NORTHEAST MID-ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP FOR FORESTS & WATER

2024 PARTNERSHIP FORUM

NORTHEAST MID-ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP FOR
FORESTS & WATER

November 20-21, 2024

Welcome to New Haven!

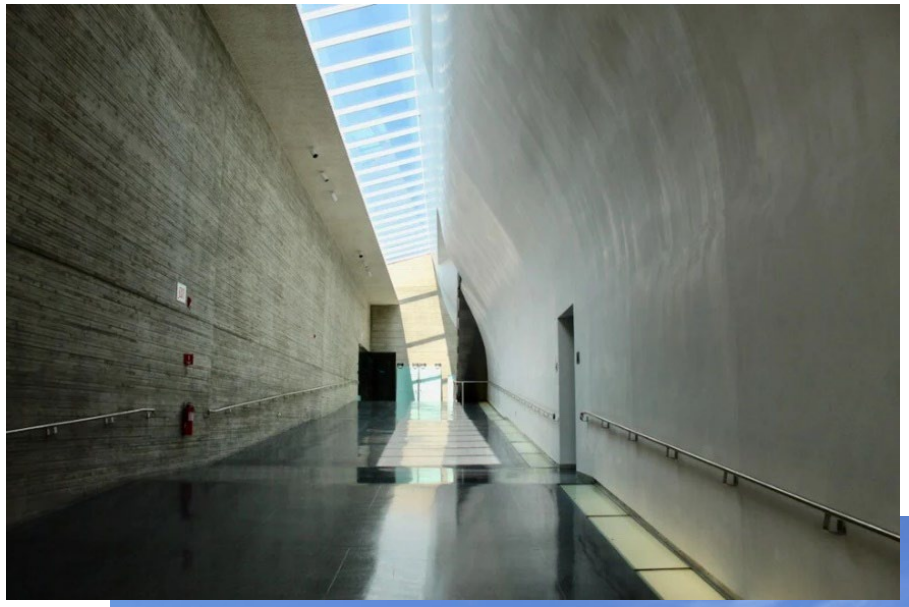
Welcome to the Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests & Water Forum!

Steve Vitko
Environmental Planning Manager

November 2024

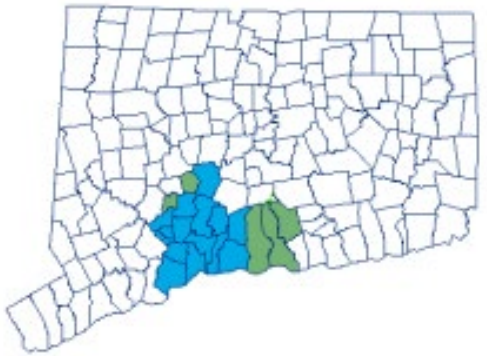
Regional Water Authority

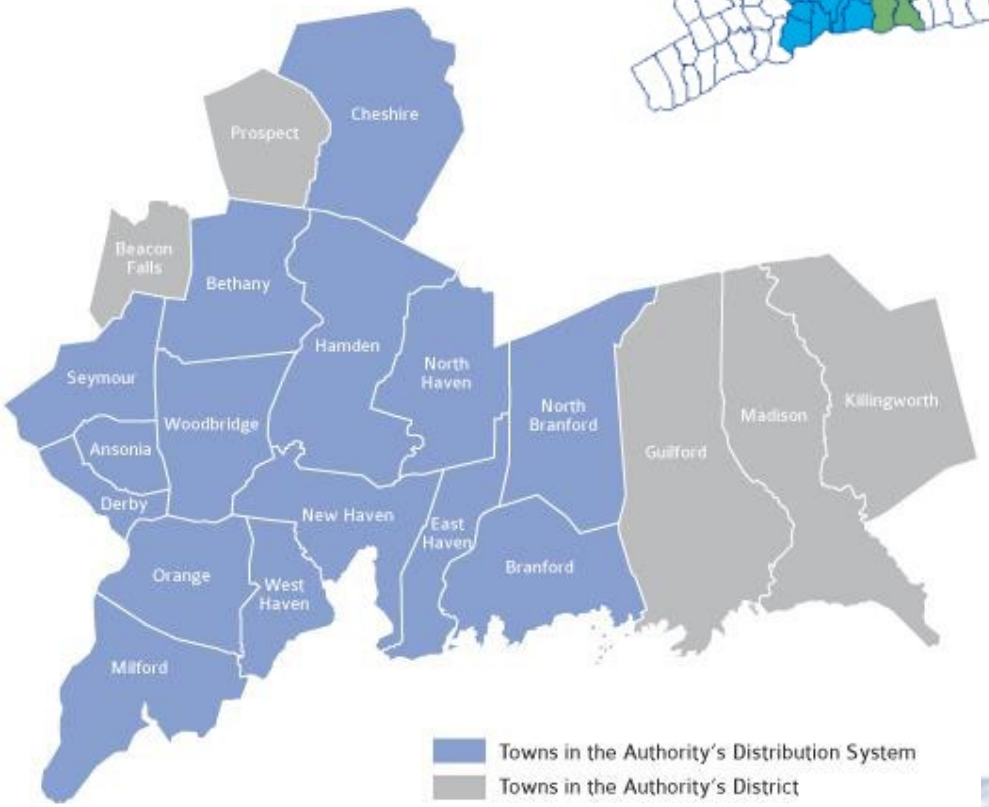
Whitney Water Treatment Plant



RWA By the Numbers

- Serve average of 45 million gallons of water per day
- ~430,000 customers; 15 municipalities
- Ten active reservoirs
- Four surface water treatment plants
- Seven wellfields
- Maintain 1,700 miles of pipe
- Own over 27,000 acres of watershed protection land
- 60+ miles of recreational trails
- HazWaste Central





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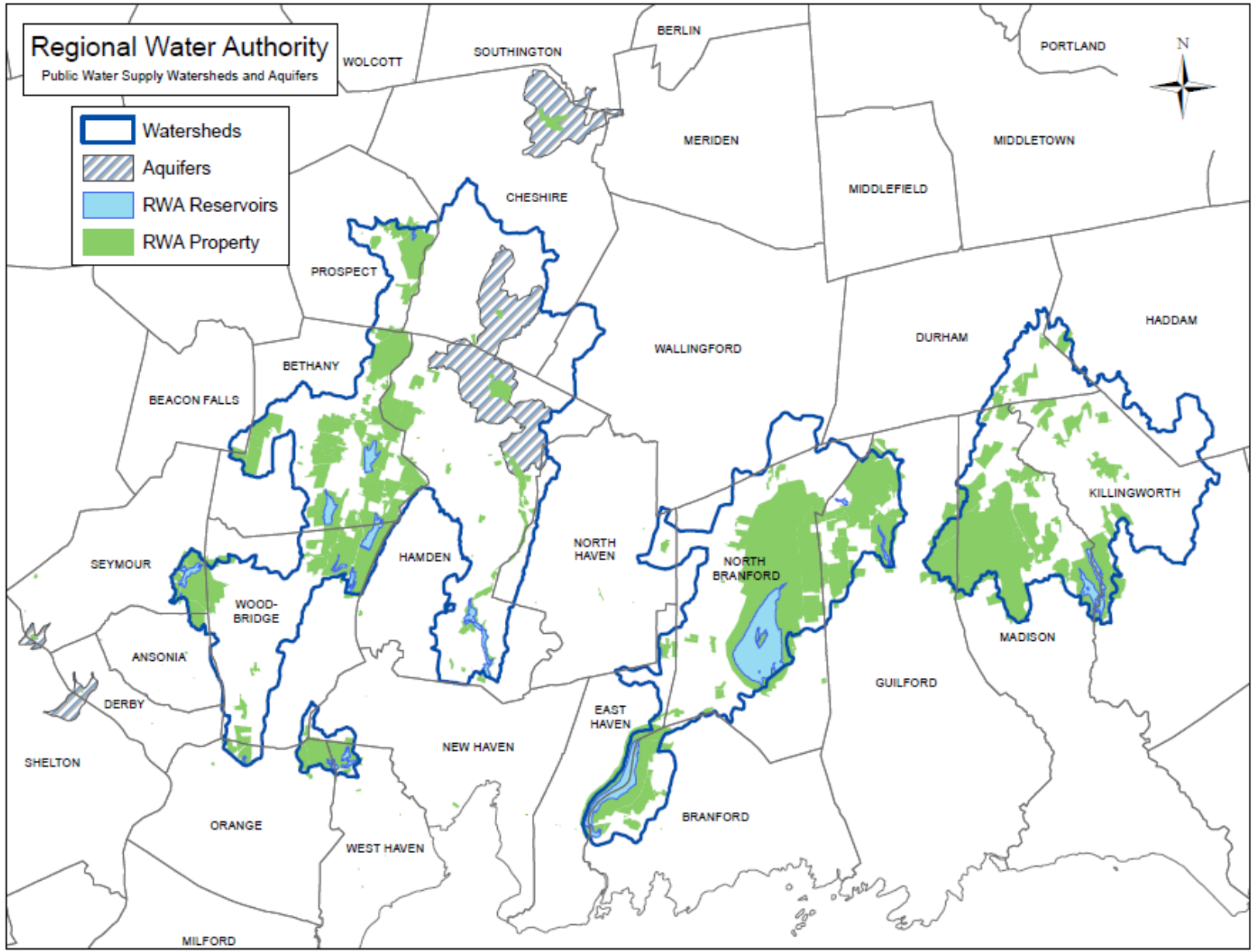
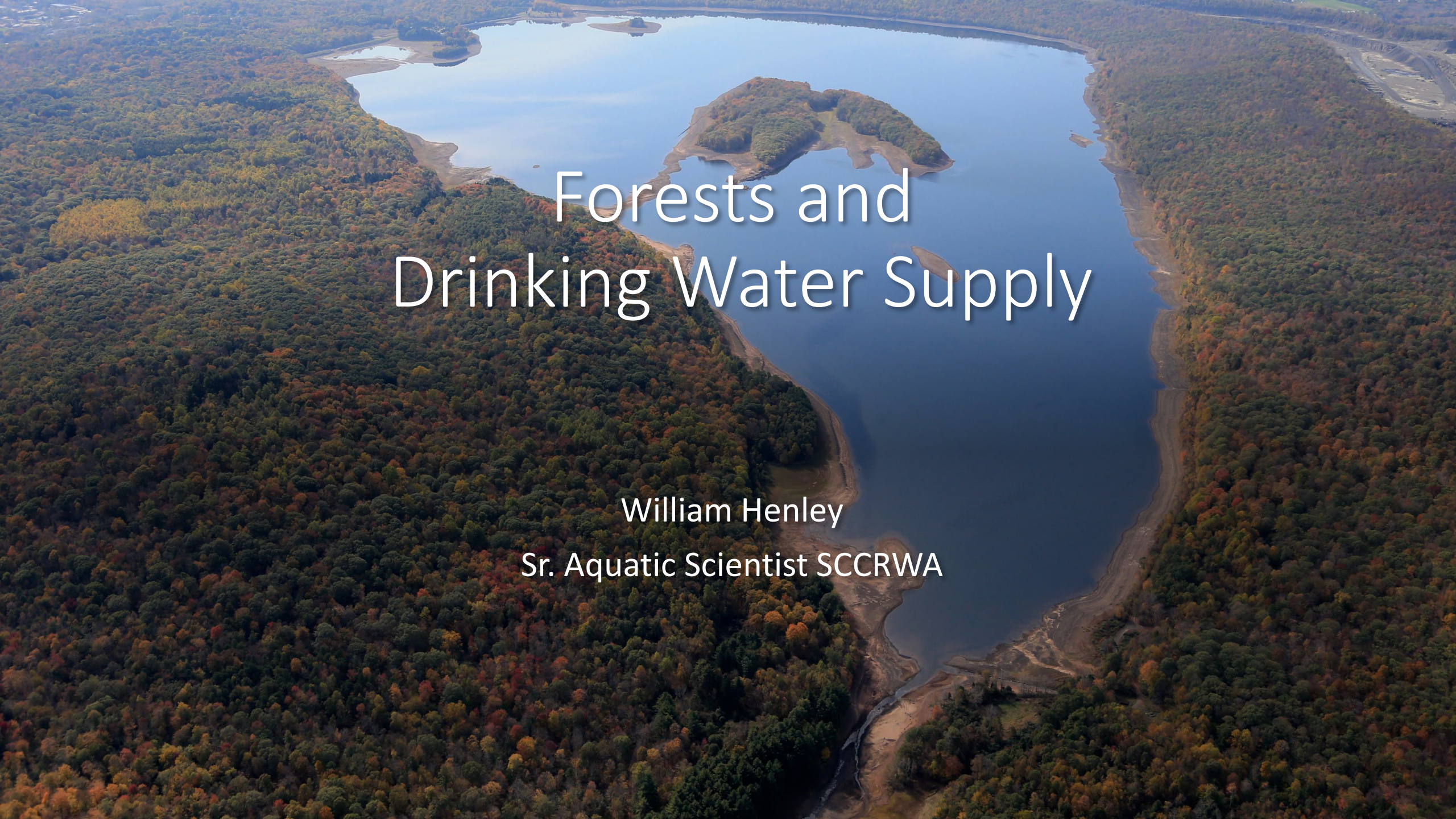
RWA Source Water Protection Areas





