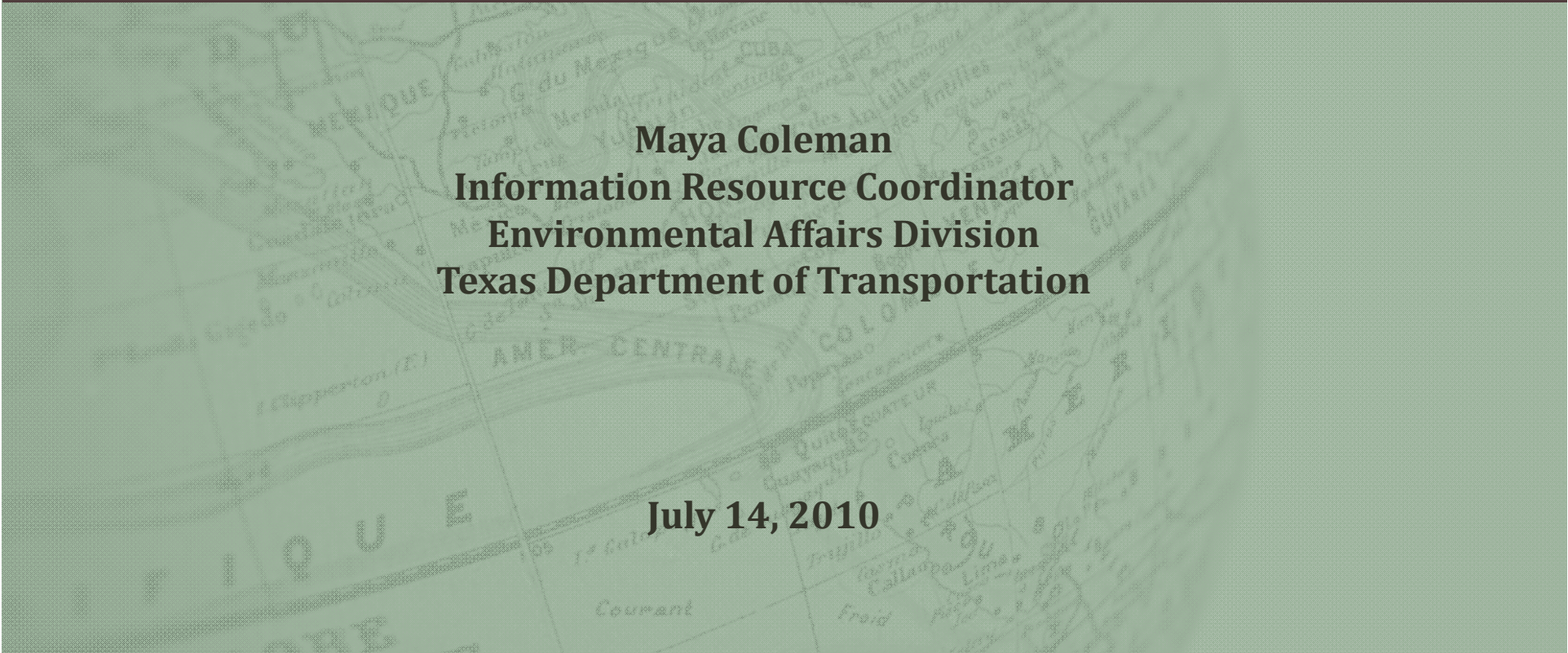


Environmental Planning GIS Tools for Transportation Planning and Design

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



Maya Coleman
Information Resource Coordinator
Environmental Affairs Division
Texas Department of Transportation

July 14, 2010

The Rules Have Changed...

April 2008 –Final Compensatory Mitigation Rule

- Increased transparency and improved performance
- Set clear science-based and results-oriented standards nationwide
- Encourage watershed-based decisions
- Continued emphasis on avoidance and minimization

Overview

AASHTO TIG – Environmental Planning GIS Tools
Lead States Team – Texas and Maryland

Texas DOT GIS Screening Tool

Maryland SHA's Green Infrastructure Assessment
and Approach

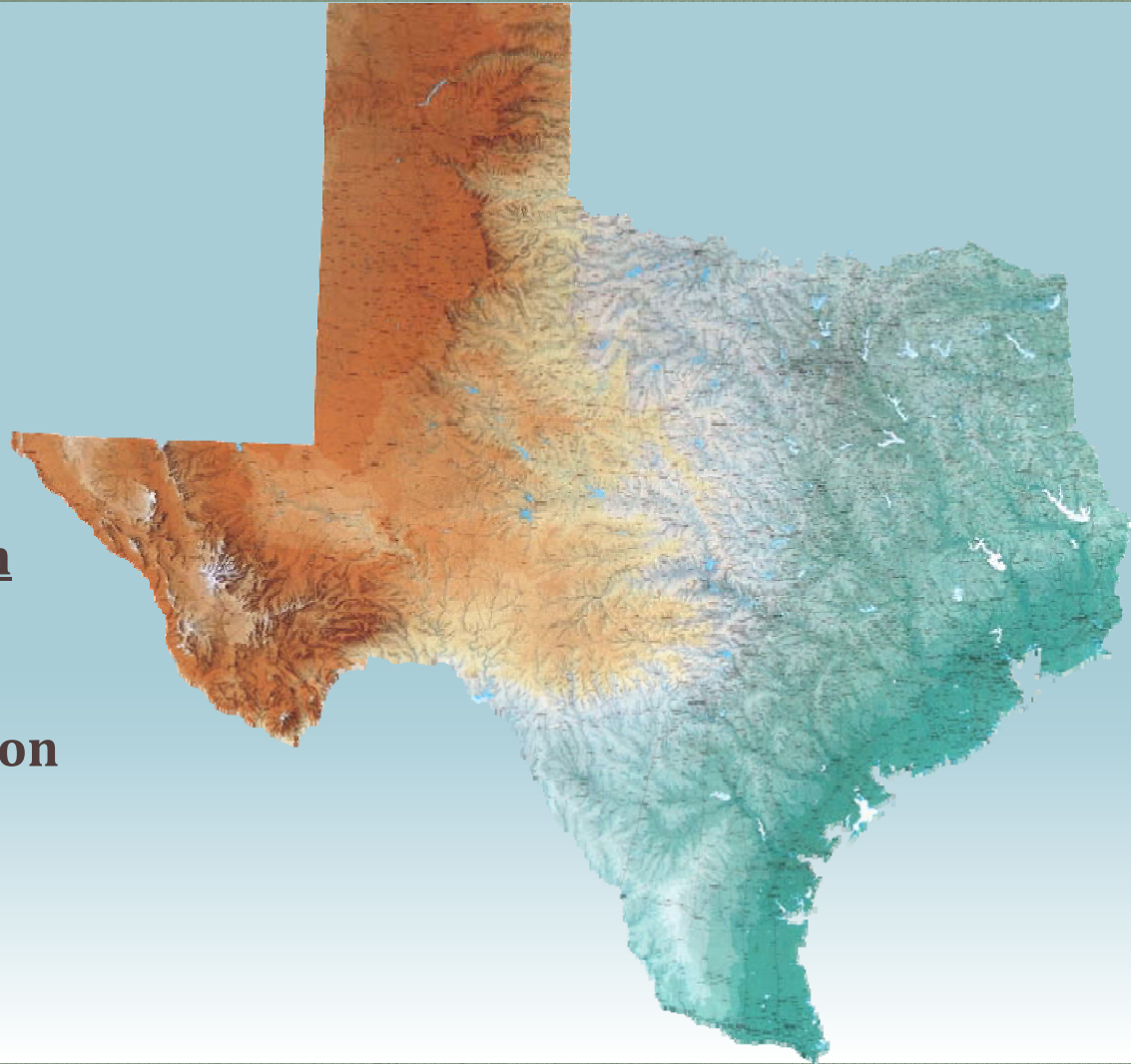
Texas: A big state with both rural and urban populations

Land Area

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

Estimated Population

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





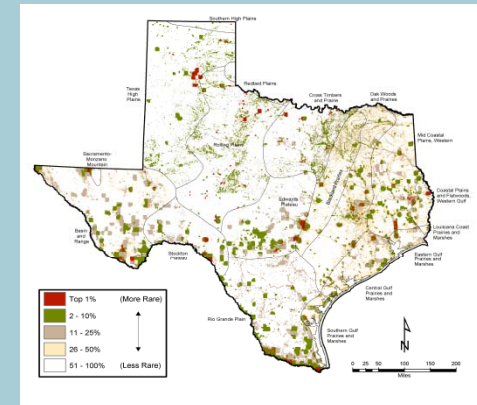
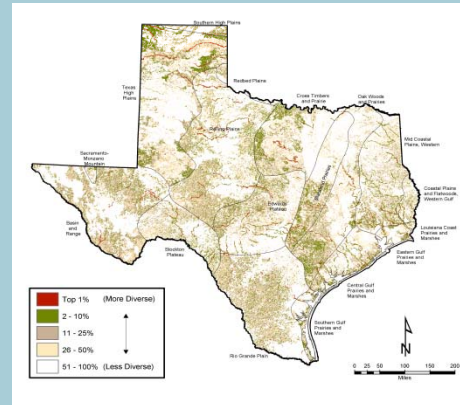
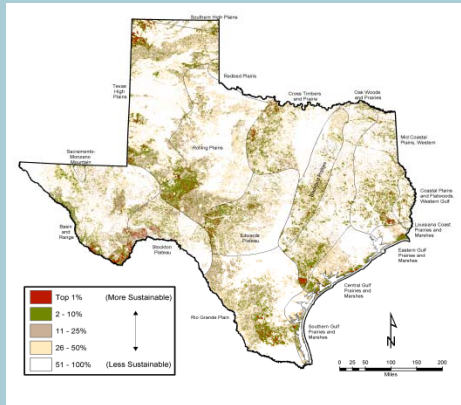
Environmental Planning Tools



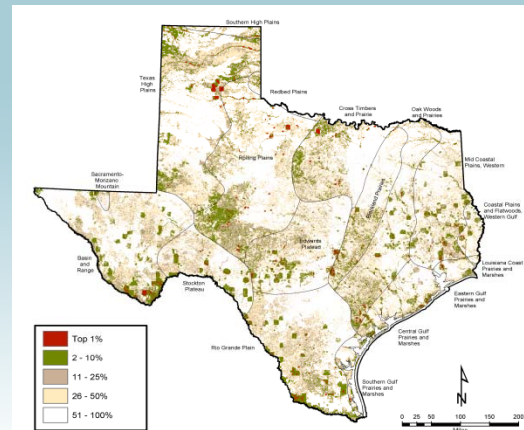
TxDOT has acquired GIS tools from U.S. EPA:

- Texas Ecological Assessment Protocol (TEAP)
- GIS Screening Tool

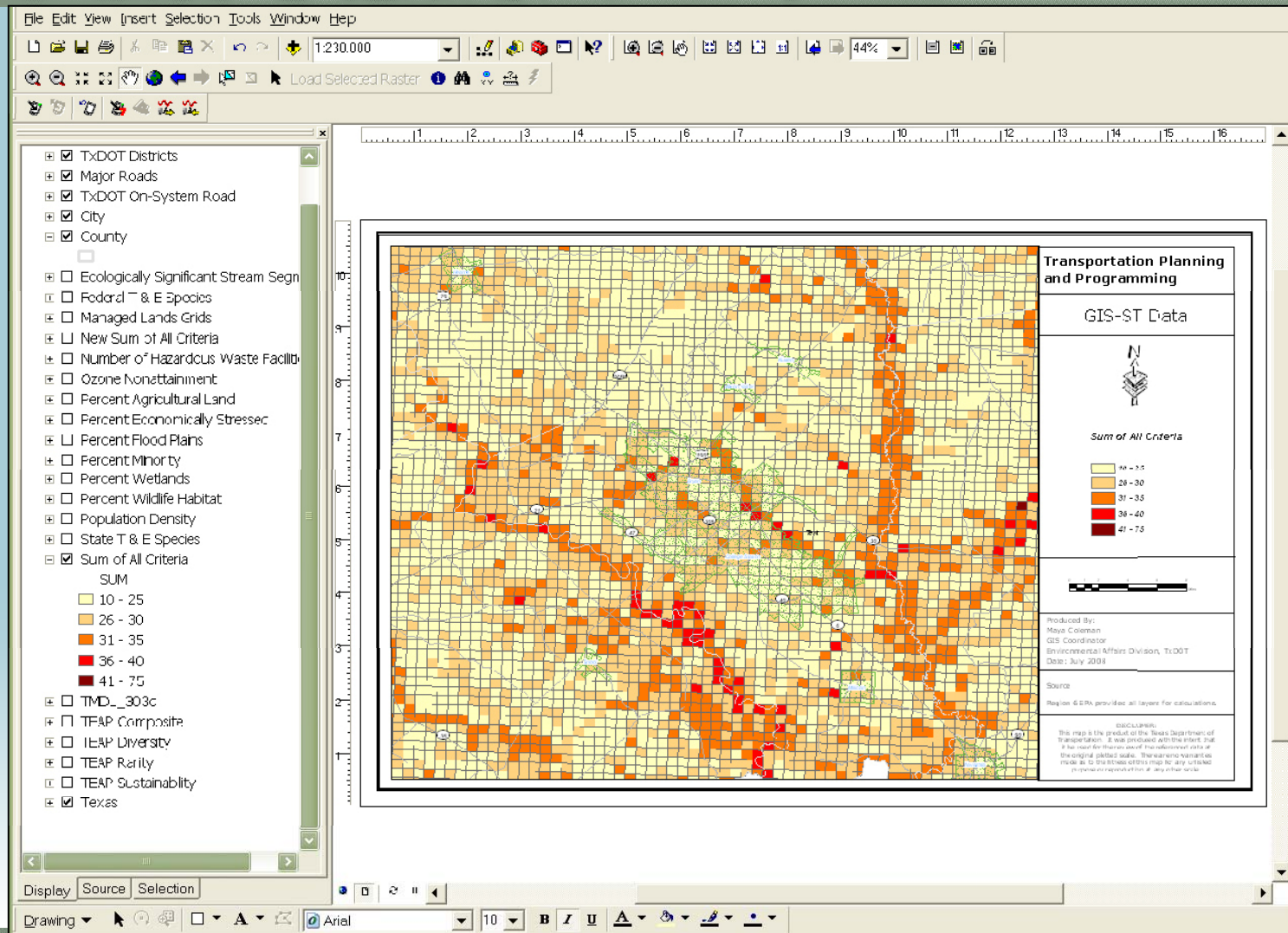
What is TEAP?



Composite: identifies important ecological resources in each ecoregion across Texas



What is GISST?



GIS-ST Calculation Example

% 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	≥ 50% of the grid cell

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

What is NEPAassist?

NEPAassist

Recent Additions | Contact Us Search: [GO](#)

[EPA Home](#) > [NEPAassist Home](#) > [NEPAassist Mapper](#)



Map Features **Legend**

Redraw Map ↻

- Regulated sites
 - Multi-activities
 - Superfund
 - Toxic releases
 - Water dischargers
 - Air emissions
 - Hazardous waste
- Places
 - Transportation
 - NonAttainment Area
 - Water features
 - Political boundaries
 - Water Monitors
 - USGS Water Monitors
 - EPA Water Monitors
 - Remote Images [EXIT EPA](#)
 - TerraServer Photo
 - TerraServer Topo
 - GlobeExplorer Image
 - National Land Cover Data(1992)
 - FEMA Flood [EXIT EPA](#)
 - Shaded Relief [EXIT EPA](#)
 - NWI Wetlands [EXIT EPA](#)

Redraw Map ↻

NEPAssist

Recent Additions | Contact Us Search: **GO**

EPA Home > NEPAssist Home > NEPAssist Mapper



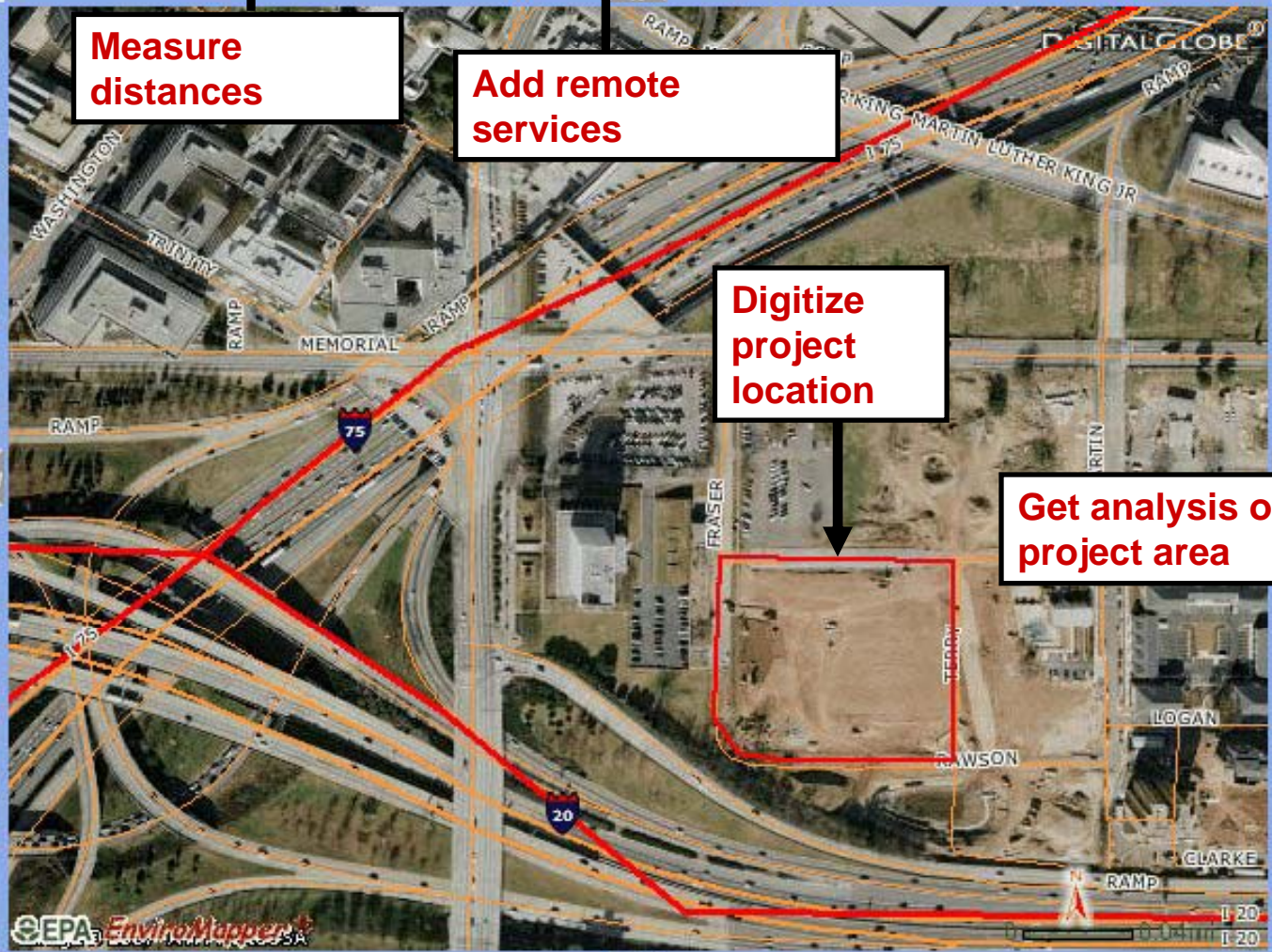
Upload shapefiles

Measure distances

Add remote services

Digitize project location

Get analysis of project area



Map Features Legend

Redraw Map ↻

Choose a digitize option:

- Polygon
- Line
- Point

Coordinates:

-

84.384764, 33.7455

81, -

84.386197, 33.7456

07, -

Area: 0.007042 mile² (1.963e+5 ft²)

Add to main map

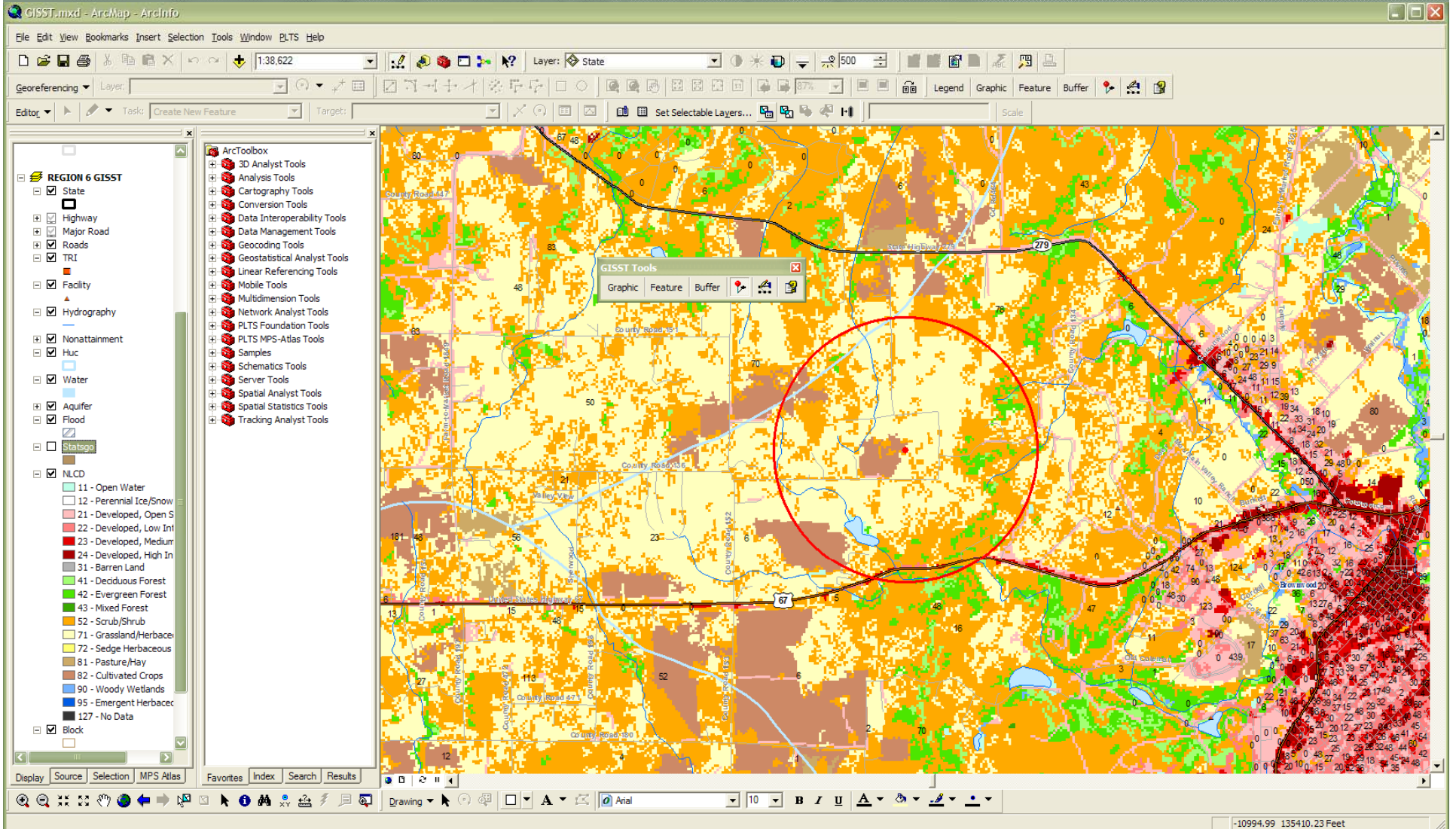
Analysis report

Save As Shapefile

Cancel

Redraw Map ↻

GISST



GISST Report

ScoresCumulative : Table

OBJECTID	Site	RunTime	Surface_Water_Use_Score	STORET_Exceedences_Score	Rainfall_Score	Unified_Watersh	Average_Flow_S	Aquifer_Geology	Distance_to_W	Distance_to_W	Road_Density
256	test	010 1:45:57 PM	3	1	2	1	4	5	0	5	5.
257	test3	10 11:08:07 AM	1	1	3	1	3	4	0	5	1.

