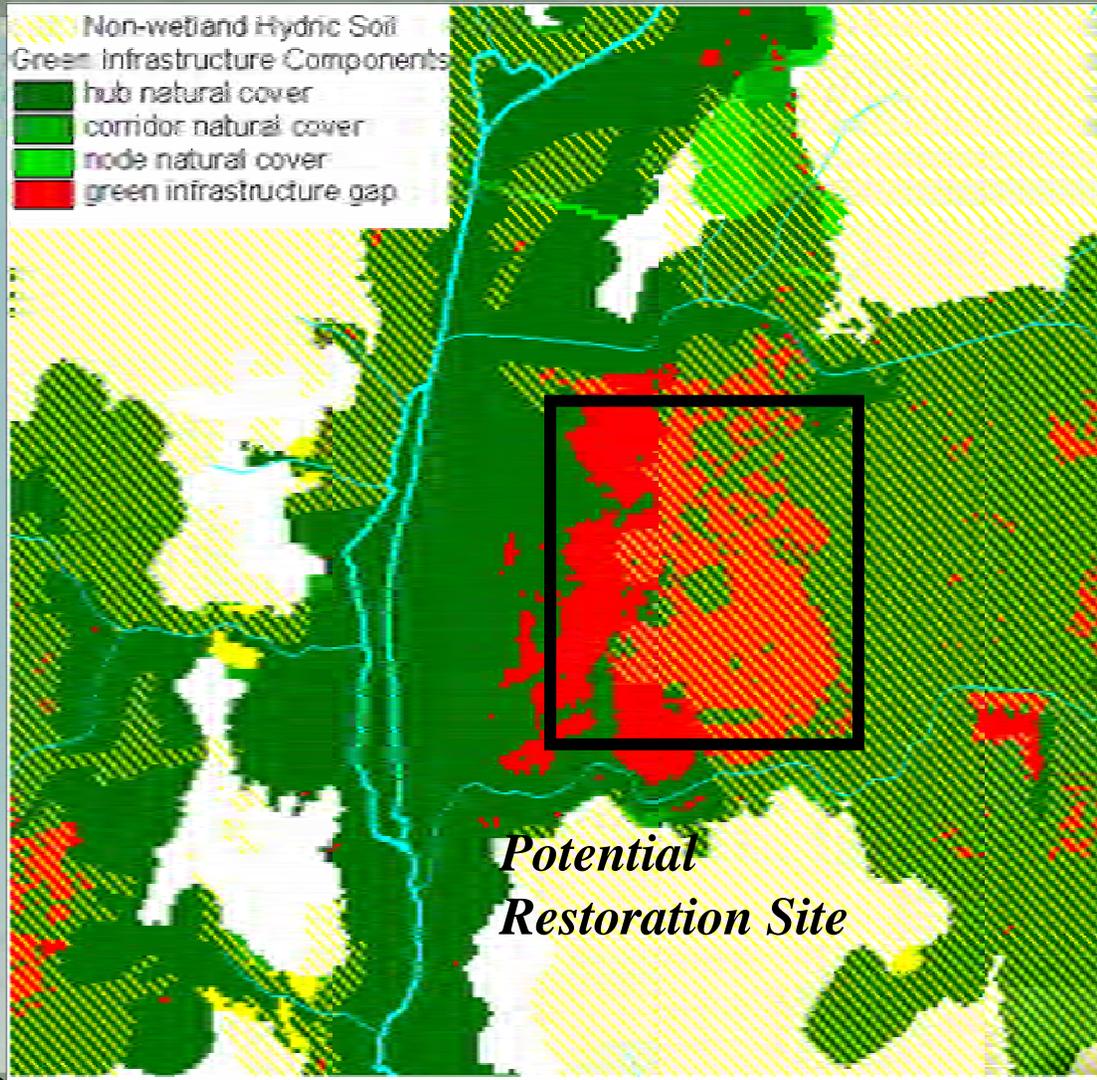
zoom in zoom out pan



RESTORATION TARGETING



Unvegetated Gap in High Ranking Hub



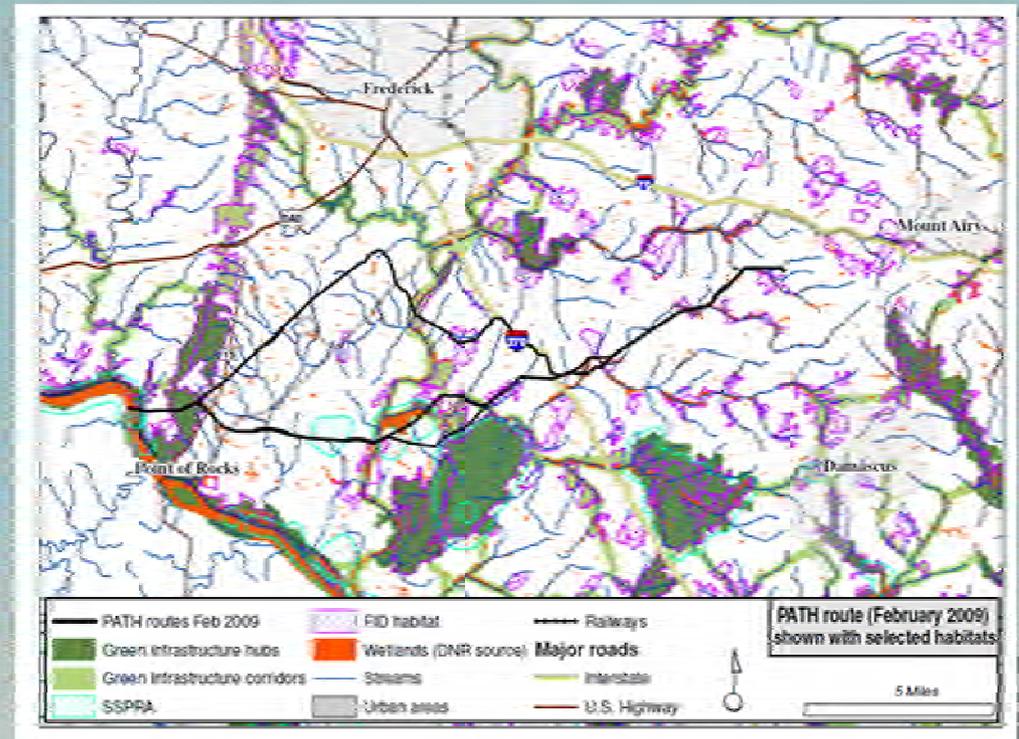
ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, MITIGATION