Forests and Drinking Water Supply

William Henley

Sr. Aquatic Scientist SCCRWA

...

Most important organisms for filtering drinking water…

BEFORE the water enters a reservoir or lake…

Importance of Forests in Watersheds

Enhanced Surface Water Quality

- Reduced loading of phosphorous, nitrogen & suspended solids
- Stronger resistance to erosive forces
- Support diverse and resilient ecosystems

Water Flow Modulation

- Higher infiltration rates than other land uses
  - Organic material decomposition creates macropores in soil for infiltration
  - Canopy cover arrests lateral forces from precipitation events
  - Can have major flood mitigation impacts

Groundwater Recharge

- Forested areas can allow for 10-15% greater groundwater recharge than urban land types
- Soil percolation and moisture retention significantly higher in diverse healthy forested ecosystems

Forest Management

- Improve forest block habitat or health
- Salvage of diseased or weather damaged trees
- Maintenance of leaf screens or legacy plantations
- Generate revenue

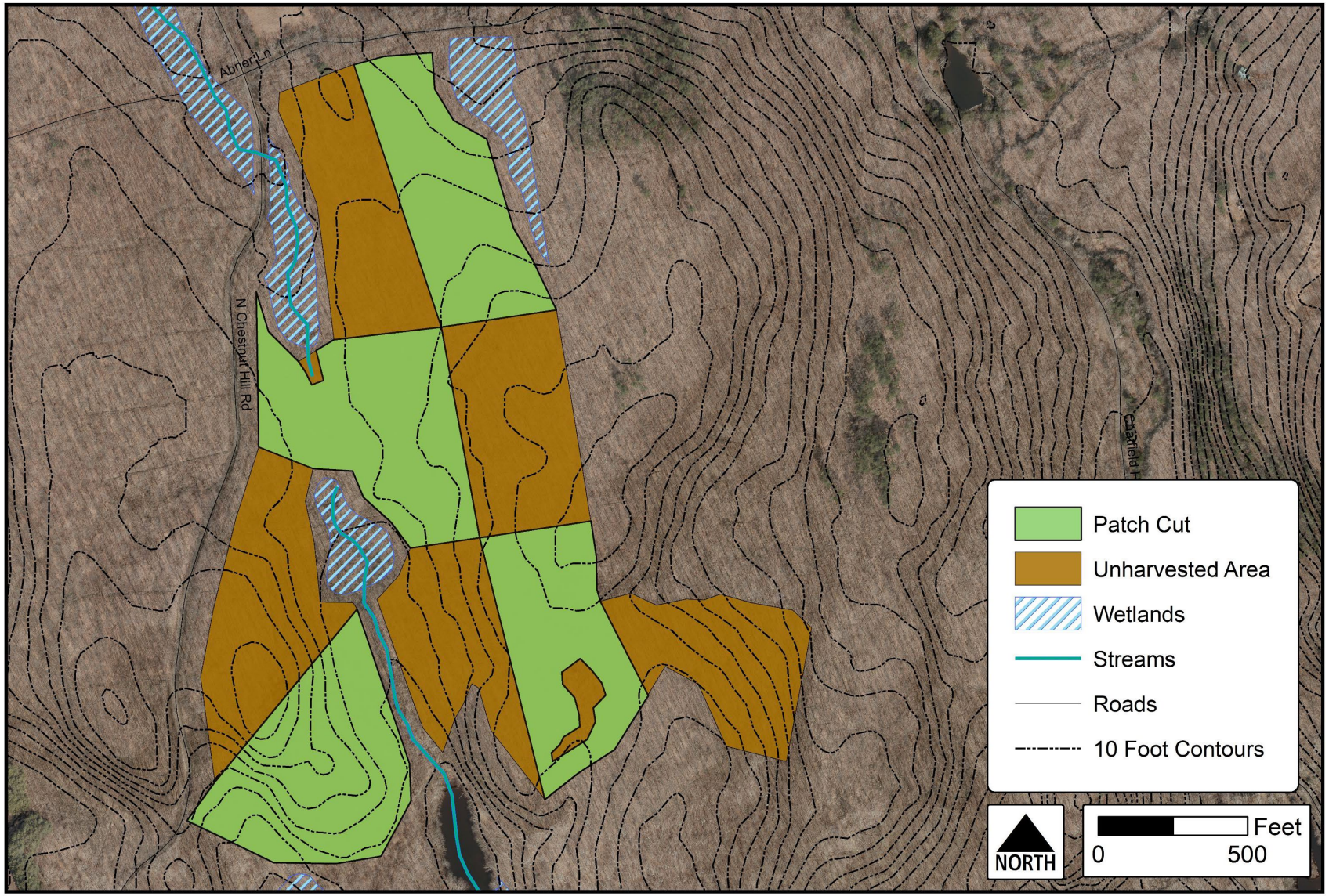
SCCRWA Field Examples

Patch cut harvest with limited water supply impacts

Biocontrol initiative for hemlock forest retention

Hammonasset Patch Cut Harvest

- Forest management activity.
- Goal to create early successional habitat.
- 31.5-acre harvest located within ¼ mile of drinking water reservoir.



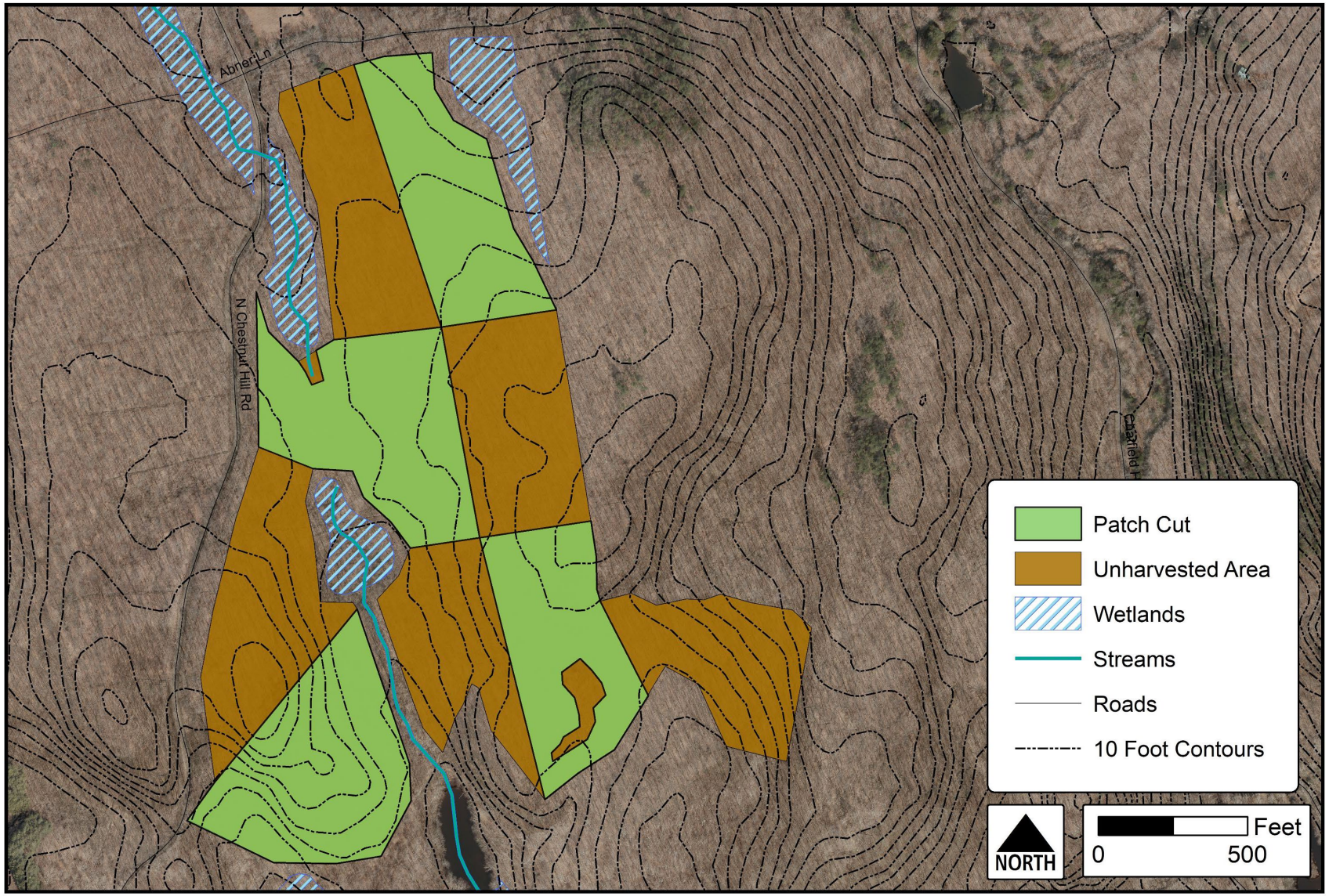
North Chestnut Hill Road Patch Cut Harvest