Record: 1 of 2

GISST Scores

rest3

HUC-Related	Score
Surface Water Use	1
Storet Exceedences	1
Rainfall	3
Unified Watershed Assessment	1
Average Flow	3
Aquifer Geology	4

Air	Value	Score
Number of Regulated Facilities	0	1
Road Density (miles / sq mi)	1.04	3
Nonattainment		1

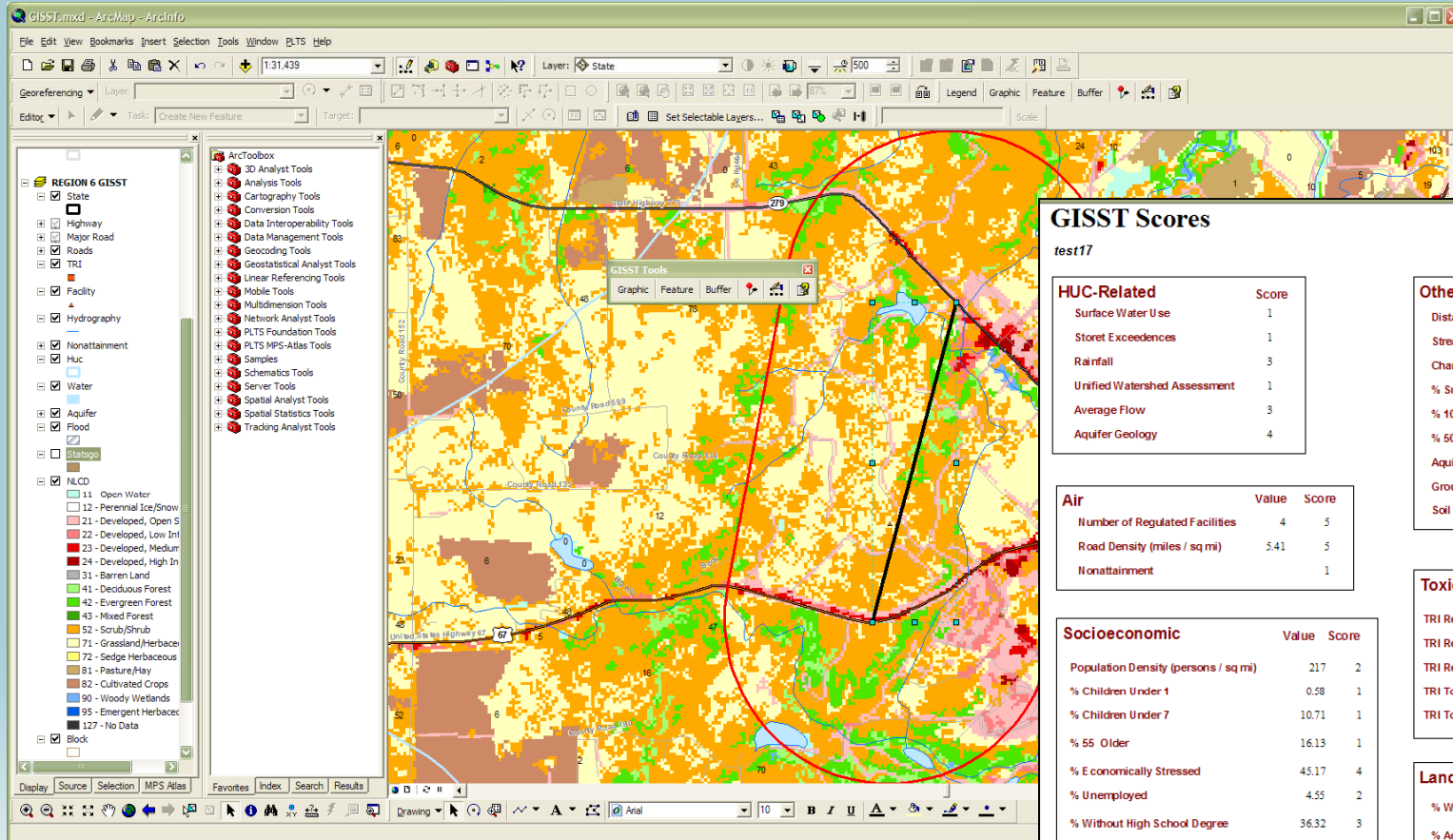
Socioeconomic	Value	Score
Population Density (persons / sq mi)	23	1
% Children Under 1	1.37	1
% Children Under 7	6.83	1
% 65+ Older	26.03	3
% Economically Distressed	27.39	2
% Unemployed	1.75	1
% Without High School Degree	20.41	1
Educational Attainment		3
Age of Housing Unit		2
% Low/No Ability to speak English	1.48	1
% Linguistically Isolated	3.45	1
% Foreign Born	1.37	1

Other Water-Related	Value	Score
Distance to Water (feet)	0	3
Stream Density (miles/ sq mi)	1.39	3
Channel/Canal Density (miles / sq mi)	0	1
% Surface Water	0.75	1
% 100 Year Flood	0	1
% 600 Year Flood	0	1
Aquifer		1
Groundwater Probability		1
Soil Permeability		2

Toxicity	Value	Score
TRI Releases to Air (lbs)	0	1
TRI Releases to Water (lbs)	0	1
TRI Releases to Land (lbs)	0	1
TRI Toxicity Releases to Air (lbs)	0	1
TRI Toxicity Releases to Water (lbs)	0	1

Land Cover	Value	Score
% Wildlife	93.19	3
% Agriculture	6.23	1
% Wetlands	0	1
Area Perimeter Ratio	1071.2	3
Land Use Ranking		3

Alternative 1: GISST Report Direct Impacts



GISST Scores

test17

HUC-Related	Value	Score
Surface Water Use	1	
Storet Exceedences	1	
Rainfall	3	
Unified Watershed Assessment	1	
Average Flow	3	
Aquifer Geology	4	

Other Water-Related	Value	Score
Distance to Water (feet)	0	5
Stream Density (miles / sq mi)	1.73	5
Channel/Canal Density (miles / sq mi)	0.44	1
% Surface Water	0.81	1
% 100 Year Flood	0	1
% 500 Year Flood	0	1
Aquifer	1	
Groundwater Probability	1	
Soil Permeability	2	

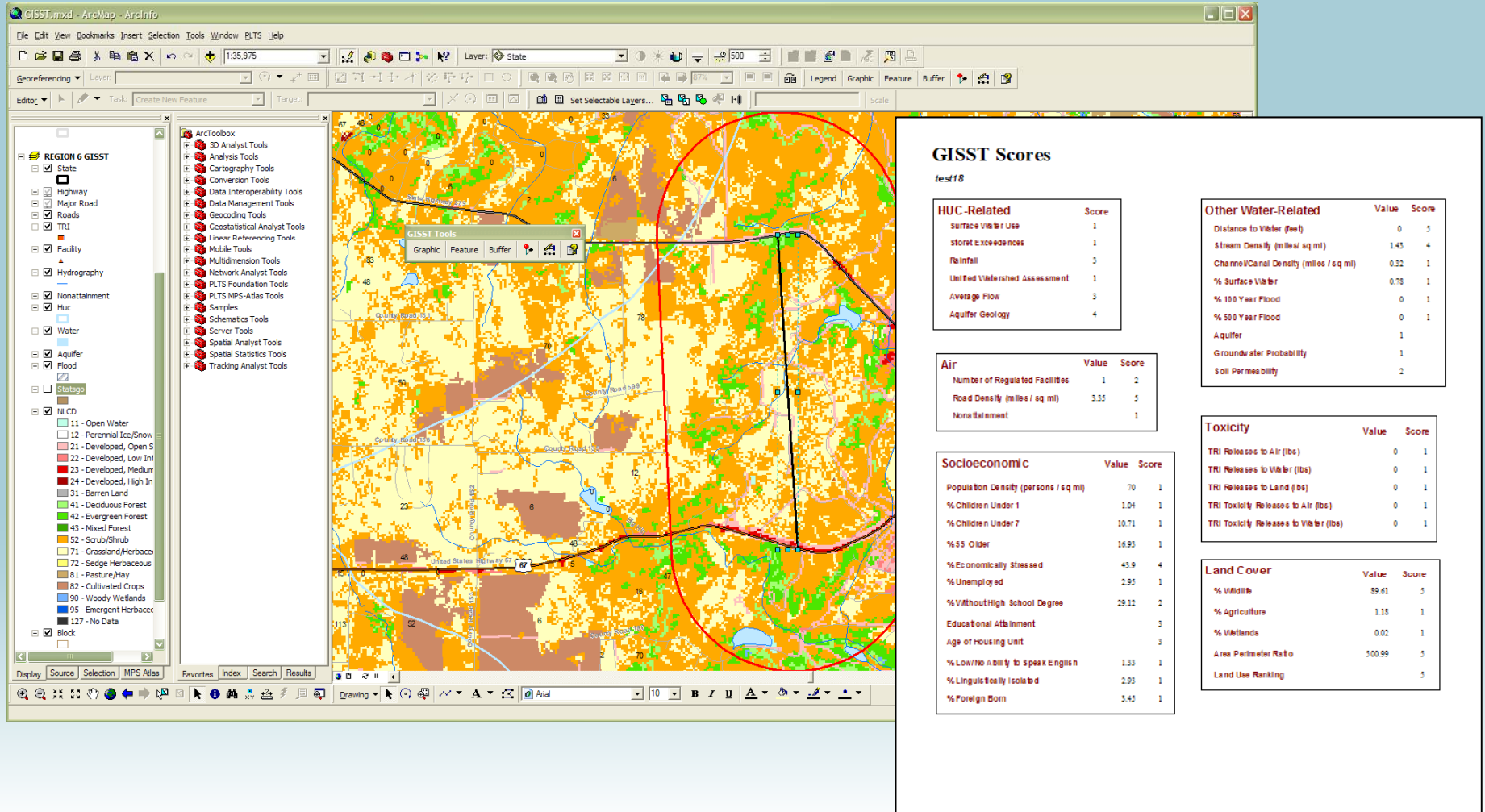
Air	Value	Score
Number of Regulated Facilities	4	5
Road Density (miles / sq mi)	5.41	5
Nonattainment		1

Toxicity	Value	Score
TRI Releases to Air (lbs)	0	1
TRI Releases to Water (lbs)	0	1
TRI Releases to Land (lbs)	0	1
TRI Toxicity Releases to Air (lbs)	0	1
TRI Toxicity Releases to Water (lbs)	0	1

Socioeconomic	Value	Score
Population Density (persons / sq mi)	217	2
% Children Under 1	0.58	1
% Children Under 7	10.71	1
% 55 Older	16.13	1
% Economically Stressed	45.17	4
% Unemployed	4.55	2
% Without High School Degree	36.32	3
Educational Attainment		3
Age of Housing Unit		3
% Low/No Ability to Speak English	2.2	1
% Linguistically Isolated	3.08	1
% Foreign Born	4.39	1

Land Cover	Value	Score
% Wildlife	81.86	5
% Agriculture	0.05	1
% Wetlands	0.25	1
Area Perimeter Ratio	330.35	5
Land Use Ranking		5

Alternative 2: GISST Report Direct Impacts



GISST Report

Facility

Within 100 meters of a hospital?	no
Within 1000 meters of a hospital?	no
Within 100 meters of a TRI facility?	no
Within 1000 meters of a TRI facility?	no
Within 100 meters of a regulated facility?	yes
Within 1000 meters of a regulated facility?	yes
Within 100 meters of an airport?	no

Water

Within 100 meters of a Wild and Scenic River?
Within an area over a Sole Source Aquifer?
Within the 100 year flood plain?
Within the 500 year flood plain?
Within 400 meters of an NWI wetland?
Within an NLCD wetland?
Within 1000 meters of an NLCD wetland?