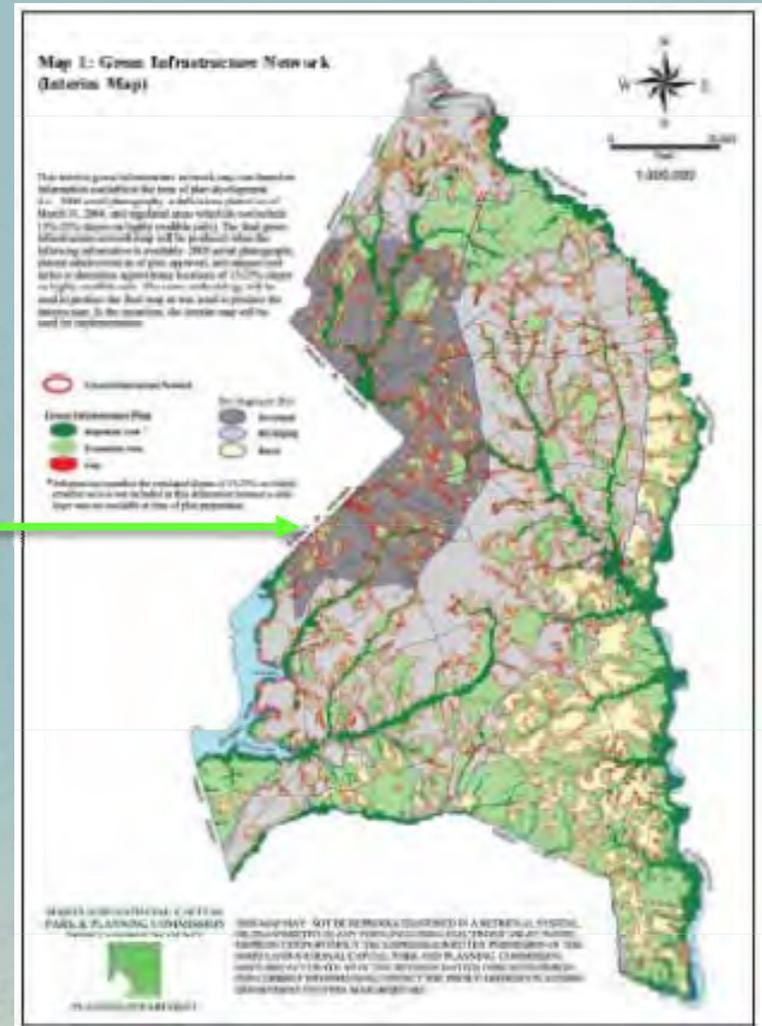
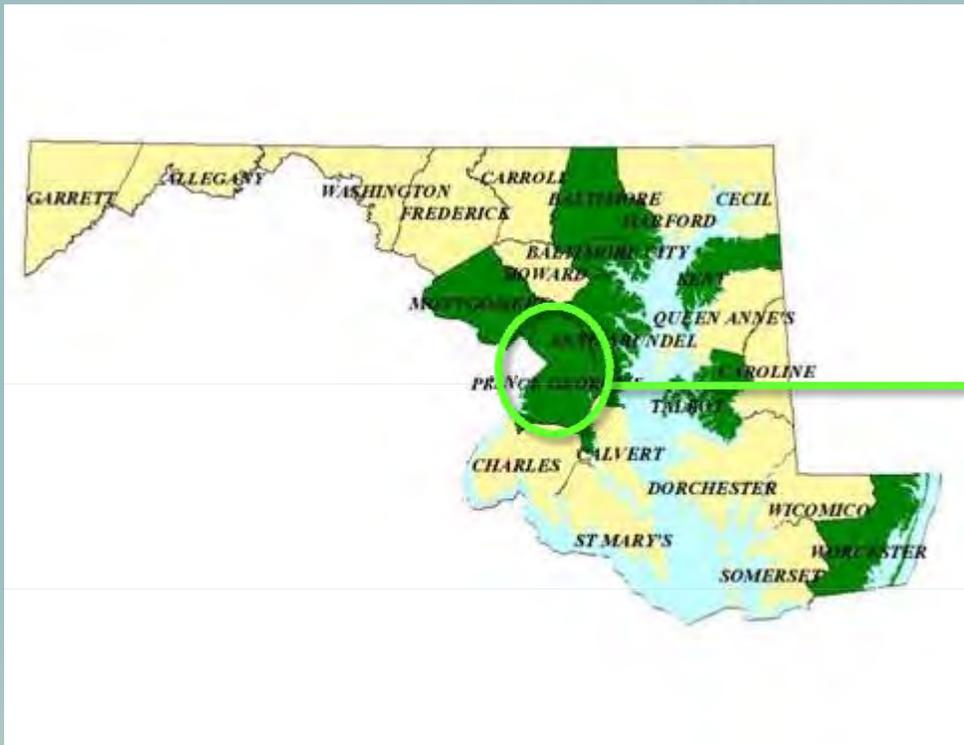
American Electric Power