Killingworth, CT

Regional Water Authority

Management Considerations for Water Supply

- Patch cut approach creates uneven aged forest
  - Water demand by early succession species reduced
  - Ensure continuous leaf litter cover
  - Reduce solar penetration



North Chestnut Hill Road Patch Cut Harvest

Killingworth, CT

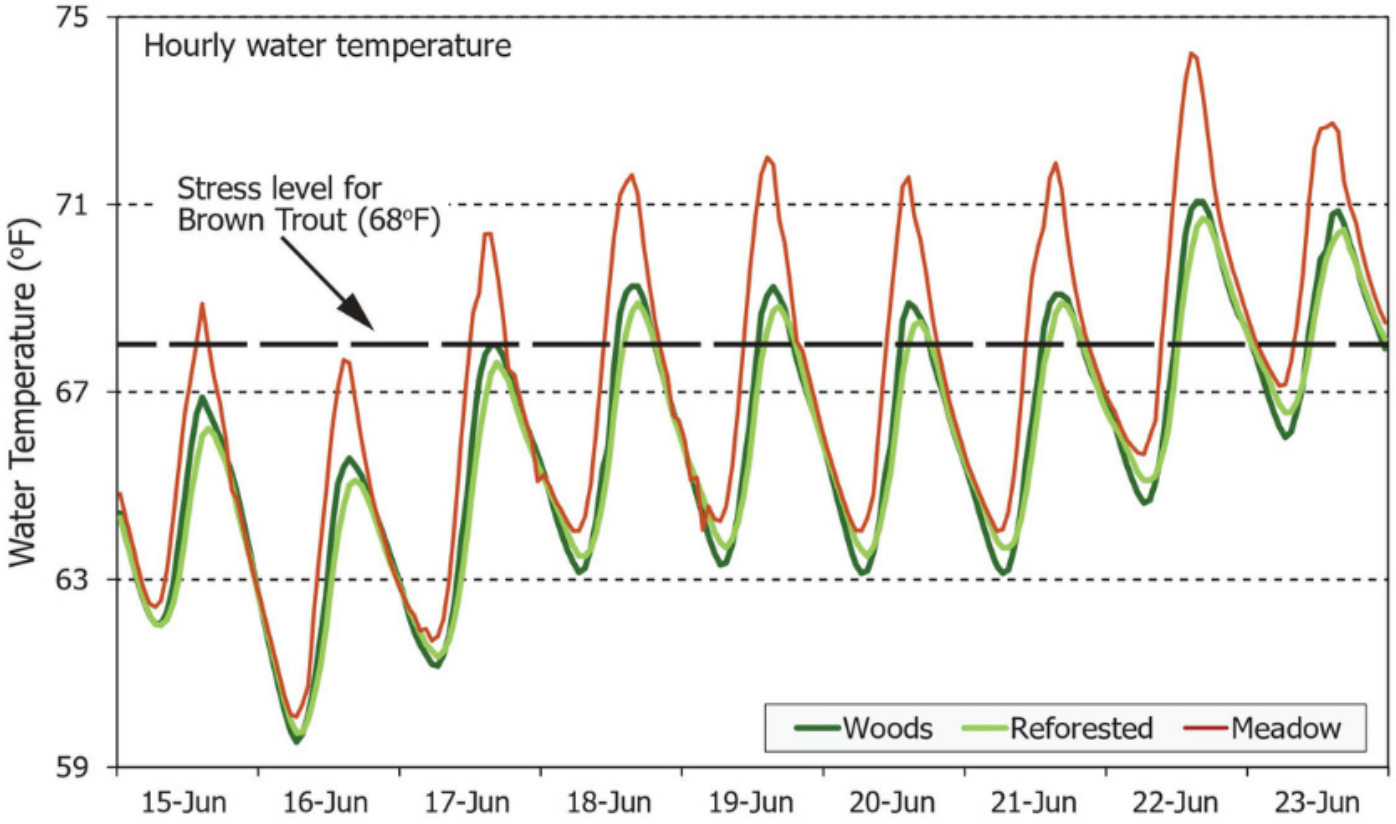
Regional Water Authority

Management Considerations for Water Supply

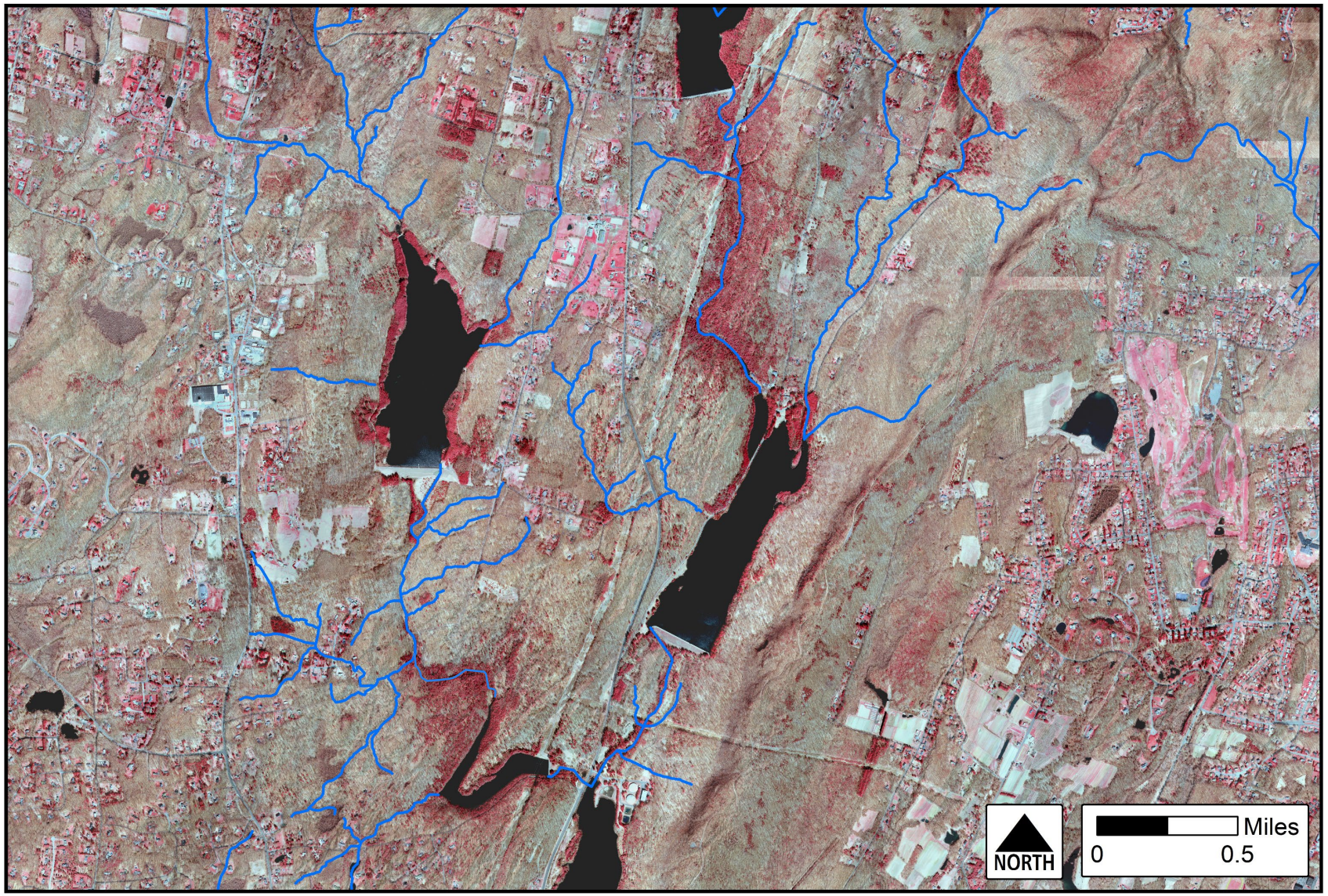
- Careful planning to minimize impacts
  - 100 ft buffer from watercourses and wetlands
  - Avoidance of topographically complex areas
  - Culvert crossing and landings reinforced with corduroy matting


Retention of
Hemlock Forests
West River Watershed
Woodridge & Bethany, CT

Temperature plays a critical role in water supply



Jennifer Merrill, Ph.D., Stroud Water Research Center



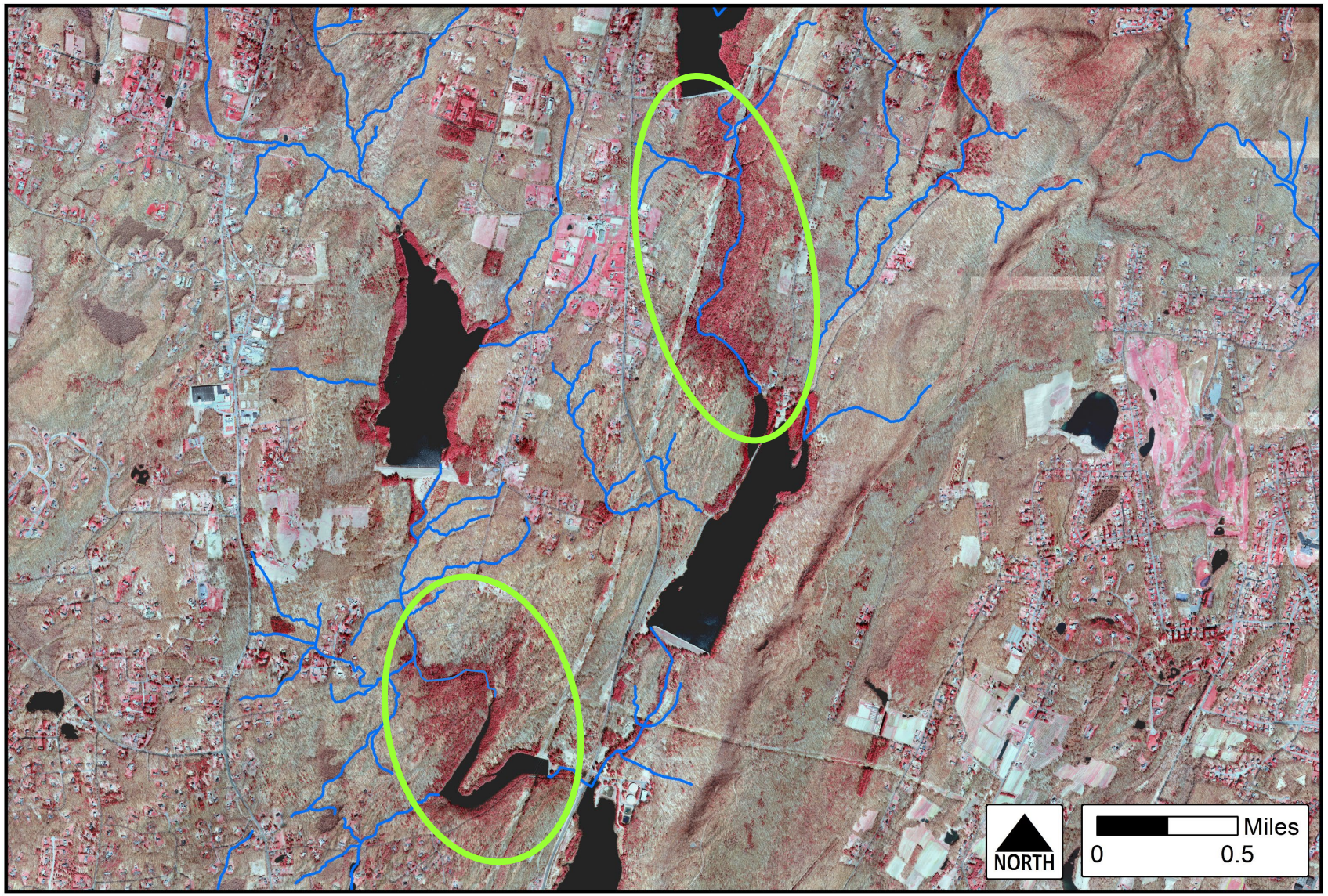
West River Watershed

Woodridge & Bethany, CT

Regional Water Authority

Biocontrol of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

- Hemlock forest stands are critical habitat
- Situated in well drained ravine-like topography
- Provide year round shading of streams