HUC-Related

Factor	Value	Score
Surface Water Use		3
Storet Exceedences		4
Rainfall		5
Unified Watershed Assessment		3
Average Flow		4
Aquifer Geology		4

Air

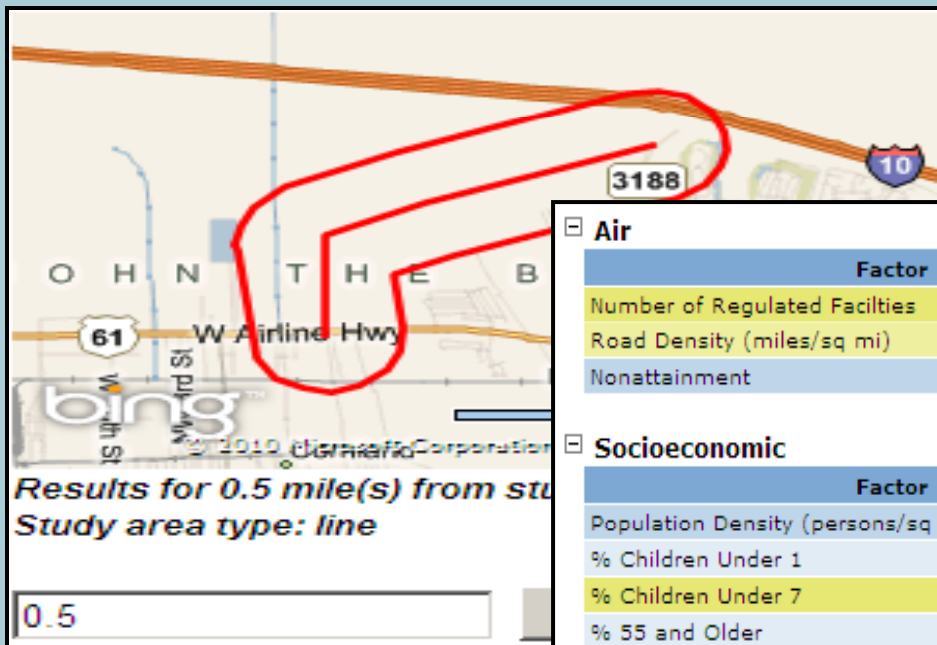
Factor	Value	Score
Number of Regulated Facilities	5	5
Road Density (miles/sq mi)	3.03	5
Nonattainment		1

Socioeconomic

Factor	Value	Score
Population Density (persons/sq mi)	257	2
% Children Under 1	.87	1
% Children Under 7	17.12	4
% 55 and Older	15.76	1
% Unemployed	4.76	2
% Economically Stressed	23.68	1

Alternative 1: GISST Report

Direct Impacts



Air		
Factor	Value	Score
Number of Regulated Facilities	3	3
Road Density (miles/sq mi)	3.03	5
Nonattainment		1

Socioeconomic		
Factor	Value	Score
Population Density (persons/sq mi)	207	5
% Children Under 1	.87	1
% Children Under 7	17.12	4
% 55 and Older	15.76	1
% Unemployed	4.76	2
% Economically Stressed	23.68	1
% Without High School Degree	19.74	1
Educational Attainment		3

Land Cover		
Factor	Value	Score
% Wildlife	68.16	5
% Agriculture	14.56	1
% Wetlands	65.0019990549922	5

Alternative 2: GISST Report

Direct Impacts

NEPAssist GISST Report

Map

Results for .5 mile(s) from study area
Study area type: line

Map

Factor	Value	Score
Number of Regulated Facilities	2	3
Road Density (miles/sq mi)	2.07	3
Nonattainment		1

Socioeconomic

Factor	Value	Score
Population Density (persons/sq mi)	1	1
% Children Under 1	0	1
% Children Under 7	0	1
% 55 and Older	25	2
% Unemployed	0	1
% Economically Stressed	100	5
% Without High School Degree	33.33	2
Educational Attainment		4

Land Cover

Factor	Value	Score
% Wildlife	60.92	5
% Agriculture	32.16	3
% Wetlands	59.81	5

GISST Database Comparison of Alternatives

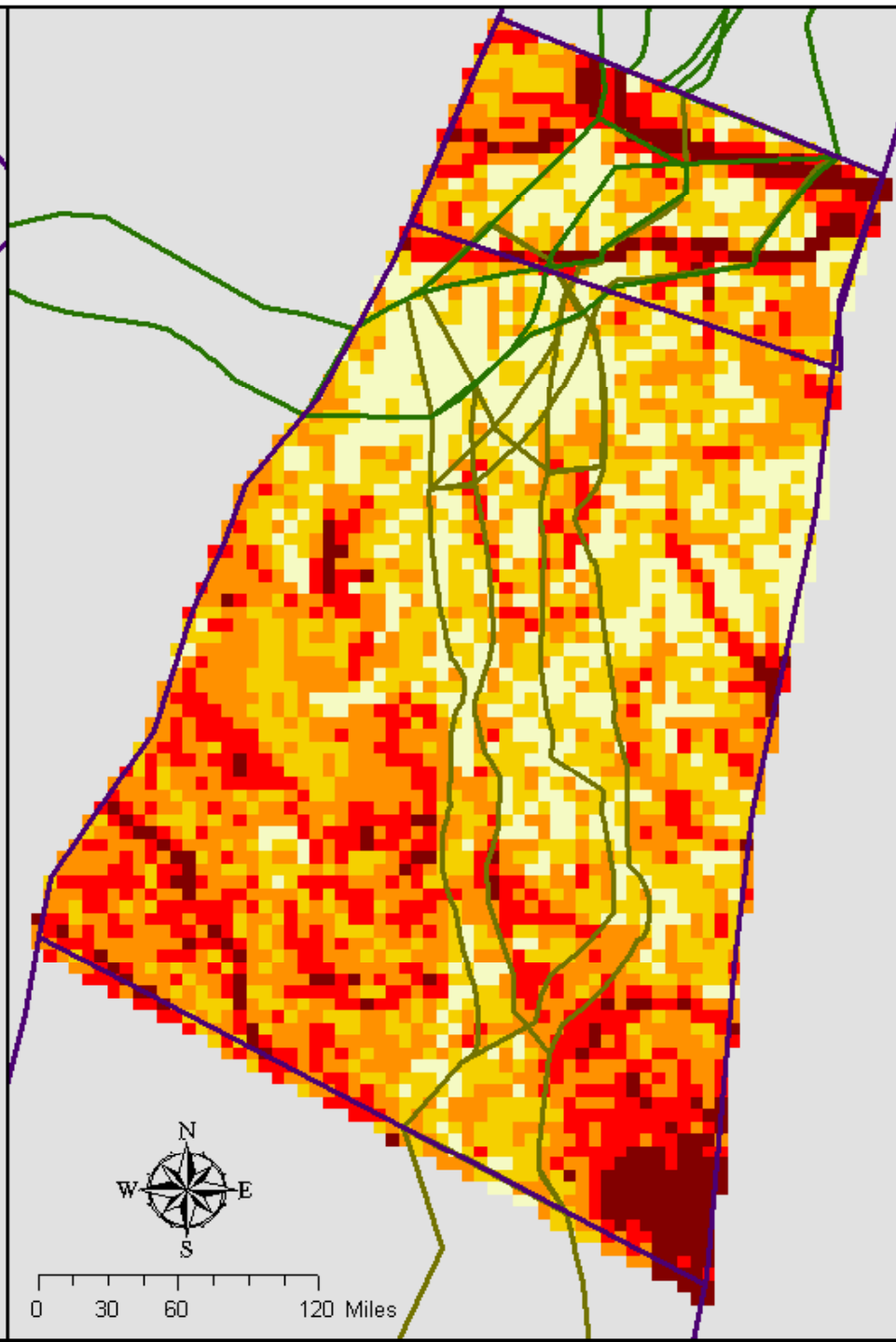
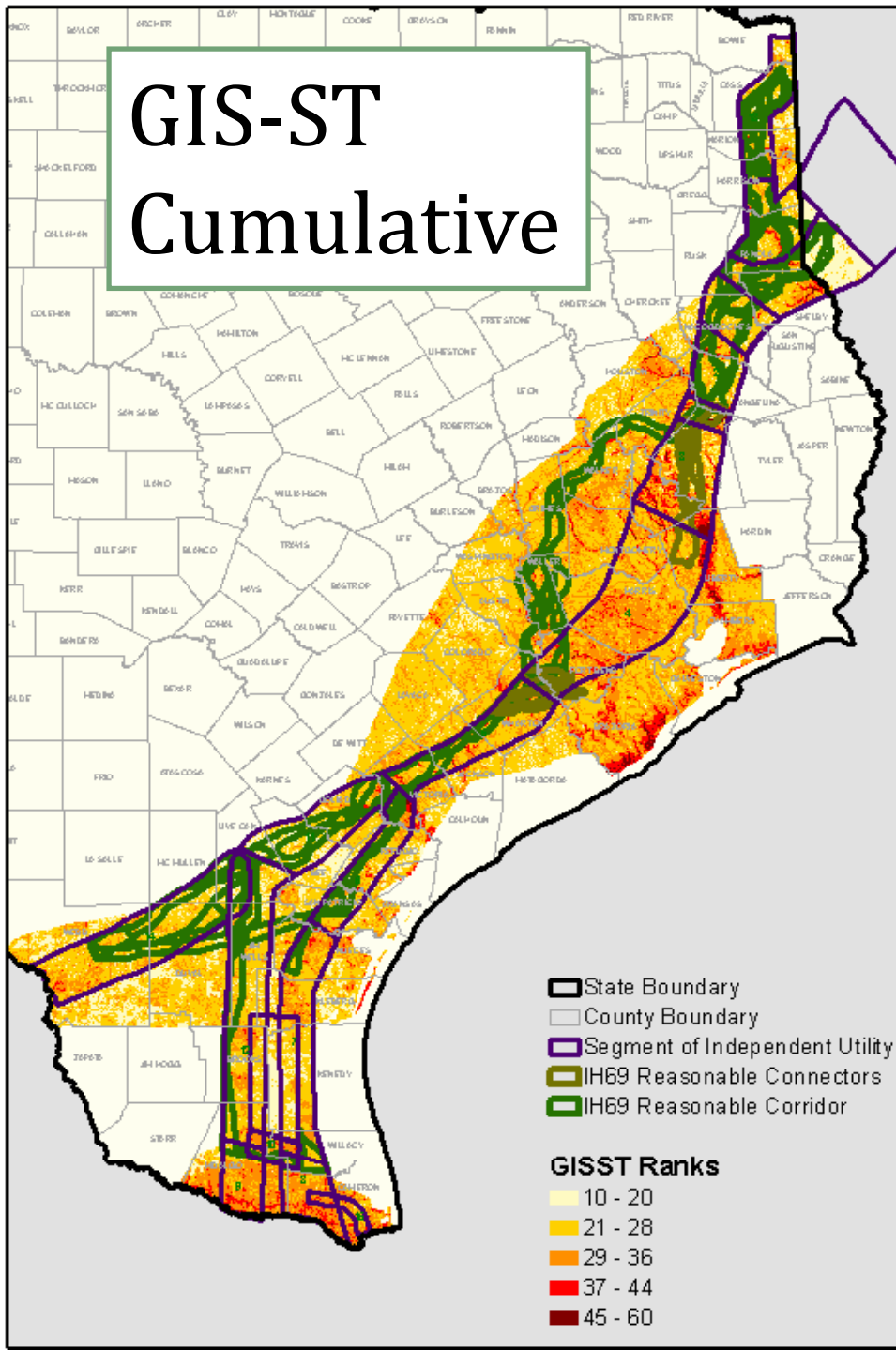
Corridor Alternative	1	2	3	4	5	6
Number of facilities	5	2	1	4	0	5
score	5	3	2	5	1	5
% Wildlife	79.78	60.92	89.96	86.05	68.01	75.11
	5	5	5	5	5	5
% Agriculture	10.05	32.16	3.68	2.56	25.96	15.42
	1	3	1	1	2	1
% Wetlands	75.98	59.81	87.17	80.54	67.96	74.88
	5	5	5	5	5	5
stream density	2.61	2.71	1.63	3.56	1.69	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