765-kilovolt transmission line

275 miles from Putnam County, W.Va., to New Market, Md



COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND ZONING



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIC APPROACH

Maryland's Case Study



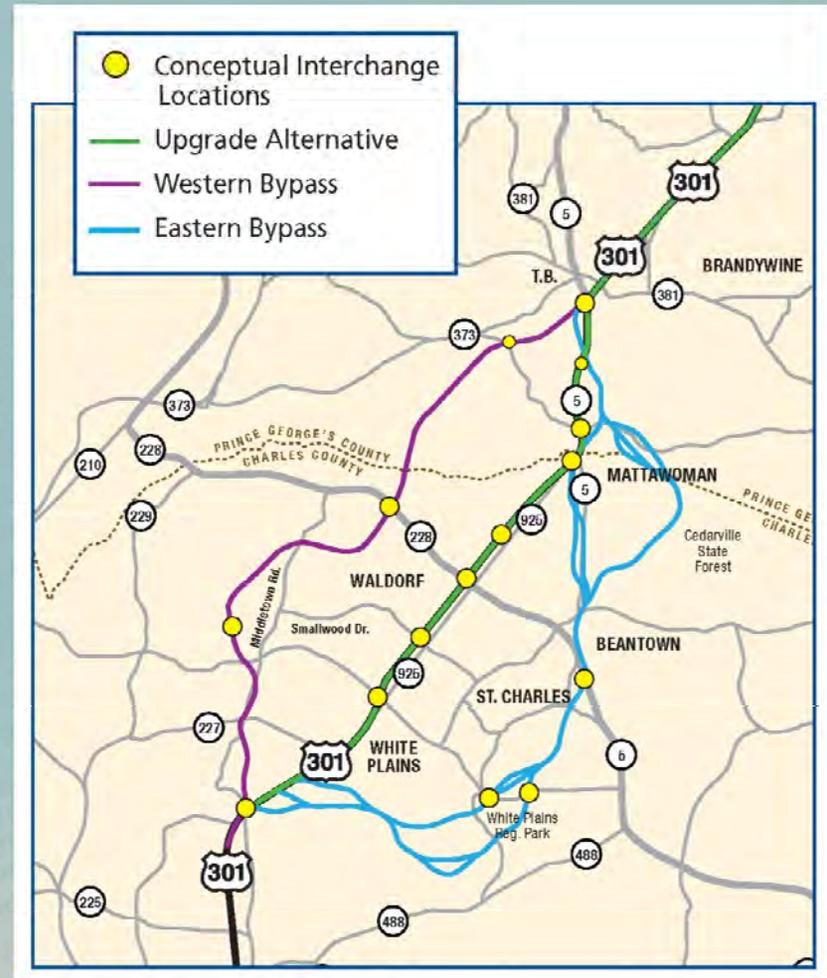


A GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE APPROACH

Address current and projected traffic congestion around the Waldorf, MD area

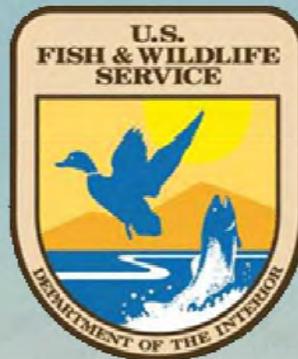
Three major alternatives:

- Upgrade US 301
- Eastern Bypass
- Western Bypass



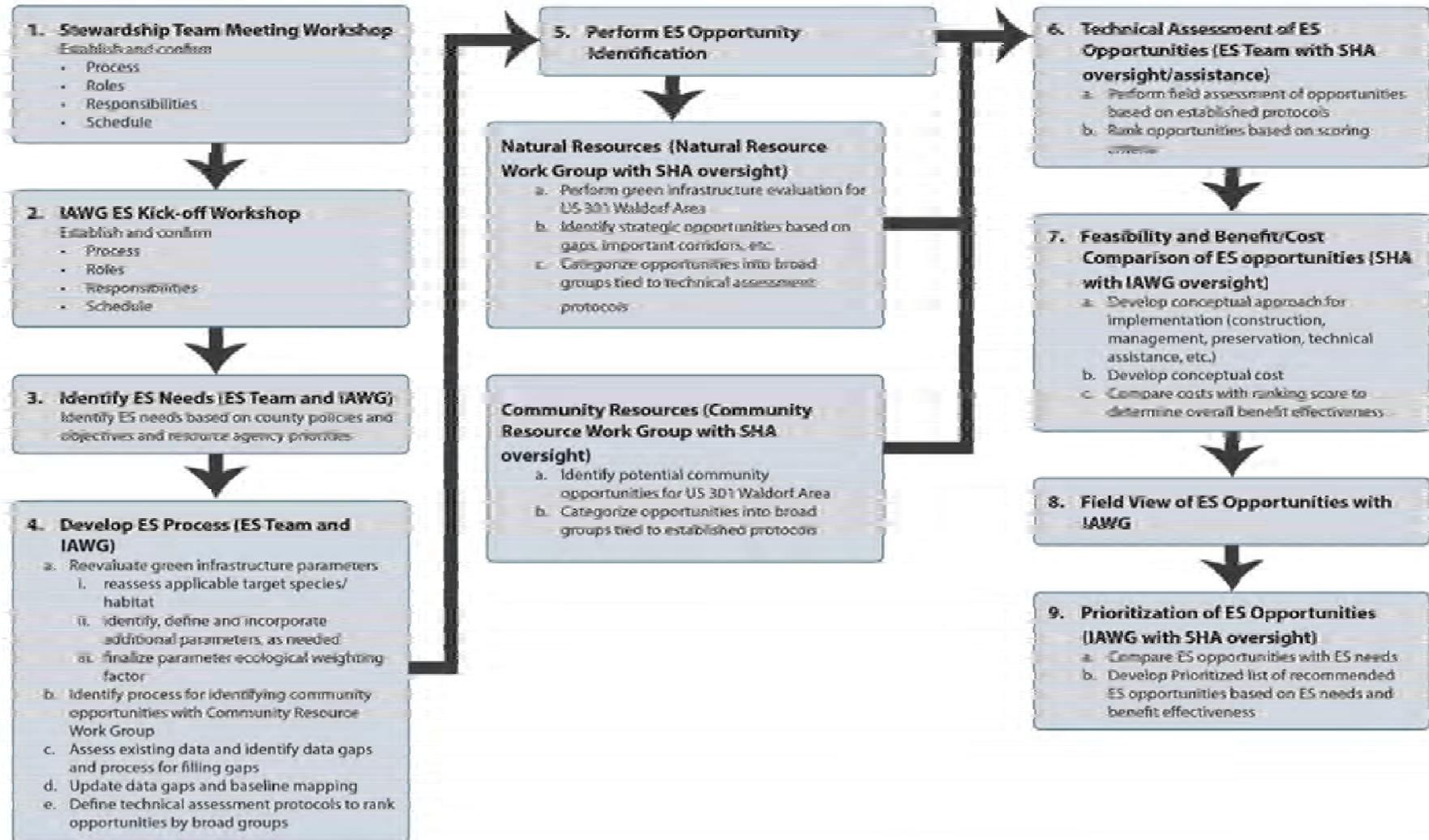


PARTNERSHIPS

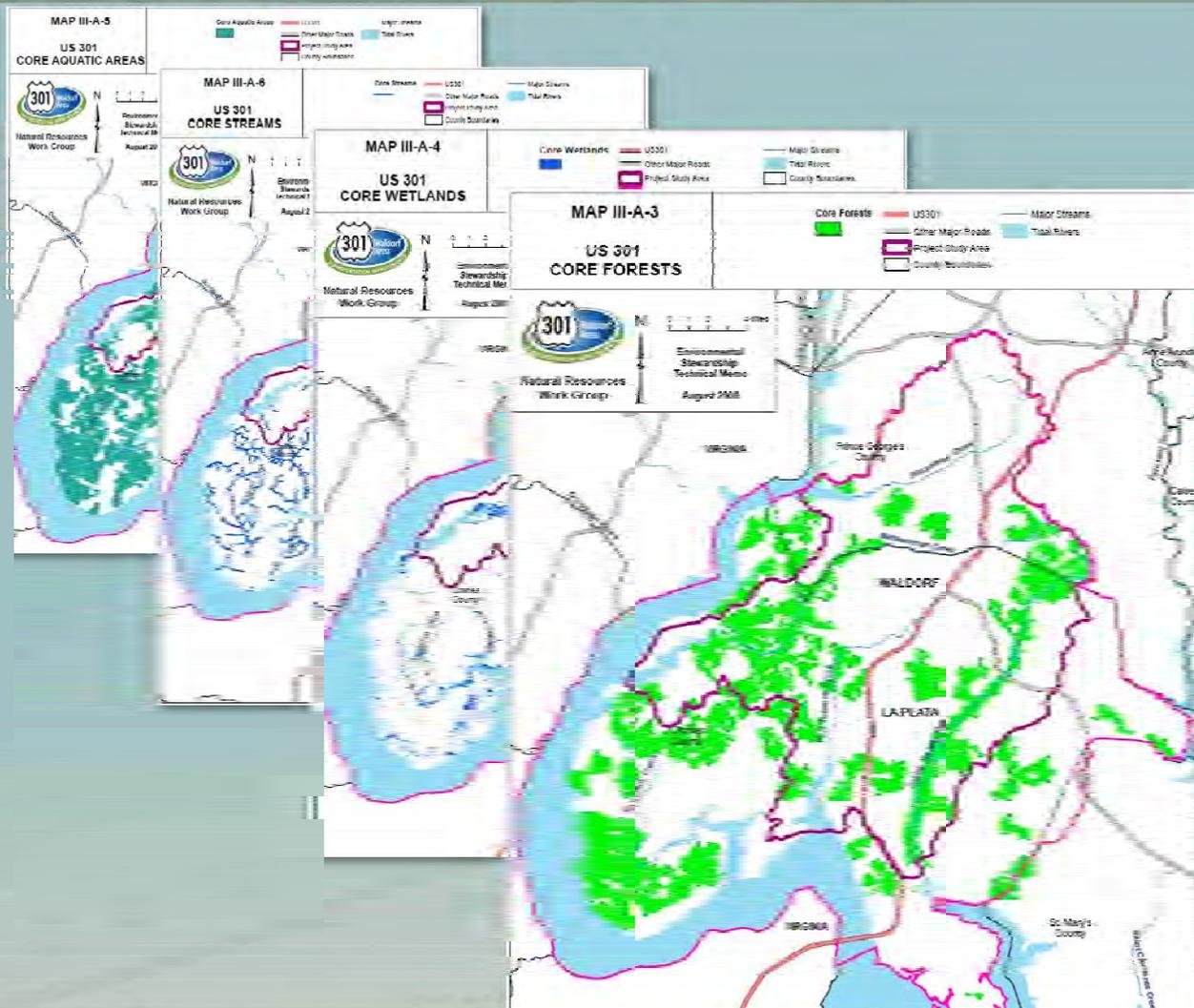




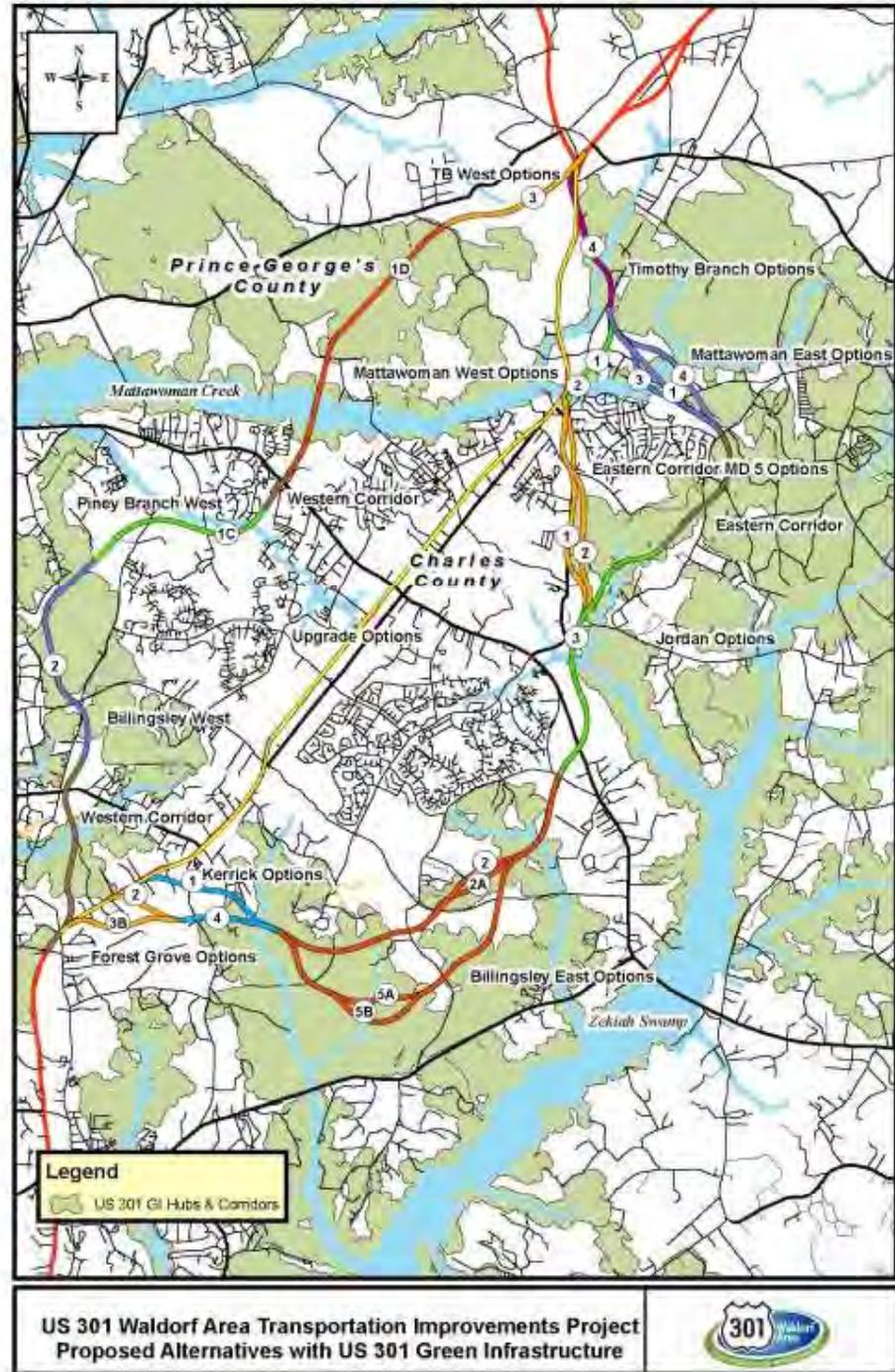
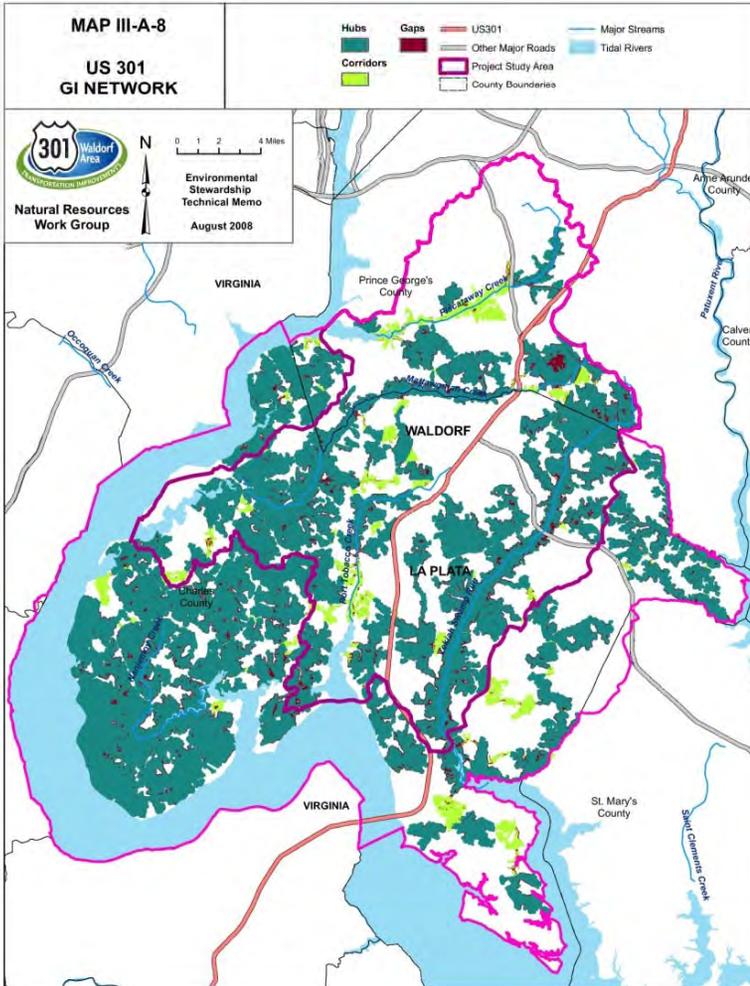
Conceptual Environmental Stewardship Process