West River Watershed
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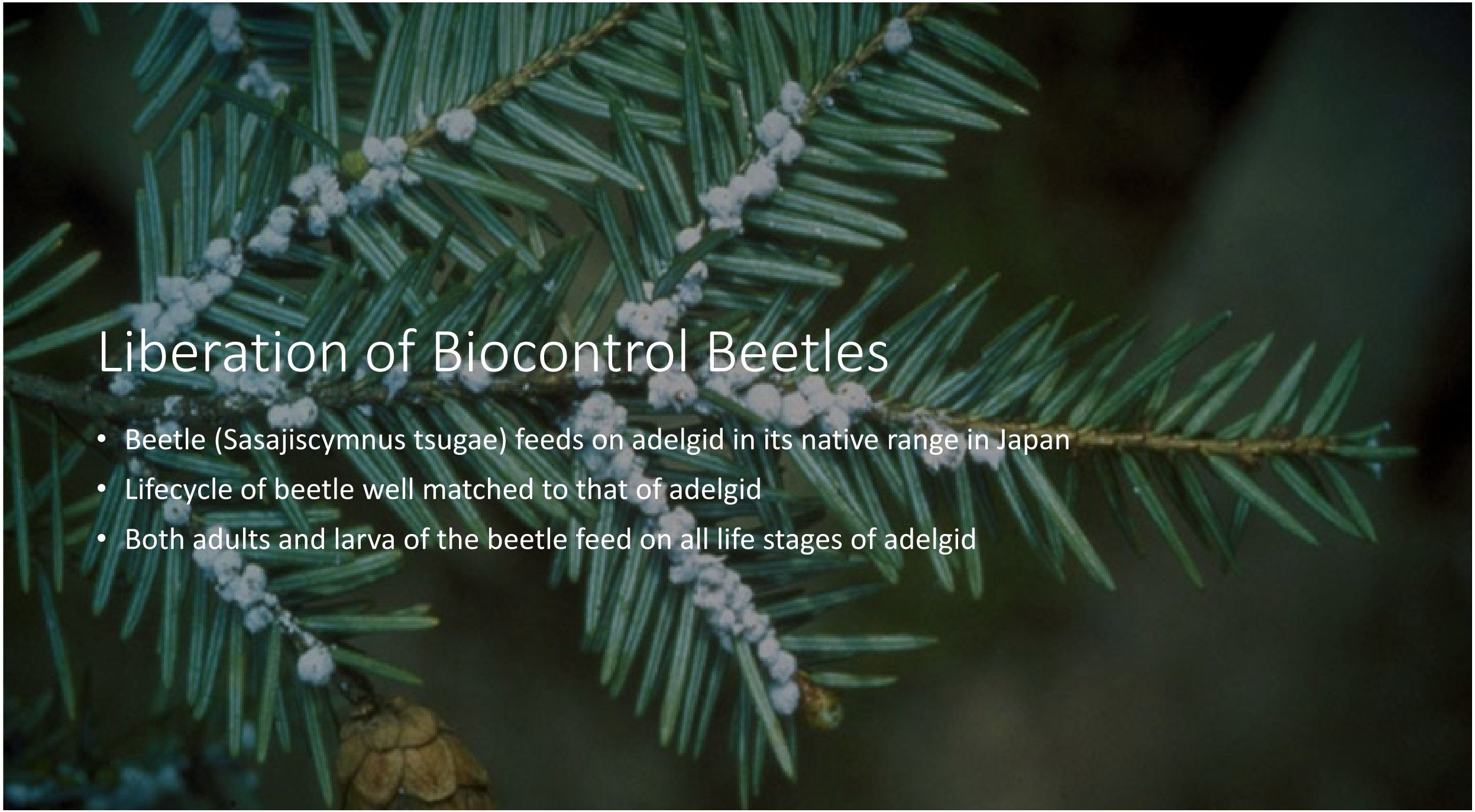


Liberation of Biocontrol Beetles

- Beetle (Sasajiscymnus tsugae) feeds on adelgid in its native range in Japan
- Lifecycle of beetle well matched to that of adelgid
- Both adults and larva of the beetle feed on all life stages of adelgid

Liberation of Biocontrol Beetles

- Periodic releases to sites in dense Hemlock growth
- Releases have shown success elsewhere in Connectiut
- Relatively low cost if stocking is conducted over long period
  - Hemlock decline due to adelgid presence relatively protracted
  - Low risk with high chance of some impact
  - Weather conditions can also slow adelgid growth

Again, Welcome!
Questions?

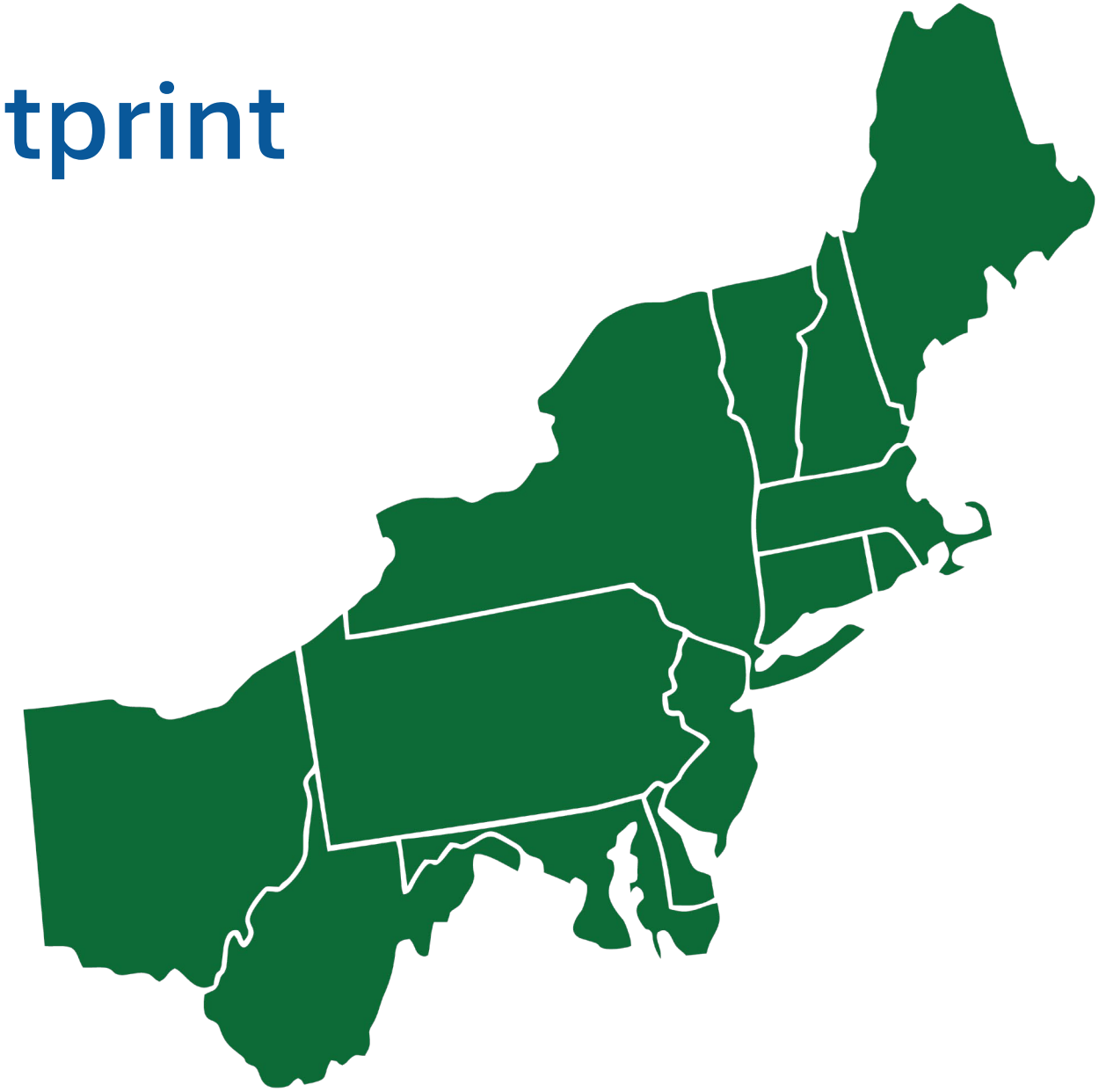
AGENDA FOR TODAY

- Introductions & Welcome to RWA
- Forests & Drinking Water Supply
- Framing the Day, Partnership Overview & Partnership in Action
- Field Trip Recap
- Success Stories from the Region
- Water Utility Panel
- Forestry Panel
- Demystifying Funding Panel
- Small Group Breakouts

The Partnership

- The Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water is an interagency, multi-partner collaborative to enhance concerted, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes to improve water quality and quantity in 13 states in the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic United States.
- The Partnership's footprint encompasses Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio.

Partnership Footprint



Partnership History

- Initial conversations between EPA and USFS started in 2019 to consider a way to model a Northeast partnership after the Southeastern Partnership for Forests and Water.
- In June 2022, a virtual forum was held with federal, state, and non-profit attendees from Maine to West Virginia. More than 80 attendees joined the meeting and expressed support for the concept of a Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water.
- Following the meeting, NACD developed an LSR grant with support from Partners and all thirteen State Foresters. NACD was awarded an LSR grant in summer 2023 and an in-person forum was held in Edison, NJ in May 2023 officially launching the Partnership.