Texas Case Study – Interstate 69 Project

- Planning and Development
- Location
- Environmental Study
- GIS tools used



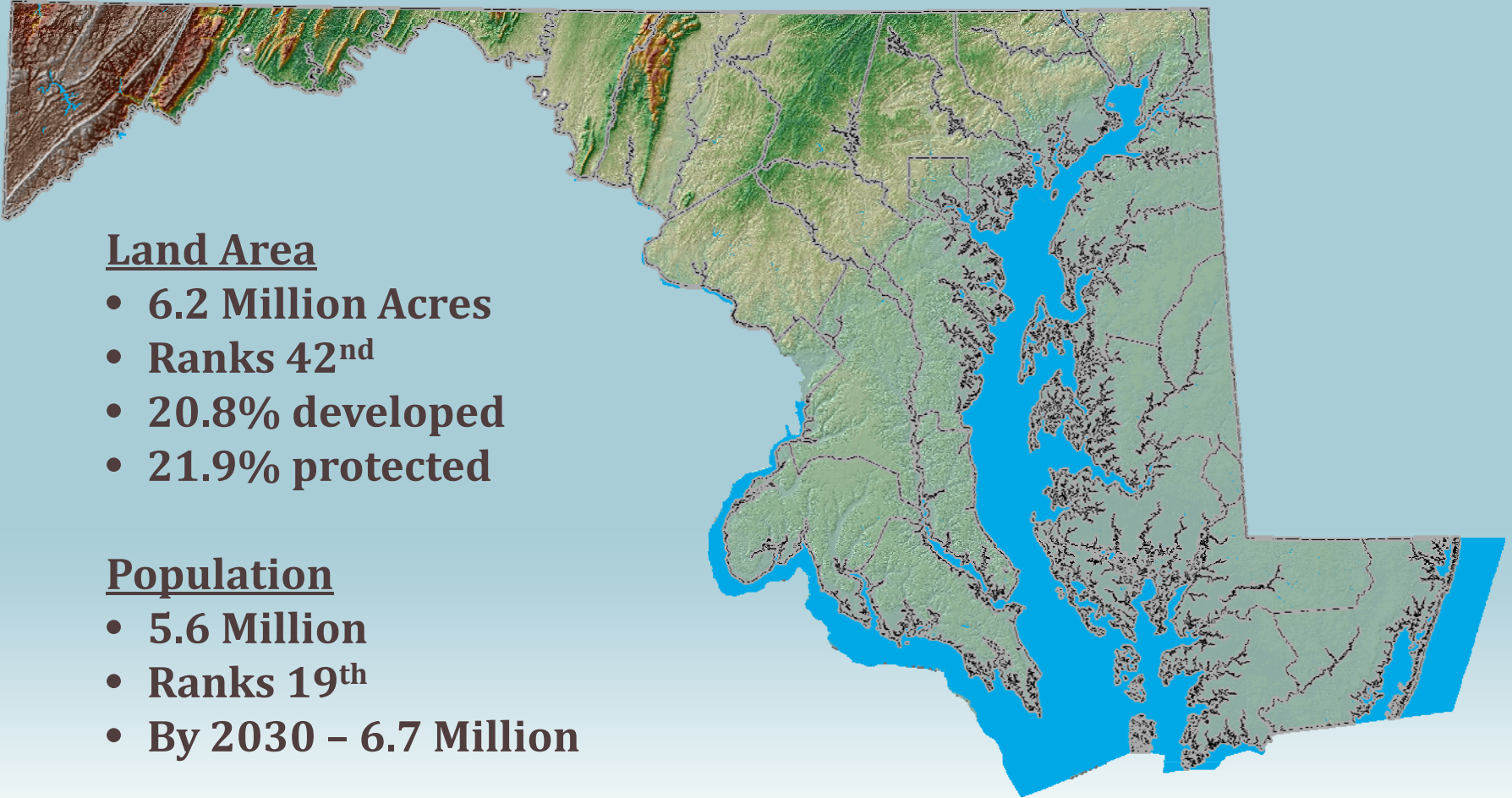
GIS-ST Cumulative



Current and Future Efforts to Enhance GIS Tools

- Expansion of TEAP to a South Central US Regional Ecological Assessment Protocol (REAP)
- Recalculation to a 0.25 km² grid—more granular grid for medium size project level analysis
- Recalculations using new land cover data

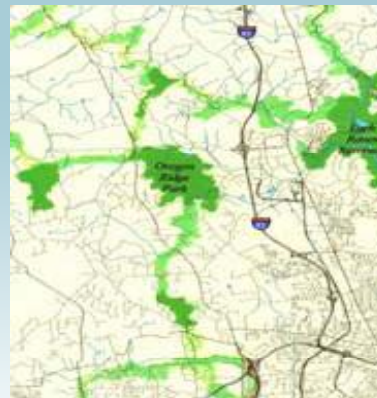
Maryland: A small state with many people



Green Infrastructure



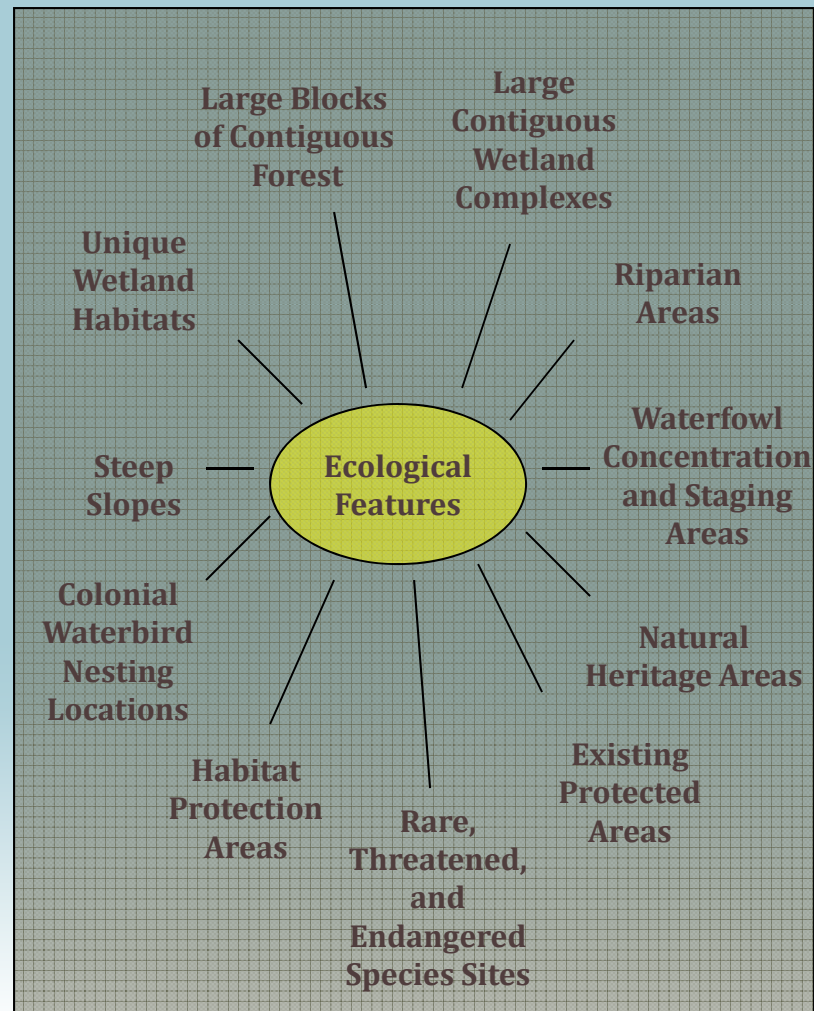
“Strategically planned and managed networks of natural lands, working landscapes and other open spaces that conserve ecosystem functions, and provide associated benefits to human populations”



Maryland's Green Infrastructure Assessment

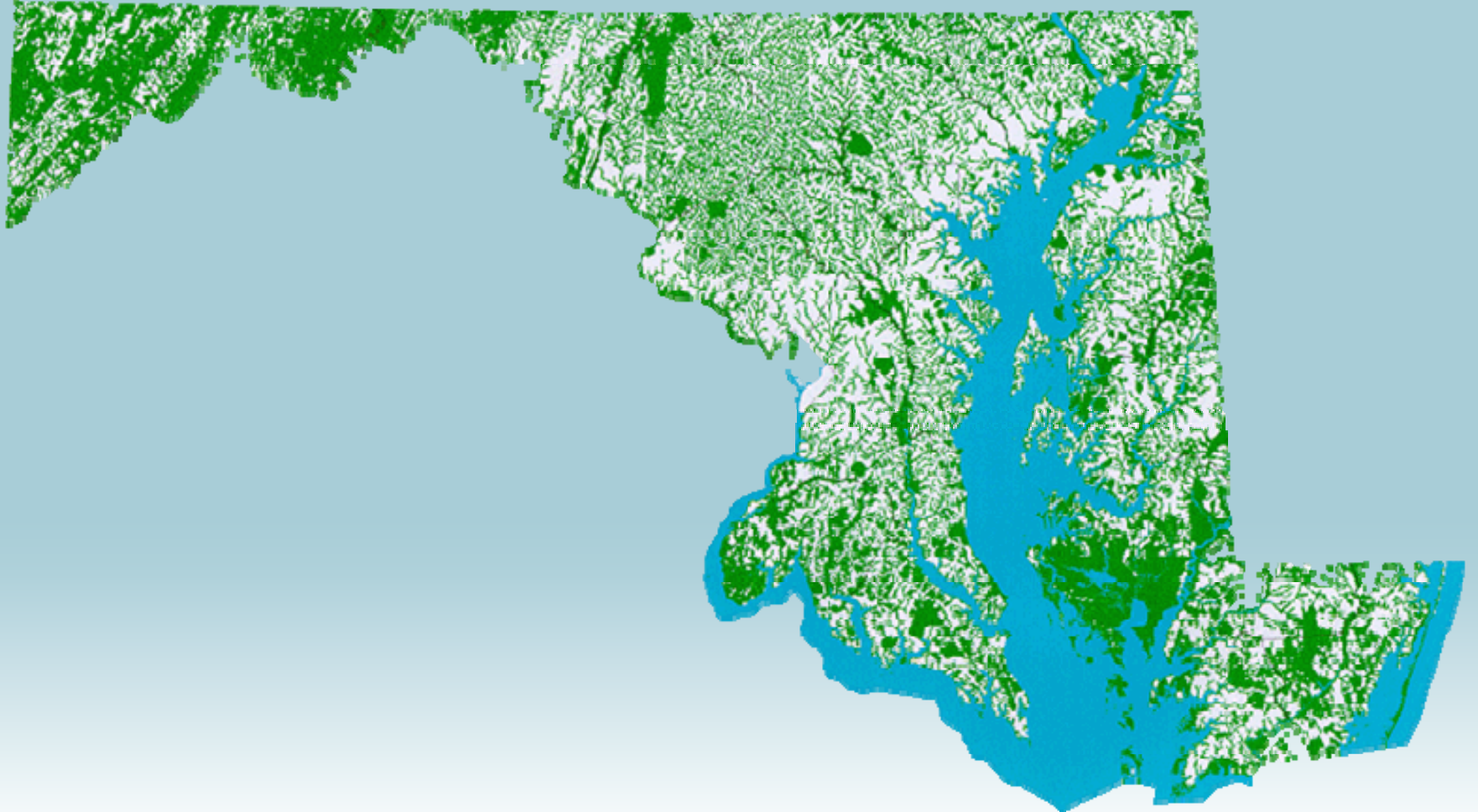
Selection of Ecological Components

- Strive to include full range of ecosystem elements vs. single species focus
- Multidisciplinary Effort
 - DNR biologists – Aquatics, Forests, Wildlife and Heritage
 - Scientific Community
- Limited to features with GIS data available statewide