US 301 CORE AREAS



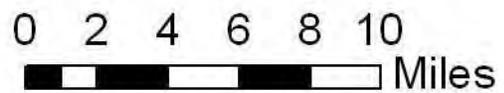
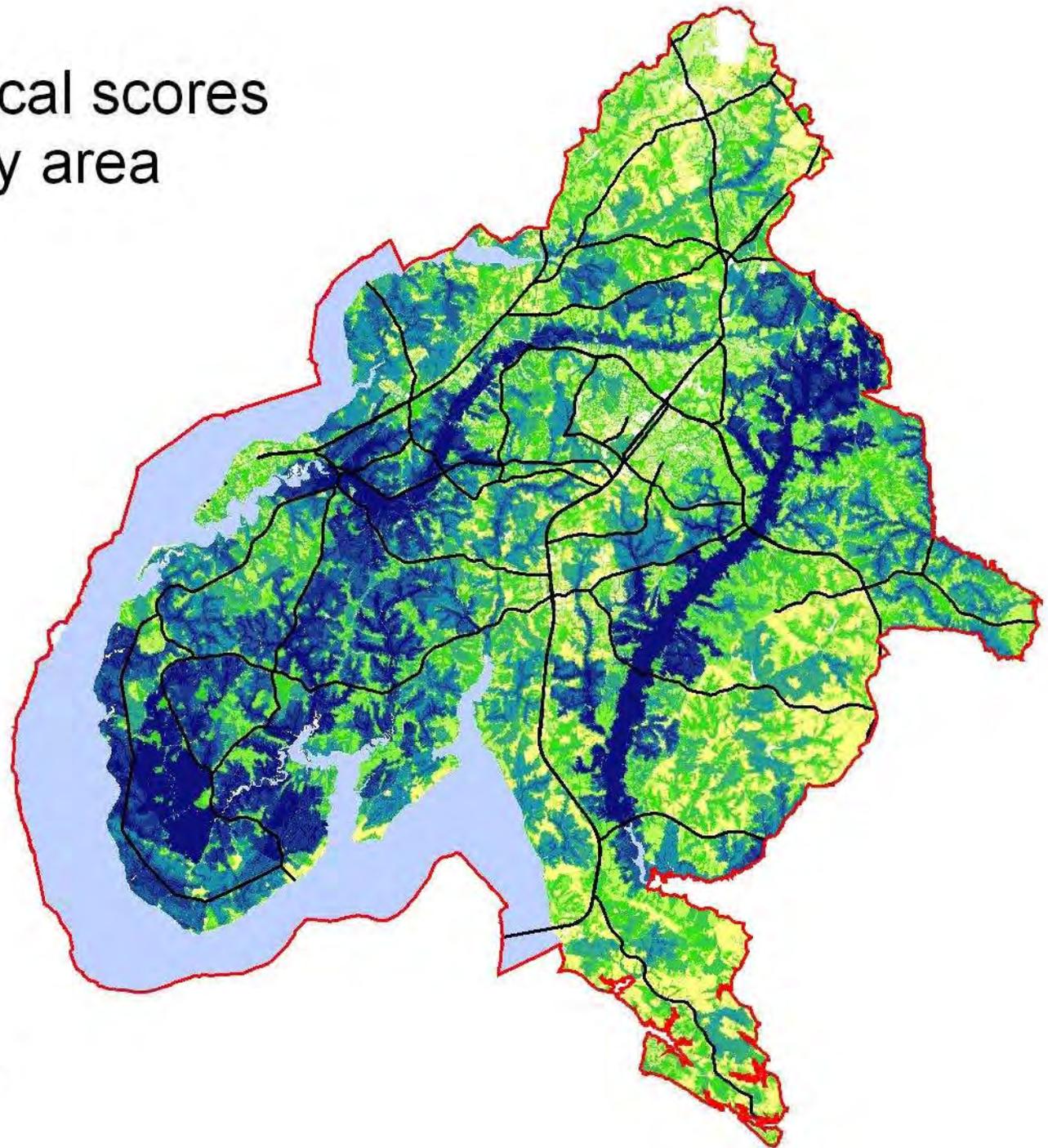
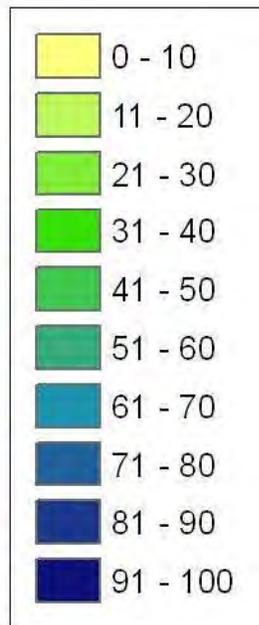
US 301 STUDY AREA GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