Partnership Mission & Vision

Mission

To create a collaborative network that leverages resources to manage, restore, and conserve forests and protect water resources.

Vision

Resilient and well-managed forests that improve water resources and create healthy watersheds.

Goals

These four goals are long-term goals for the Partnership. Annual objectives and strategies to meet these goals will be set based on grant requirements, partnership needs, and opportunities to best address these goals.

1. Foster Collaboration between the Forestry and Water Sectors
2. Build Capacity to Increase Work in the Region
3. Increase Implementation of BMPs
4. Align Communication and Outreach

What's New?

- In June 2024, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) was awarded a second Landscape Scale Restoration grant for the Partnership. This new grant will enable the Partnership to increase collaborative efforts, expand, develop and disseminate additional resources, and implement new projects in West Virginia and Pennsylvania.
- The Partnership has launched a website to share various communications materials as well as updates via newsletters and announcements!

What's Next?

- **In Connecticut**, implementers will continue to support collaborative partnerships that equip landowners with the resources and knowledge necessary to make informed decisions about their forested lands.
- **In Ohio**, implementers will provide oversight and guidance to conservation efforts in approximately 30 counties within the Appalachian region that are classified as "most disadvantaged" or "disadvantaged" by the University of Michigan's "Index of Deep Disadvantage" equity maps.
- **In Pennsylvania**, the partners will establish at least four riparian buffer demonstration sites. These efforts, including associated state outreach will reach at least 5,000 private forest landowners, partners, and stakeholders.
- **In West Virginia**, implementers will meet in May to identify priority forested areas and critical watersheds for potential implementation projects that serve local communities. Implementers will also support projects that target wildlife habitat improvements, state forest action plan priorities, and water quality protection.

What the Partnership Can Do For You

- A network of partners working together to further a shared vision to have resilient and well-managed forests that improve water resources and create healthy watersheds.
- Opportunities to meet and collaborate with partners across 13 states.
- Resources, events, and tools to help you do more.
- New ways to leverage knowledge, funding, and connections to increase local and large-scale implementation.
- Success stories and insights from follow practitioners on forest and water management.

How Can You Get Involved?

- Where can I learn more?
  - Visit our website to read more about the Partnership, access additional resources, subscribe to our newsletter, and inquire about collaborative opportunities. Head to **northeastmidatlanticpartnershipforforestsandwater.com** and add it to you bookmarks!
- Who can I contact for more information or to get involved with the Partnership?
  - The Partnership Coordinator, Annica McGuirk, can be reached at **Annica-McGuirk@nacd.net**. You can also submit an inquiry form for events or to get involved with the Partnership on our **News & Events Page**.

Website/Newsletter

SCAN ME!

Re-cap of field day for NEMAP 11/20/2024

Joshua Tracy

Forester II

Sediment Detention Basin

Seymour Slashwall

Landscape Scale Restoration Grant

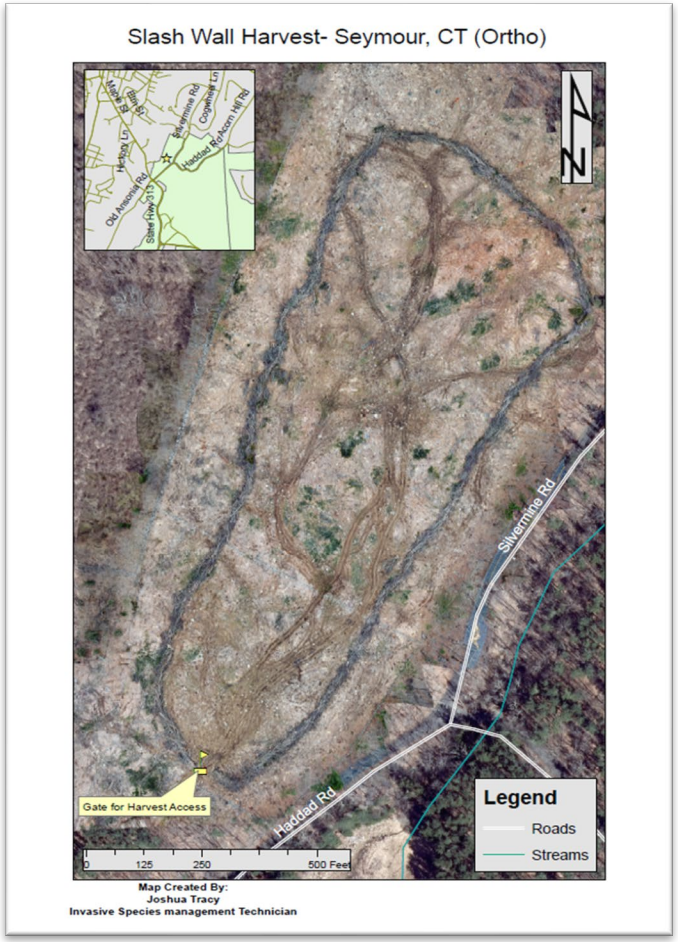
Steam Weeder

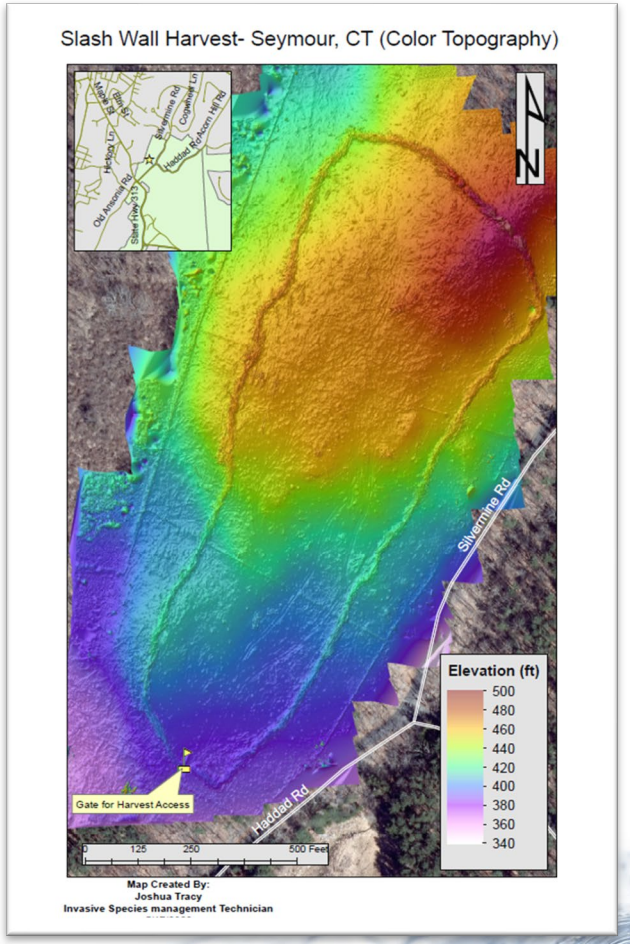
Web Brook Cove Sediment Detention Basin

Credit: E. Moore

Credit: E. Moore

Seymour Slash Wall





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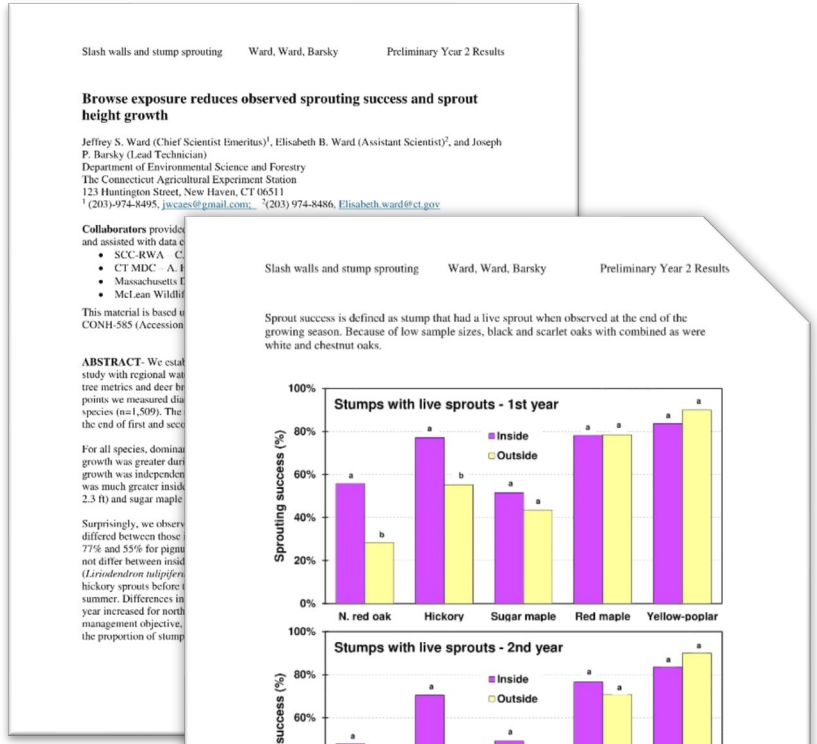
Seymour Slash Wall



Slash walls and stump sprouting Ward, Ward, Barsky Preliminary Year 2 Results

Browse exposure reduces observed sprouting success and sprout height growth

Jeffrey S. Ward (Chief Scientist Emeritus)[1], Elisabeth B. Ward (Assistant Scientist)[2], and Joseph P. Barsky (Lead Technician)
Department of Environmental Science and Forestry
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06511
[1] (203)-974-8495, jwcaes@gmail.com; [2](203) 974-8486, Elisabeth.ward@ct.gov

Collaborators provide
and assisted with data c
- SCC-RWA C.
- CT MDC A. H
- Massachusetts D
- McLean Wildlif

This material is based u
CONH-585 (Accession

ABSTRACT- We estab
study with regional wat
tree metrics and deer br
points we measured dia
species (n=1,509). The
the end of first and seco

For all species, dominan
growth was greater duri
growth was independen
was much greater inside
2.3 ft) and sugar maple

Surprisingly, we observ
differed between those
77% and 55% for pignu
not differ between inside
(*Liriodendron tulipifera*
hickory sprouts before
summer. Differences in
year increased for north
management objective,
the proportion of stump

Slash walls and stump sprouting Ward, Ward, Barsky Preliminary Year 2 Results

Sprout success is defined as stump that had a live sprout when observed at the end of the growing season. Because of low sample sizes, black and scarlet oaks with combined as were white and chestnut oaks.

Figure 2. Proportion of stumps with live sprouts inside and outside slash walls at end of first and second growing season in a southern New England study.