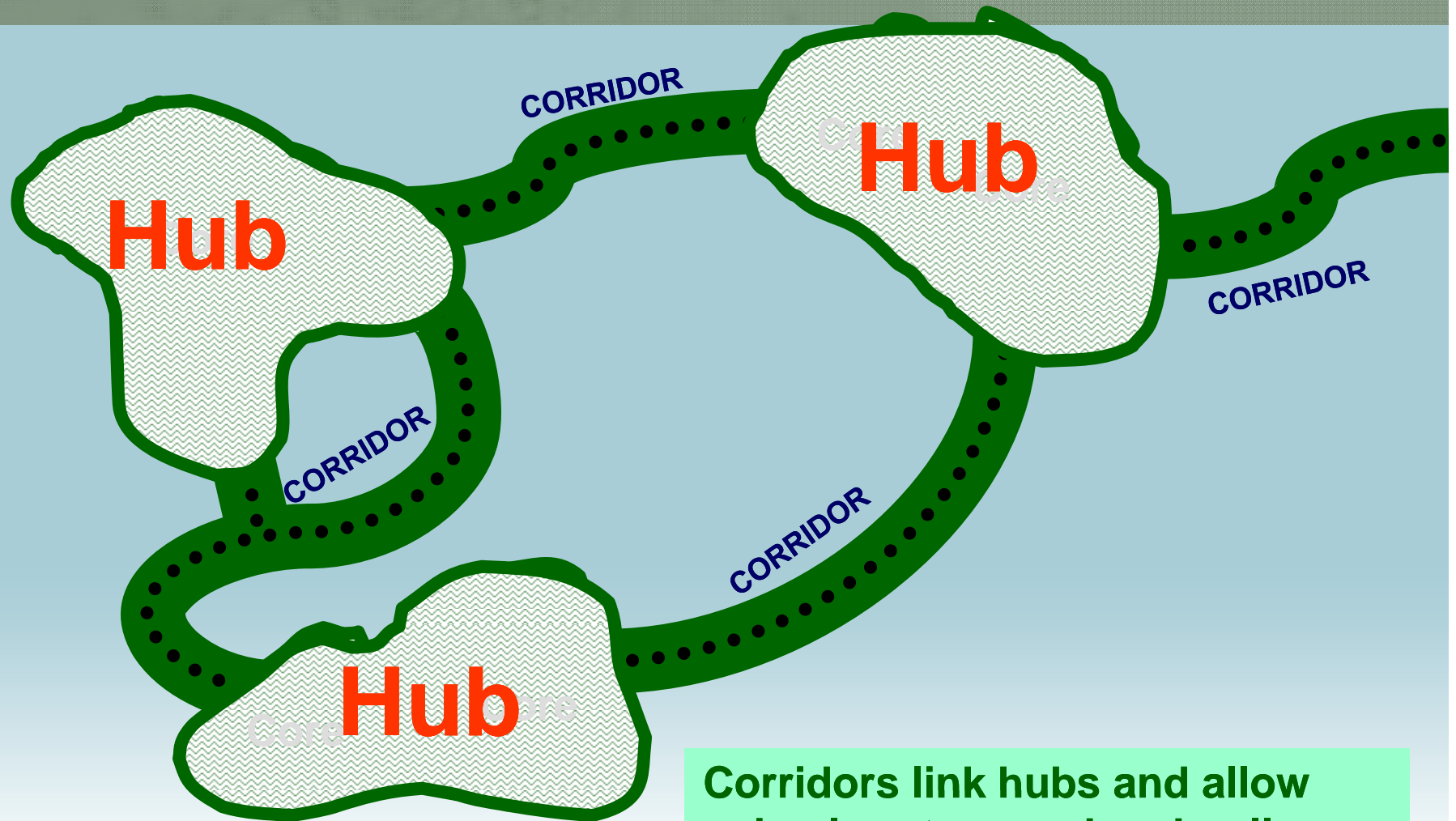


Maryland's Green Infrastructure Assessment

Composite of Ecological Features



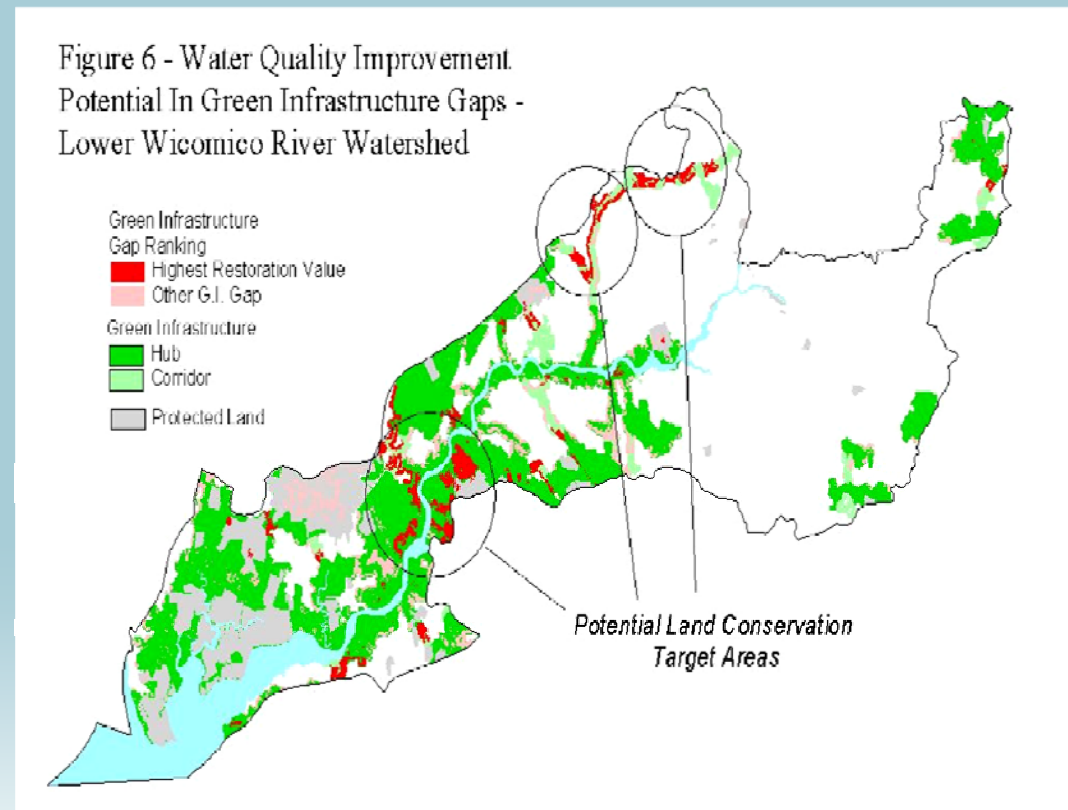
The Green Network



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

GI Gaps – Repairing the Network and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay

- Undeveloped Gaps may be suitable for restoration activities
- Restoration benefits achieved at local and regional scales
- Hub and Corridor rankings can be used to prioritize restoration sites

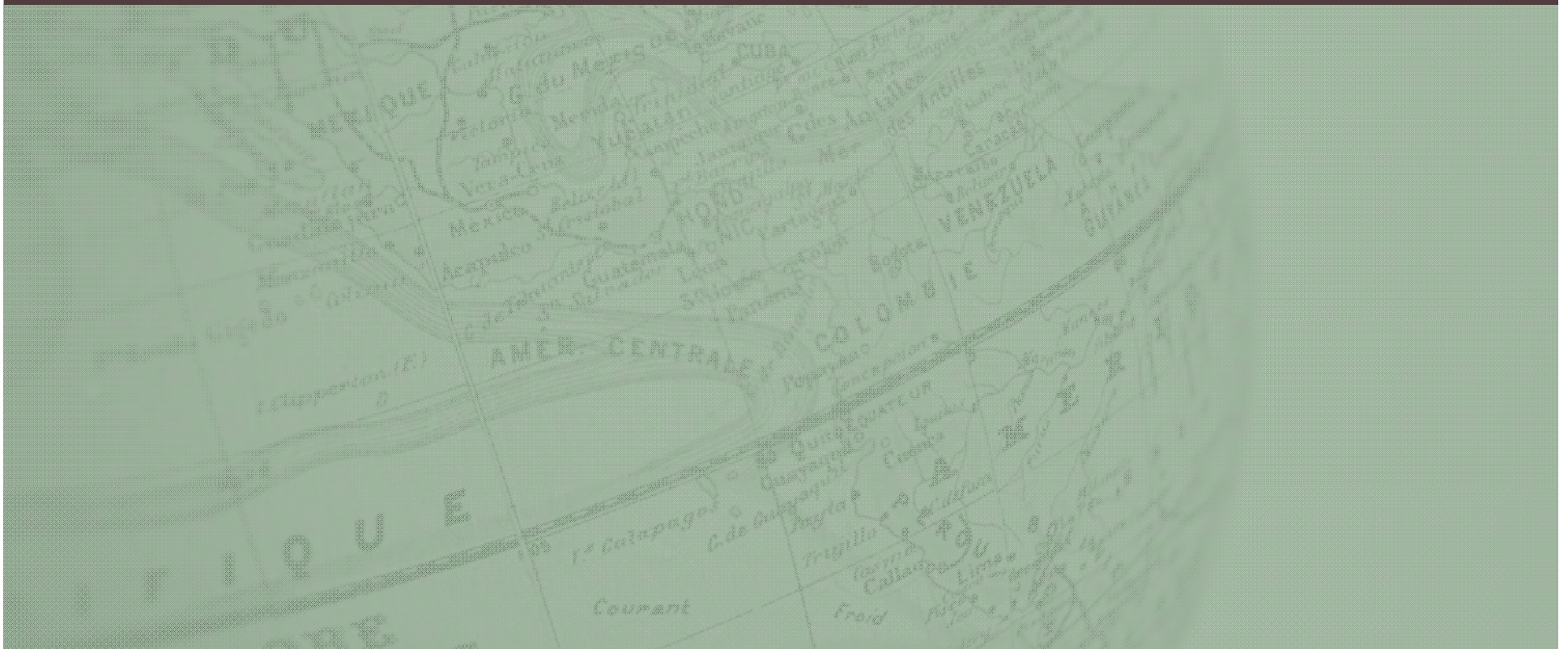


Green Infrastructure Approach

“... a process that promotes a systematic and strategic approach to land conservation at the national, state, regional, and local scales encouraging land use planning and practices that are good for nature and people.”

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIC APPROACH

US 301 Case Study



US 301 Waldorf Area Transportation
Improvements Project
Maryland State Highway Administration

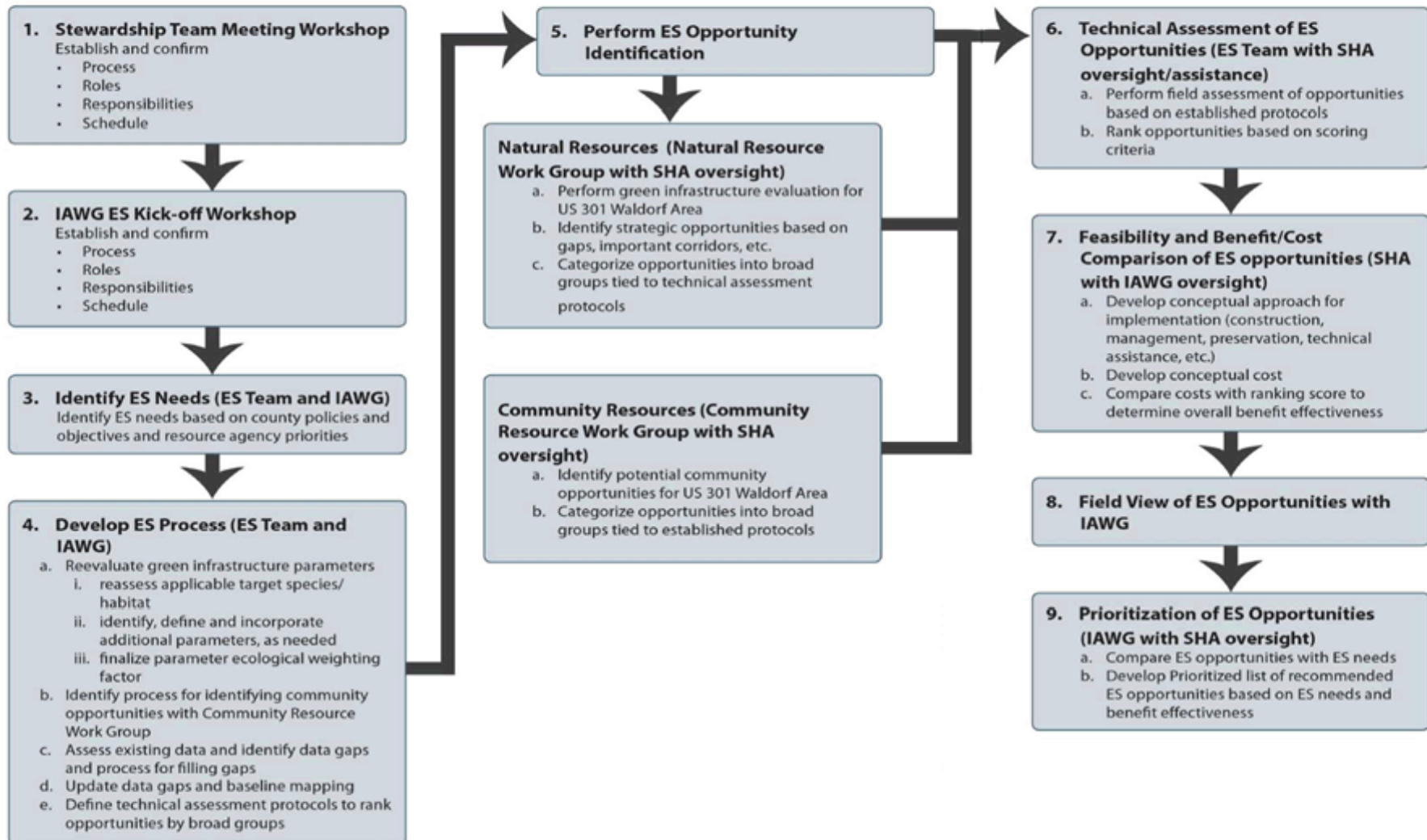


Partners:

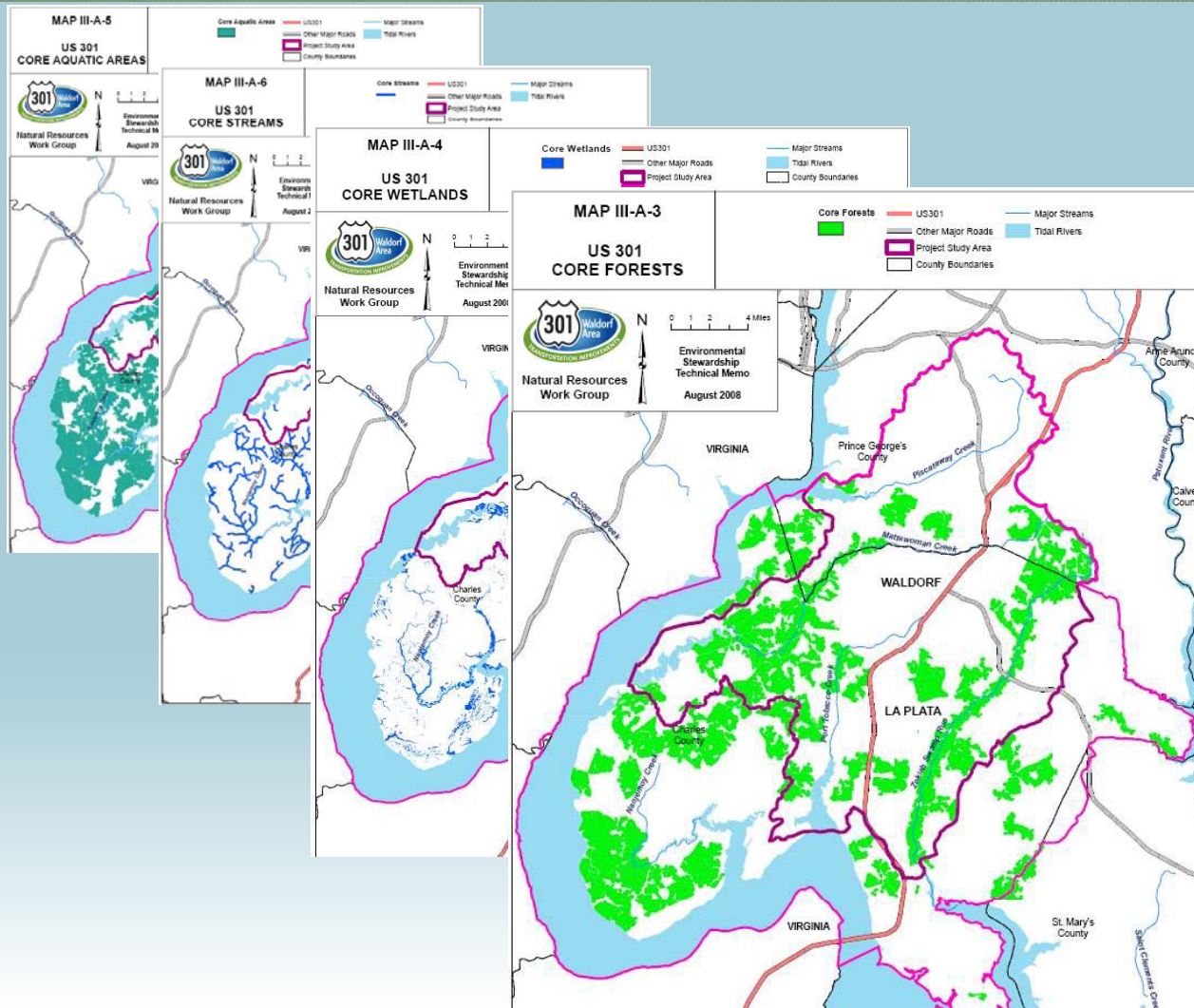




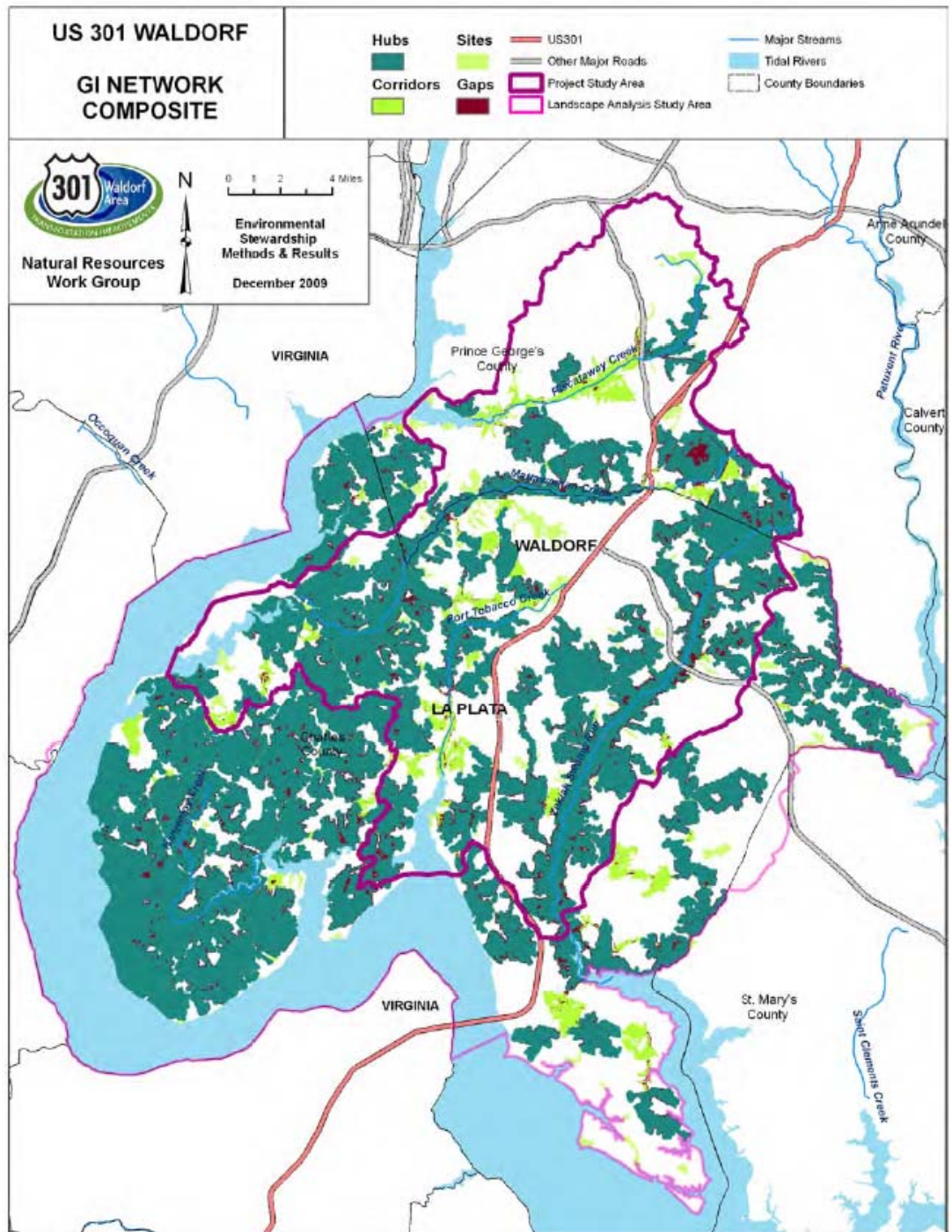
Conceptual Environmental Stewardship Process



US 301 Core Areas



US 301 Study Green Infrastructure Network Composite



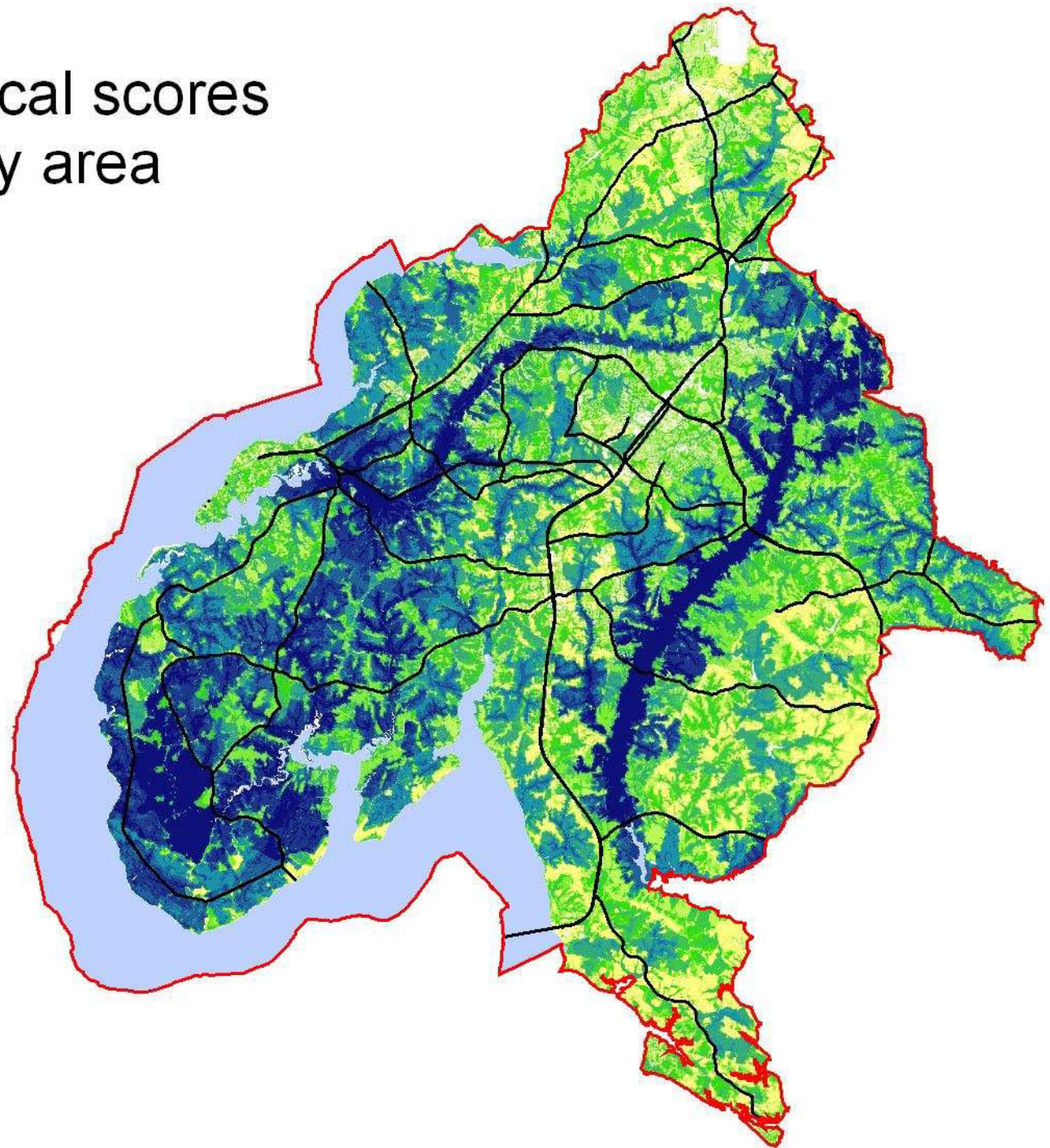
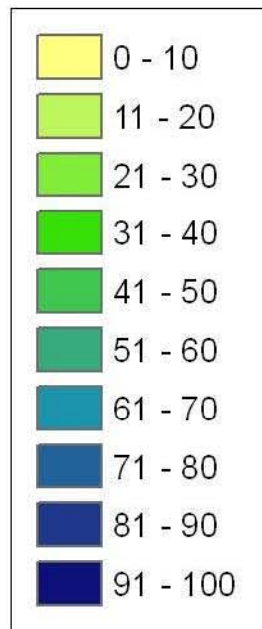
Example of Ecological Scoring