US 301 PROJECT OVERALL ECOLOGICAL SCORE

Scale	Variable	Scale weight	Variable weight within scale	Total weight		
Core area/Site	Hub area	20.0	0.100	2.0		
	ESA area		0.100	2.0		
	Area of mature interior forest		0.100	2.0		
	Area of unimpacted wetlands		0.100	2.0		
	Length of core streams		0.100	2.0		
	Maximum depth of core or site		0.100	2.0		
	Distance to major roads		0.100	2.0		
	Distance to development		0.100	2.0		
	Proximity index		0.100	2.0		
	Connectivity index		0.100	2.0		
	Hub		ESA area	20.0	0.182	3.6
			Area of mature interior forest		0.182	3.6
Area of unimpacted wetlands		0.091	1.8			
Length of core streams		0.091	1.8			
Maximum depth of hub		0.091	1.8			
Distance to major roads		0.091	1.8			
Distance to development		0.091	1.8			
Proximity index		0.091	1.8			
Connectivity index		0.091	1.8			
Corridor		Average rank of linked hubs	10.0		0.333	3.3
	Number of hubs linked	0.333		3.3		
	Major road crossings without bridges	0.333		3.3		
8-digit watershed	Anadromous fish spawning habitat use	10.0	0.500	5.0		
	Percent core streams in watershed		0.500	5.0		
12-digit watershed	Stronghold watershed (Tier 1/Tier 2/neither)	10.0	0.500	5.0		
	Mean combined IBI score		0.500	5.0		
Grid cell (36 m ²)	ESA presence and rank	40.0	0.071	2.9		
	Ecological Community Group rank		0.071	2.9		
	Forest maturity		0.286	11.4		
	Wetland condition and proximity		0.143	5.7		
	Proximity to core streams		0.143	5.7		
	Proximity to water		0.143	5.7		
	Distance to edge of forest, wetland, or water		0.143	5.7		
	Distance to development		0.000	0.0		
TOTAL		100.0		100.0		

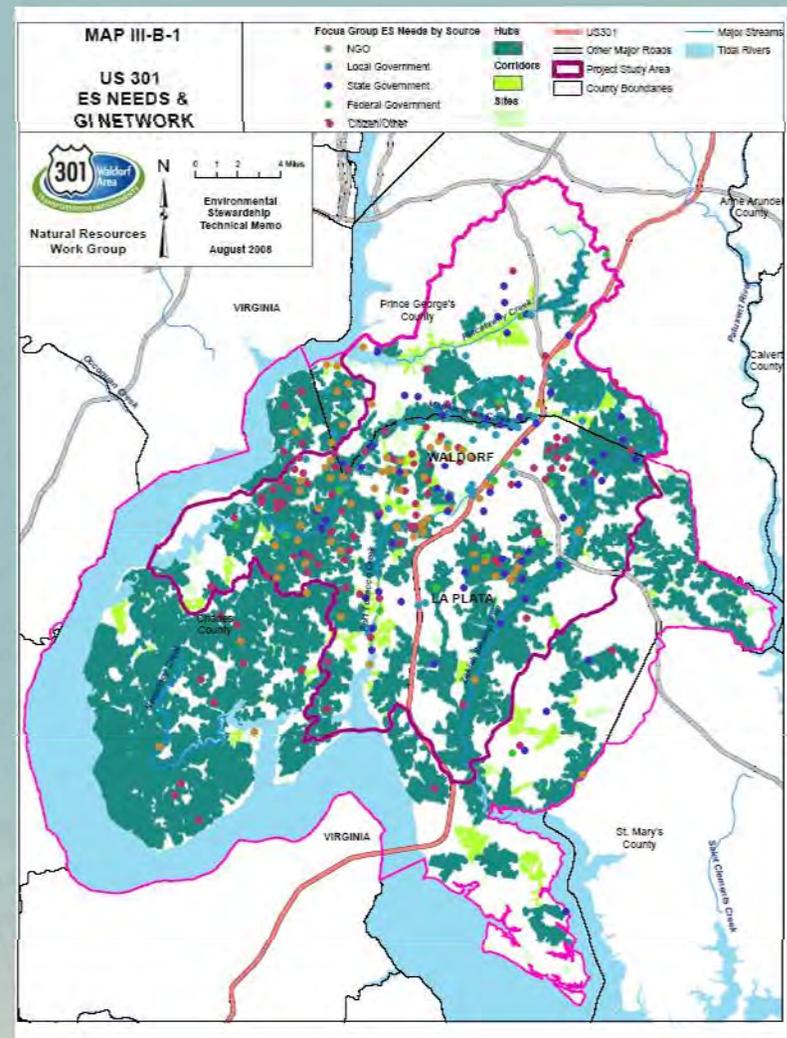
Overall ecological scores in US 301 study area



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK & STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES

Environmental Stewardship Activities	
Conservation / Preservation	60%
Restoration / Creation	18%
Management Actions	11%
Recreation / Public Access to Open Space	11%

Priority Natural Resources	
Forests	22%
Streams and Aquatic Resources	19%
Wetlands	17%
Marine Fisheries	10%
Species Habitat	11%
Passive Recreation Areas	5%
Historic/Archeological	6%
Agriculture	9%