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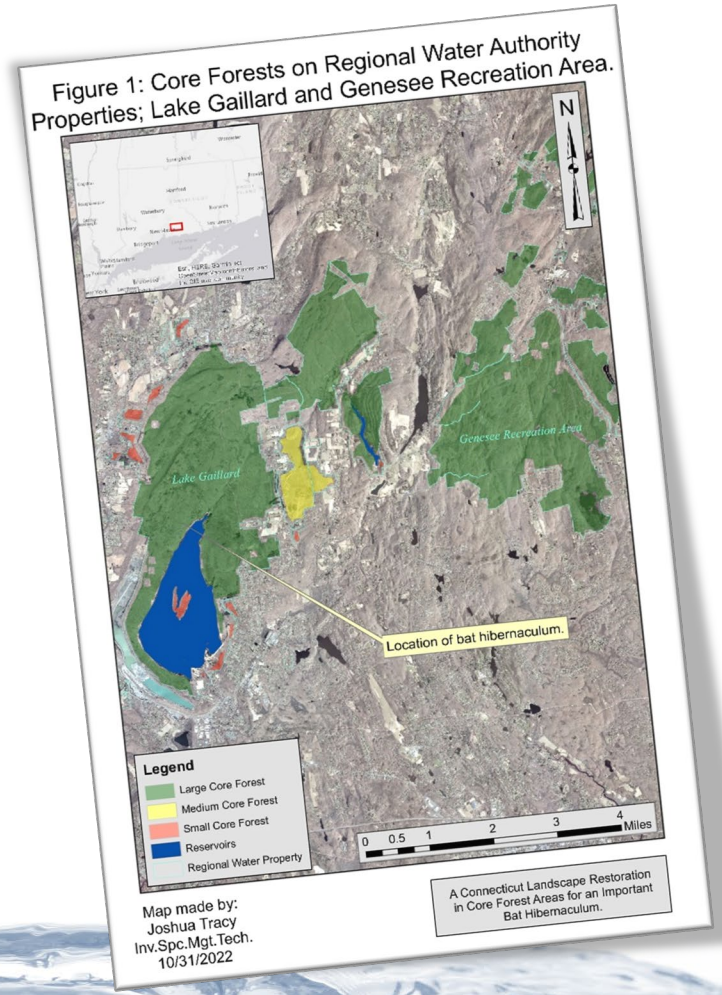
A Connecticut Landscape Restoration in Core Forest Areas for an Important Bat Hibernaculum



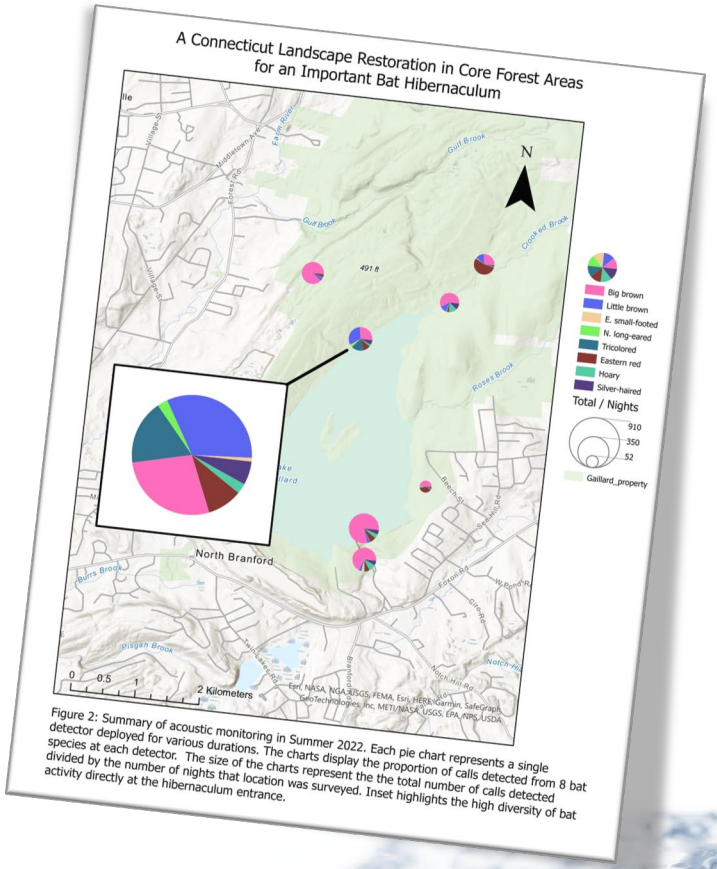


Figure 2: Summary of acoustic monitoring in Summer 2022. Each pie chart represents a single detector deployed for various durations. The charts display the proportion of calls detected from 8 bat species at each detector. The size of the charts represent the the total number of calls detected divided by the number of nights that location was surveyed. Inset highlights the high diversity of bat activity directly at the hibernaculum entrance.

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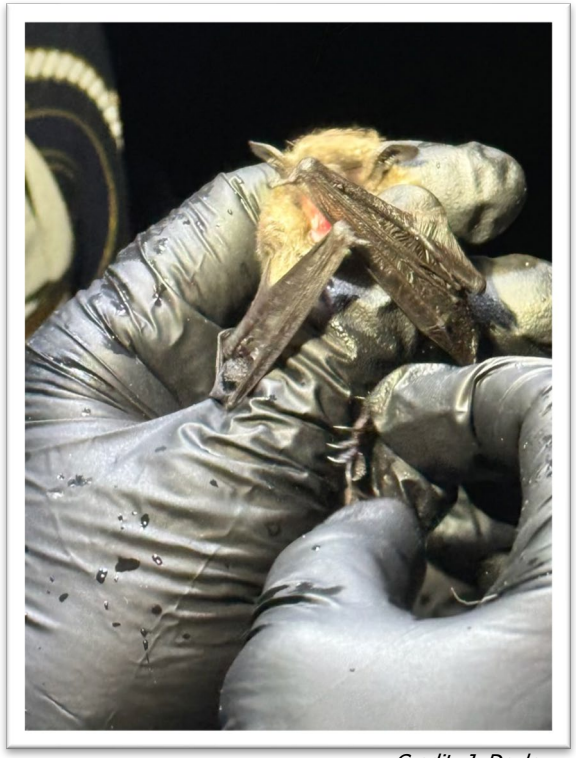
A Connecticut Landscape Restoration in Core Forest Areas for an Important Bat Hibernaculum



Credit: J. Doyle

Weedtechnics Satusteam Steam Weeder

Model Specifications:	SW900
Water Usage:	600L / hr
Petrol Pump Motor:	1.9L / hr
Diesel Burner:	7.5L / hr
Weight:	160-230 kg

*Note: the consumption figures are guide-only.

https://www.weedtechnics.com/steam-weeding-products/

Weedtechnics Satusteam Steam Weeder

Joshua Tracy
Forester II
South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
90 Sargent Drive | New Haven, CT 06511
Phone: 203-401-2722 | Fax:
Email: jtracy@rwater.com | Website: http://www.rwater.com


Thank you.


REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
TRUSTED SINCE 1849

SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE REGION

DIVERSIFICATION: The Key to Locally Led Conservation
Michael Kent, Cape Atlantic Conservation District (NJ)

"Got Trees?" Thoughts on Forest Conservation, Water Quality and Climate Change
Tim Abbott, Housatonic Valley Association (CT)

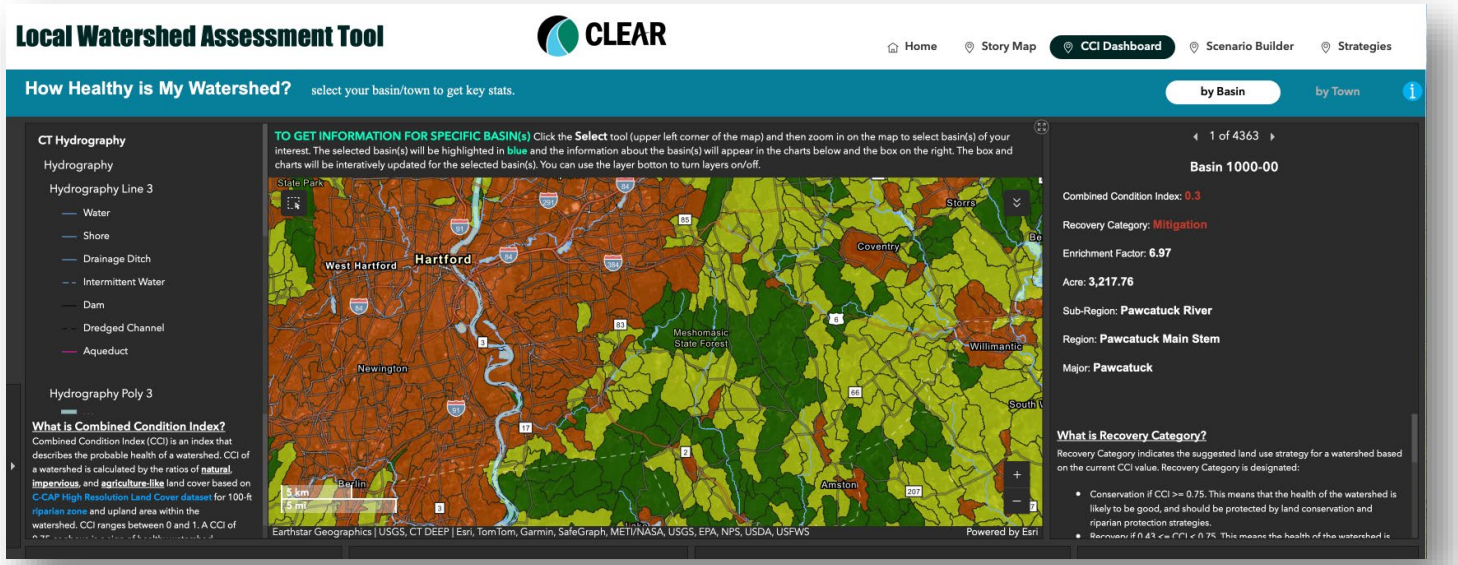
Tools for Source Water Protection and Watershed Assessment in CT
David Dickson, UConn (CT)