- Ecological ranking factors and weights. Corridors and hubs do not overlap spatially;
- therefore variables and weights do not combine for these scales.
- Scale Variable Weight
- Core area/site Size of hub the core area is within (not
- in a hub: value of 0)
- 2.0
- Area of Ecologically Significant Areas 2.0
- Area of mature interior forest 2.0
- Area of minimally impacted wetlands 2.0
- Length of core streams 2.0

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
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

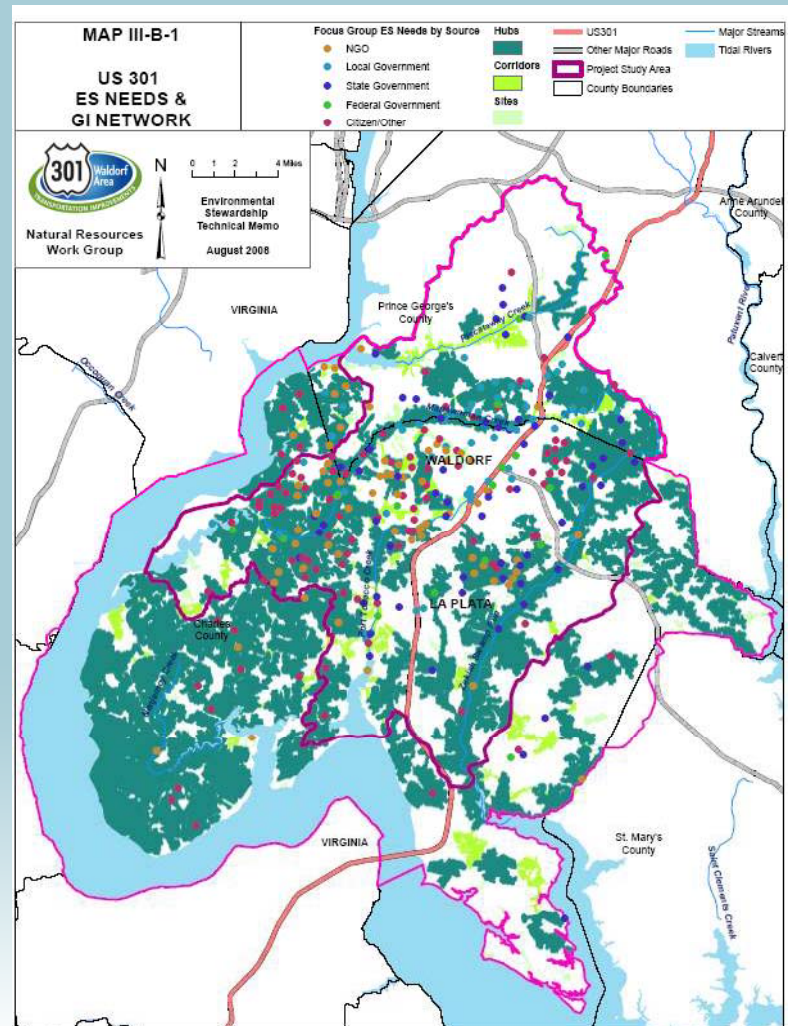
Overall ecological scores in US 301 study area



Hub and Corridor Network Environmental Stewardship Needs

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%



US 301 NEXT STEPS

- Field truth opportunities
- Select sites
- Establish protocols for future transportation projects

Project Selection Methods

- Government agencies and NGOs typically use a rank-based approach to select projects for implementation.
- The rank-based approach focuses only on the benefits of a project without considering the project's cost, which can result in highly inefficient investments.
- It ignores potential “good buys” that offer high quality (environmental benefits) at a significantly lower cost.
- The use of optimization in project selection provides a means to extend the reach and effectiveness of environmental efforts.

Optimization Model

The screenshot shows a spreadsheet application window with the following data:

Name of Analysis:		Round 1 (MALPF) \$4.8 million							
Total Variables:	55	Import	Rank Based	Optimize	Subset Analysis	Show Hidden Variables	Settings	Data	
Projects:	65	Clear					Results	Export	
Reset					Summary Statistics				
	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

ODST.xls [Compatibility Mode] - Microsoft Excel

Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Developer

Paste Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing

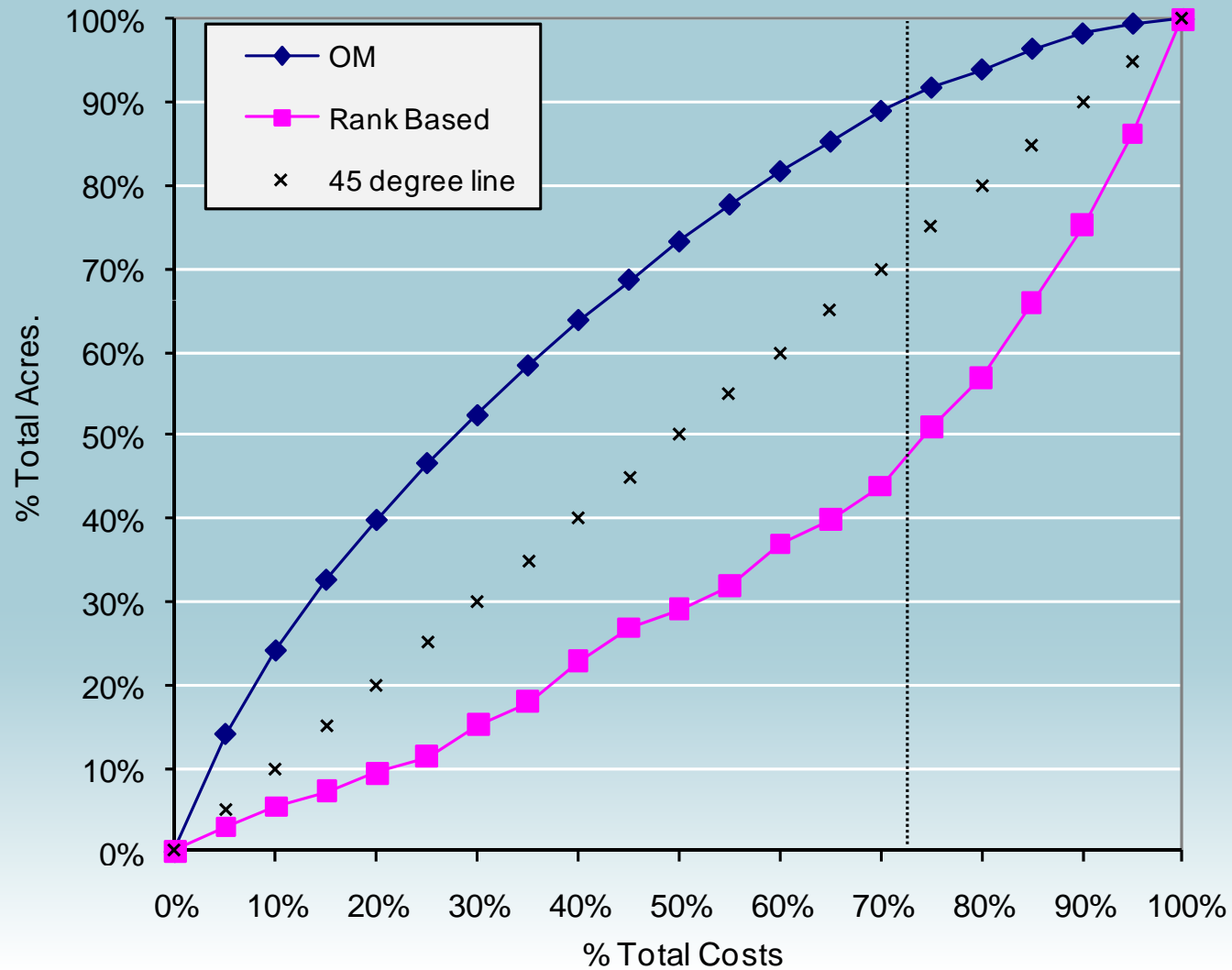
Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing

A1 Project #

	A	B	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Project #	Manual(R)	Conservation Value	Total Project Cost	Acres	Rating wo h/l * acres	Benefit-Cost Ratio	Efficiency Score
2	28	1	0.321	5,282,000.0	33,808.0	2,763,804.0	6,068.2	100.0
3	35	1	0.270	4,830,000.0	30,289.0	2,332,253.0	5,599.9	92.3
4	36	1	1.000	22,500,000.0	108,463.0	8,622,808.5	4,444.4	73.2
5	30	1	0.167	6,805,000.0	19,647.0	1,444,054.5	2,461.0	40.6
6	87	1	0.096	4,000,000.0	11,428.0	828,530.0	2,402.1	39.6
7	43	1	0.084	3,900,000.0	9,594.0	720,749.3	2,143.2	35.3
8	85	1	0.122	6,190,975.0	14,576.0	1,054,938.0	1,976.1	32.6
9	73	1	0.046	2,400,000.0	5,727.0	400,174.1	1,933.7	31.9
10	86	1	0.055	3,440,000.0	6,362.0	474,764.3	1,600.6	26.4
11	2	1	0.050	3,450,693.0	6,375.0	431,906.3	1,451.6	23.9
12	46	1	0.057	4,522,375.0	6,578.0	491,705.5	1,260.9	20.8
13	58	1	0.122	10,000,000.0	14,000.0	1,051,750.0	1,219.7	20.1
14	68	1	0.049	4,250,000.0	7,500.0	420,937.5	1,148.6	18.9
15	7	1	0.071	6,403,500.0	7,658.0	610,452.0	1,105.6	18.2
16	57	1	0.001	80,000.0	98.0	6,480.3	939.4	15.5
17	76	1	0.034	3,679,001.0	4,002.0	291,645.8	919.3	15.2
18	50	1	0.045	5,400,000.0	6,000.0	387,000.0	831.1	13.7
19	80	1	0.030	3,600,000.0	3,680.0	255,300.0	822.4	13.6
20	72	1	0.039	5,000,000.0	5,000.0	337,500.0	782.8	12.9
21	69	1	0.001	165,983.0	188.0	9,282.5	648.6	10.7
22	71	1	0.043	6,935,000.0	4,868.0	368,142.5	615.6	10.1
23	37	1	0.027	5,167,000.0	3,395.0	230,435.6	517.2	8.5
24	83	1	0.029	6,280,000.0	4,192.0	253,092.0	467.4	7.7
25	56	1	0.028	6,400,000.0	3,200.0	238,800.0	432.7	7.1
26	9	1	0.026	7,000,000.0	2,950.0	226,412.5	375.1	6.2
27	66	1	0.034	10,800,000.0	4,106.0	290,499.5	311.9	5.1
28	8	1	0.027	14,000,000.0	3,100.0	234,714.3	194.4	3.2
29	16	1	0.070	37,500,000.0	8,000.0	602,000.0	186.2	3.1
30	74	0	0.018	1,200,000.0	2,208.0	150,972.0	1,459.0	24.0
31	47	0	0.021	1,687,500.0	2,700.0	182,925.0	1,257.1	20.7

Ready 100%

Differences in Selection Models



Project Selection Using Optimization

- Optimization Decision Support Tool requirements
 - **Opportunities** (Environmental stewardship projects)
 - **Benefits** (Project benefit scoring/ranking)
 - **Costs** (Financial investment required to achieve benefits)
 - **Constraints** (Budget scenario, other decision constraints)
- Tool benefits
 - Easy to use (Excel interface)
 - Flexible (answer multiple planning questions)
 - Ability to run multiple scenarios (sensitivity analysis)
 - Potential to extend limited funds for compensatory mitigation and environmental stewardship

Why Use These Tools?

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

Why Use These Tools?

Because we can't
afford not to.



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