DIFFERENCES IN SELECTION MODELS

Rank-Based Models

Rank-order projects from highest benefit to lowest

Invest in highest ranked projects until the budget is expended, ignores “good buys”

Guarantees selection of the highest rated projects

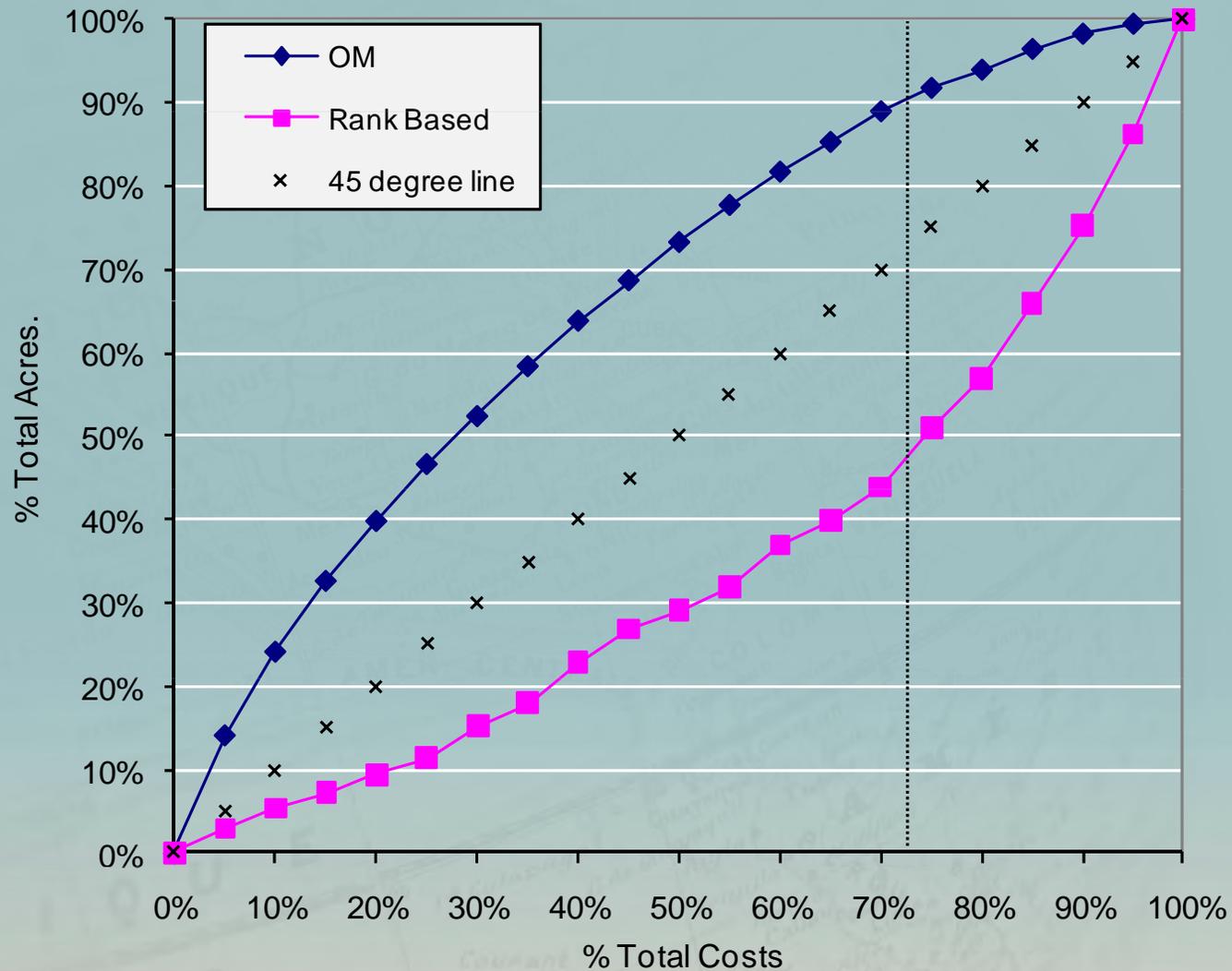
Optimization Models

Seeks to maximize aggregate benefits

Considers user’s constraints (e.g. budget, project type, etc.)

Selects “best buys” or projects with greatest value per dollar

DIFFERENCES IN SELECTION MODELS



OPTIMIZATION TOOL

Microsoft Excel - Adobe PDF									
A77									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2	Name of Analysis:	Round 1 (MALPF) \$4.8 million							
3									
4	Total Variables:	55	Import	Rank Based	Optimize	Subset Analysis	Show Hidden Variables	Settings	Data
5	Projects:	65	Clear					Results	Export
6		Reset				Summary Statistics			
7		Data Type	Weights	Maximization	Amount	Total	Min	Max	Average
8	Conservation Value			Maximization		108.7	0.8	3.0	1.7
9	Project ID#	Project ID	-	NA		2,145.0	1.0	65.0	33.0
45	Wetland Value	Report	-	NA		98.3	0.0	5.0	1.5
46	Scenic Value	Report	-	NA		180.0	0.0	10.0	2.8
52	ACRES	Benefit	1.0	NA		4,117.9	3.7	244.7	63.4
54	Ag Suitability	Benefit	2.0	NA		2,731.5	16.6	59.5	42.0
55	Forest Suitability	Report	-	NA		2,580.5	15.4	58.4	39.7
62	Cost	Cost	-	Total Maximum	4,800,000.0	8,841,378.1	0.0	1,201,970.0	136,021.2

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

- **CO6A - Integration of Conservation, Highway Planning, and Environmental Permitting Using an Outcome-Based Ecosystem Approach**
- **CO6B - Integration of Conservation, Highway Planning, and Environmental Permitting Through development of an Outcome-based Ecosystem-scale Approach and Corresponding Credit System**



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

C06A: INTEGRATION OF CONSERVATION, HIGHWAY PLANNING, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING

Development of Regional Ecosystems Framework and processes and business cases (FHWA & DOTs, USFWS, Corps, EPA, State DNRs) for integration of conservation and transportation planning, especially in the 404 permitting and ESA section 7 consultation processes



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C06B: ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES AND CREDITS SYSTEM