Decision Support Tools for Watershed Assessment and Sourcewater Protection

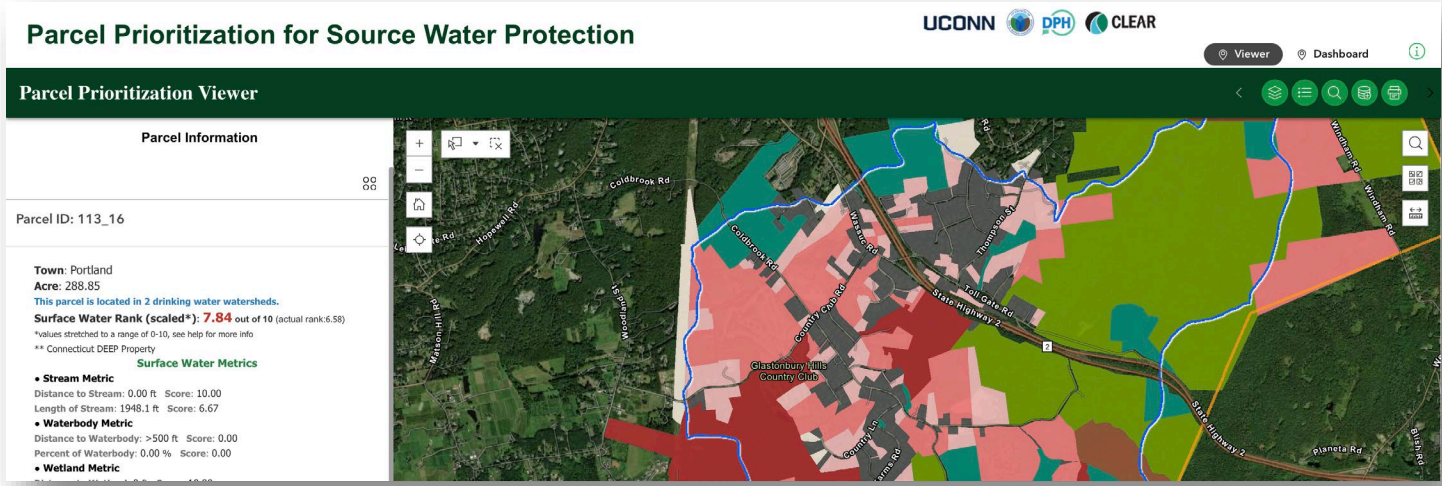
Dave Dickson, UConn CLEAR

On behalf of Emily Wilson and Qian "Rachel" Lei-Parent

11/21/24



https://s.uconn.edu/wshedtool



https://s.uconn.edu/sourcewater_protection

CLEAR
University of Connecticut

provides research, tools, training, information, and assistance to community decision makers and other audiences in support of:

- better land use decisions
- healthier natural resources
- more resilient communities

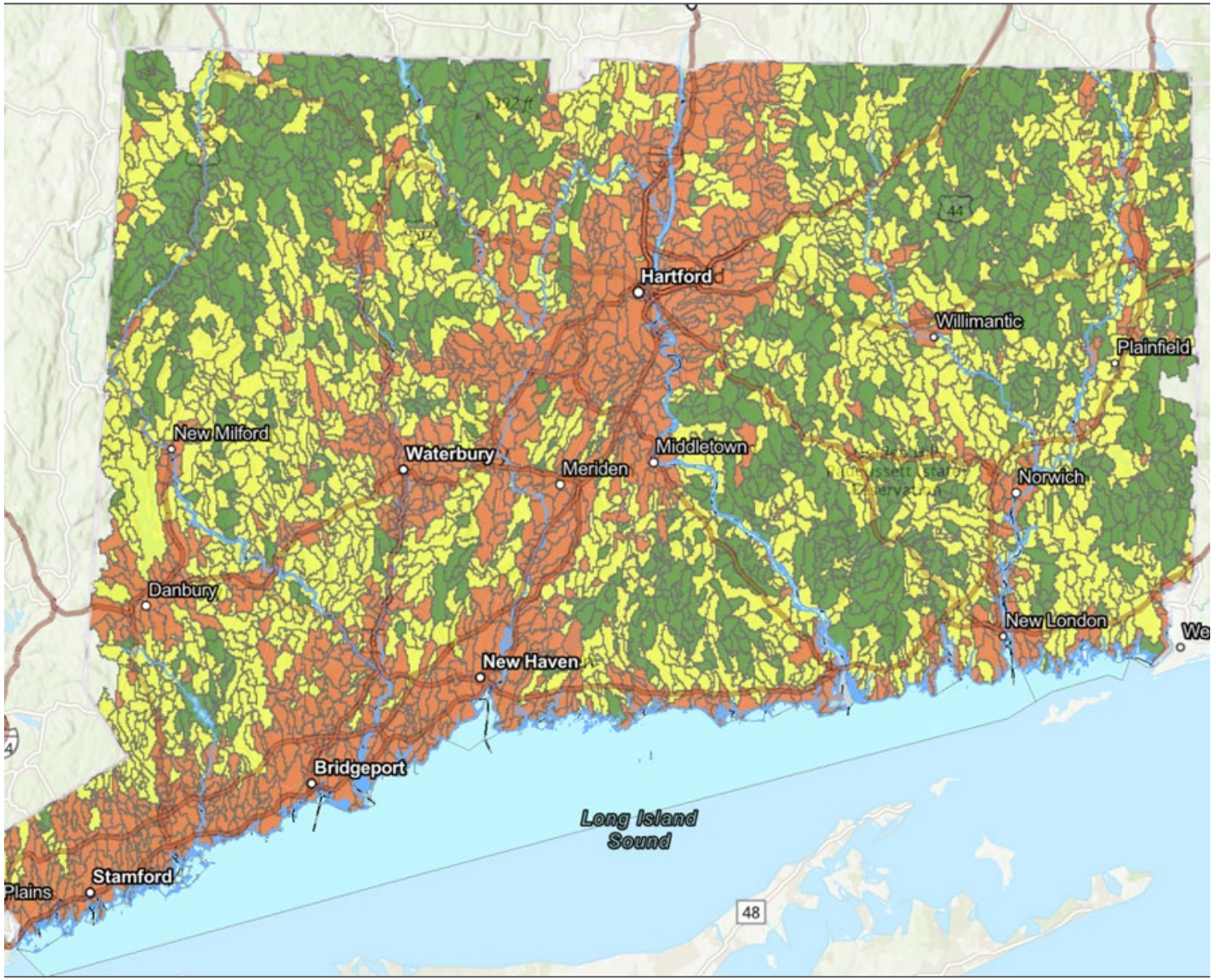
UCONN
Extension + NRE + Sea Grant

Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR)

https://clear.uconn.edu

Local Watershed Assessment Tool

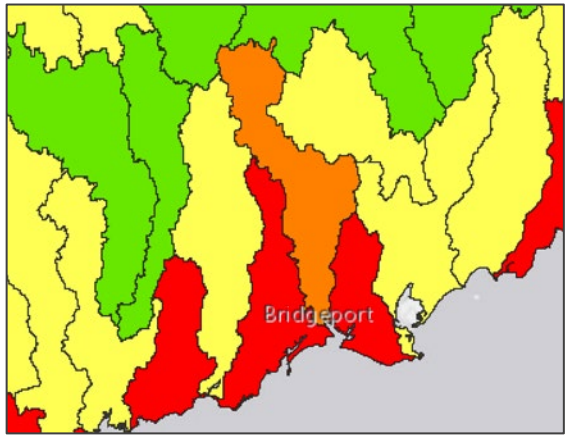
Effort to assess the health of small watersheds in CT based on high resolution (1M) land cover in upland & riparian areas



Land Cover as Water Quality Indicators

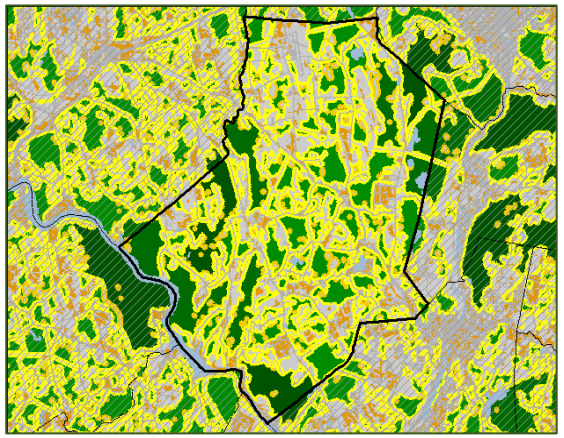
The scientific literature points to the critical role that various land cover factors have in watershed health