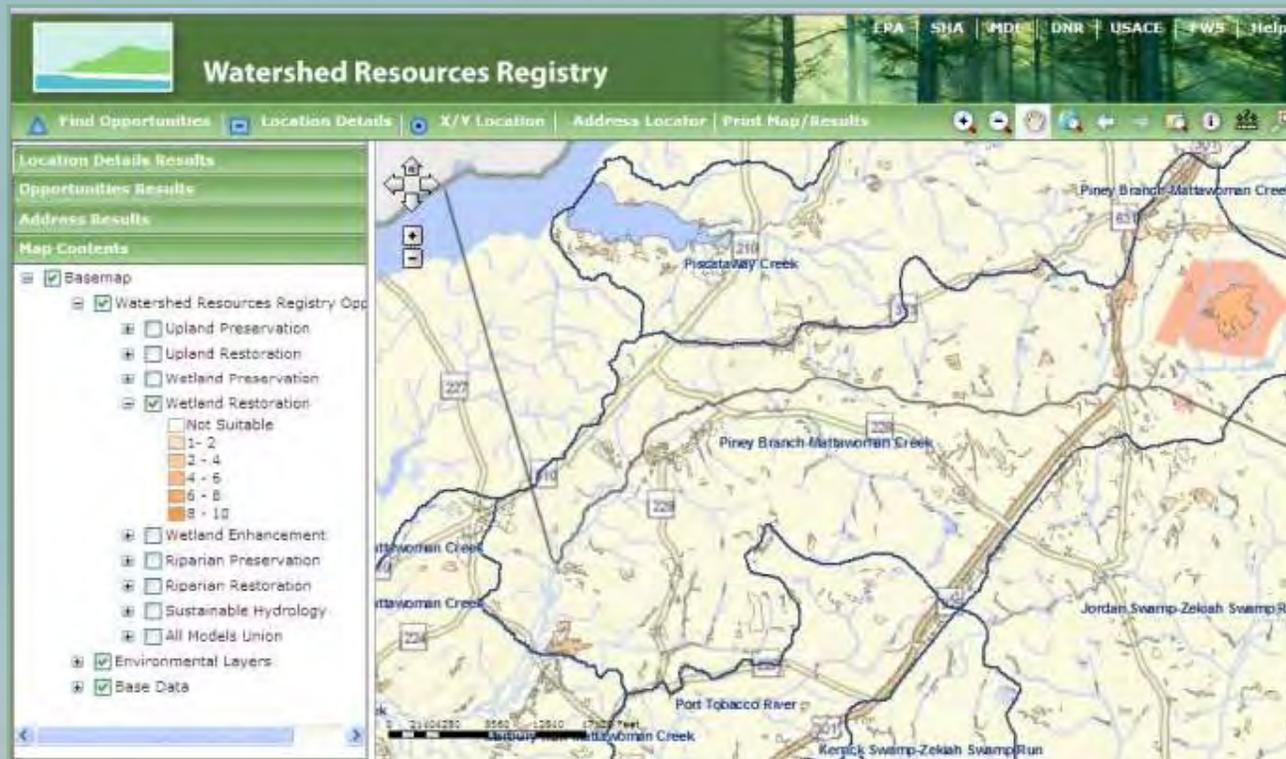
Three areas of focus for tools developed by the 6B team, placed within the context of the step-wise Framework developed by 6A:

- (1) Cumulative Effects and Alternatives Analysis
- (2) Regulatory Assurances
- (3) Ecosystem Crediting

Interactive database of methods, tools, systems and case studies that support the Ecological Assessment methods

THE WATERSHED RESOURCES REGISTRY (WRR)

A National Pilot To Integrate Land-use Planning, Regulatory, and Non-regulatory Decision Making Using the Watershed Approach



WRR POTENTIAL COST SAVINGS

	Costs	Time	Cost Savings w/WRR	Time Savings w/WRR
Site Search	\$50,000	4 months	\$37,500	3 months
Design	\$210,000	18 months	\$70,000	6 months
Agency Coordination/MDE Consultant Review	\$10,000	12 months	\$2,500	3 months
Total	\$365,000	2.5 years	<u>\$110,000</u>	<u>1 year</u>

- ❖ *Estimates for a single project; potentially ~10 projects/year*
- ❖ *Estimates do not account for decreased employee time*

THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TMDL AND MD STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION GOALS

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goal - finalized December 2010

- **Set load limits for N, P, Sediment**
- **Jurisdictional sub-basins = 58 allocations**

Target Water Quality retrofits through:

- **Stormwater Management**
- **Urban Tree Plantings**
- **Stream Buffer Plantings**
- **Wetland Restoration**
- **Stream Restoration**
- **Innovative Methods**
- **Improved Operations – street sweeping, inlet cleaning**

Use of Watershed Resources Registry will allow us to concentrate efforts to get the biggest benefit

COMPREHENSIVE HIGHWAY CORRIDORS

- Incorporate Sustainable practices (Environmental, Social, and Economic)
- Develop a strategy based on technical criteria and analysis that addresses future needs on major highway corridors across the State
- Serves as a conduit for the Highway Needs Inventory (HNI) and as a tool to guide SHA programming and funding priorities



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

- **Project Planning - Scoping through Location Approval**
 - Environmental inventory
 - NEPA analysis/assessment,
 - Identification of mitigation and stewardship opportunities
- **Final Design and Mitigation Plan**
- **System Preservation /Maintenance**

WHY USE THESE TOOLS?

Can we afford not to?



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

The screenshot shows the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website. The main navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'LAND CONSERVATION', 'LOCAL SUPPORT', 'STEWARDSHIP', and 'PROGRAMS'. The 'Land Acquisition and Planning' section features a landscape image and a 'Maryland's Green Infrastructure Assessment' link. The 'OTHER STATE INFORMATION' sidebar lists various state programs and boards.

An American Planning Association memo titled, **“Green Infrastructure Planning: Recent Advances and Applications”** and the case study on the **US 301 Waldorf project** is available for download at: <http://www.conservationfund.org/>

This screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar displays the URL: http://www.conservationfund.org/sites/default/files/The_Conservation_Fund_Chesapeake_Bay_Better_Models. The browser interface includes standard menu options like File, Edit, Go To, Favorites, and Help.

This screenshot shows two overlapping browser windows. The foreground window displays the cover of the report **A Sustainable Chesapeake: Better Models for Conservation**, edited by David G. Burke and Joel E. Dunn, published by The Conservation Fund. The background window shows the title page of an American Planning Association (APA) memo titled **Green Infrastructure Planning: Recent Advances and Applications**, dated May/June 2009, by Ole M. Amundsen, Will Allen, and Kris Hoellen. The APA logo and tagline 'Making Great Communities Happen' are visible at the top of the memo page.

http://www.dnr.state.md.us/land/green_infra_mapping.asp