Impervious Cover

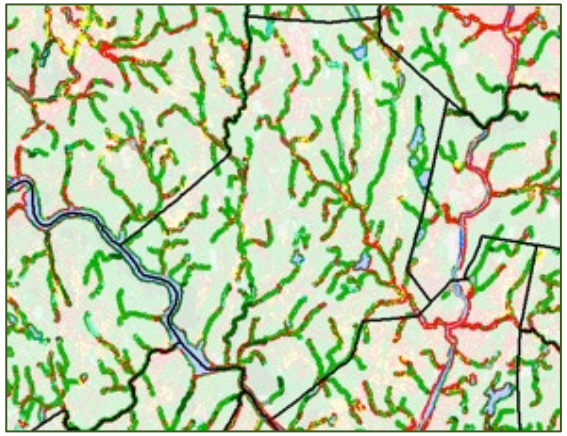


Forest Cover

Core Forest



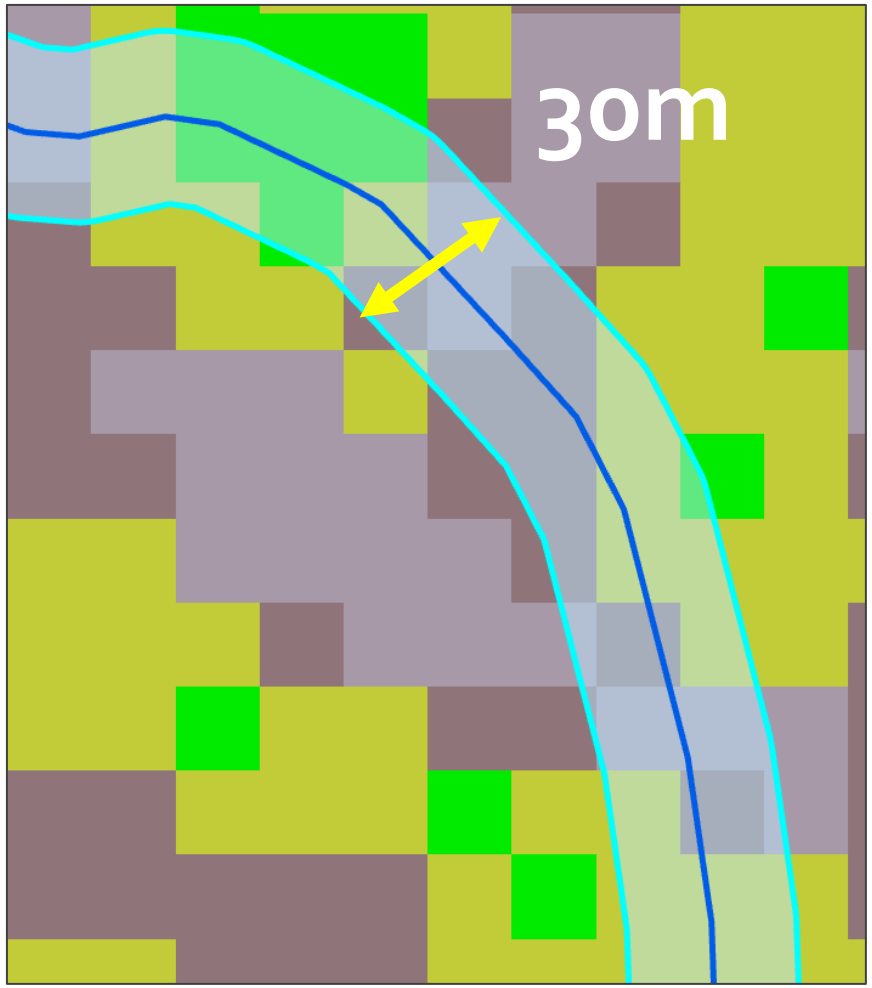
Riparian Corridors

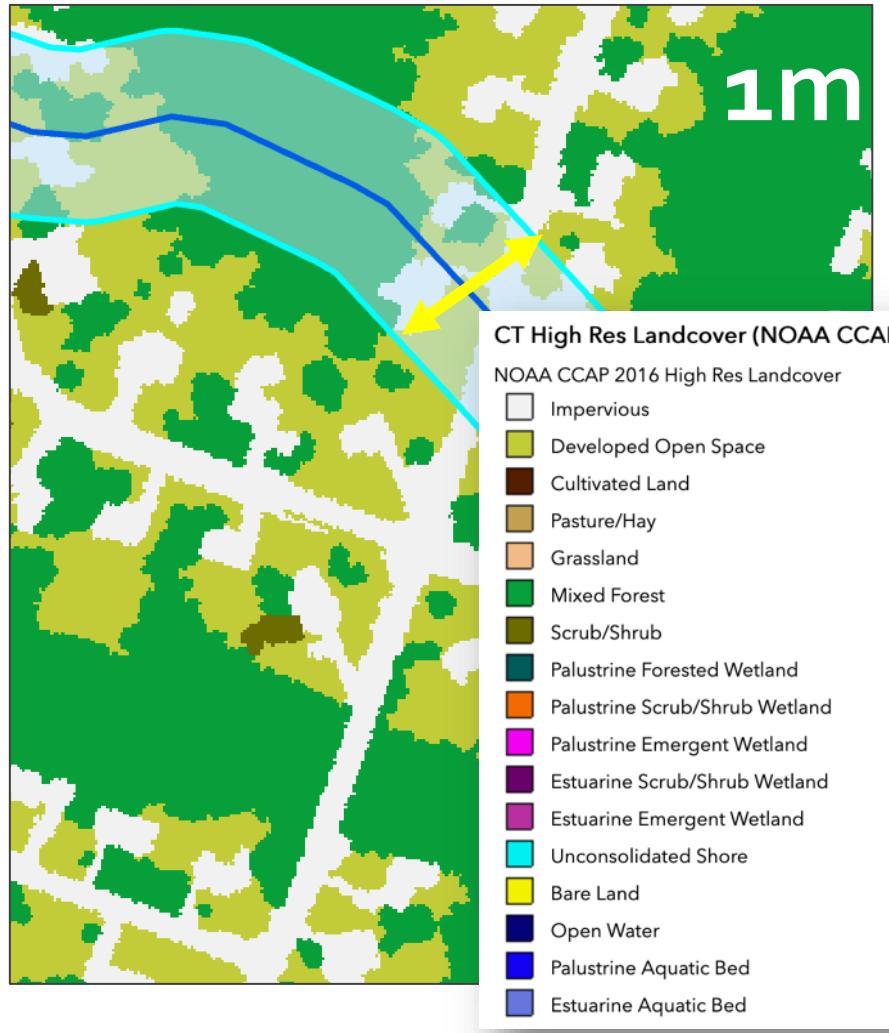


Generally, these indicators are more accurate at smaller watershed sizes

2020: a leap in land cover resolution (catalyst #2)

*New **1m resolution** NOAA C-CAP land cover dataset (based on 2016 imagery*





The Combined Condition Index

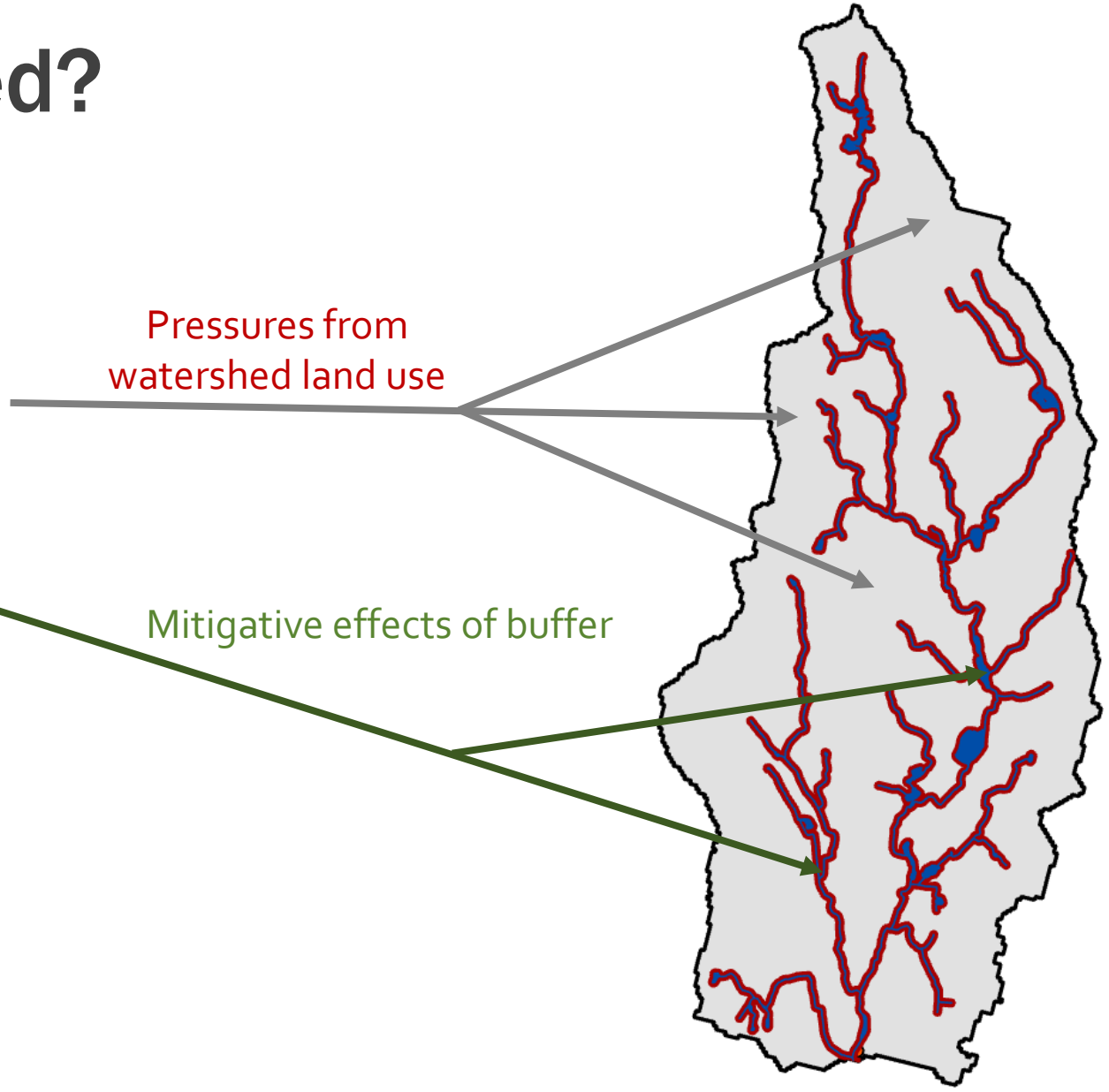
A Biological Condition Gradient approach

- CCI is a land cover-based metric that describes the probable health of a watershed
- CCI is calculated to have best fit with Macroinvertebrate Multi-metric Index (MMI)
- CCI ranges between **0** (poor) and **1** (excellent). Higher CCI score indicates better water quality.
- CCI is based on the land cover characteristics of riparian buffer and upland watershed.

How is CCI Calculated?
(black box version)

1. Divide a watershed into
   - upland watershed (everything outside the buffer)
   - 100' riparian buffer

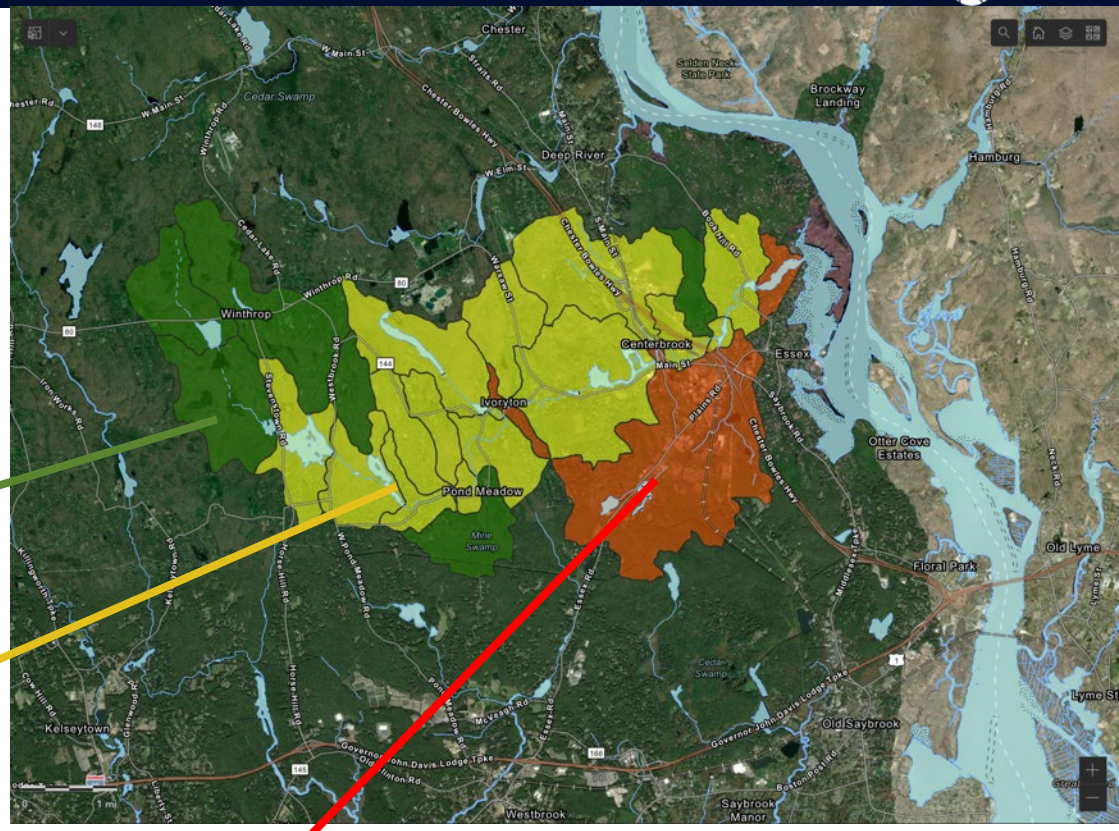
2. Compare land cover makeup of the two zones.
   - Natural
   - Impervious
   - Agriculture-like



CCI Management Category indicates the state of, and suggested land use strategies for, a local basin

Conservation: CCI >=0.75

protective strategies



Recovery:

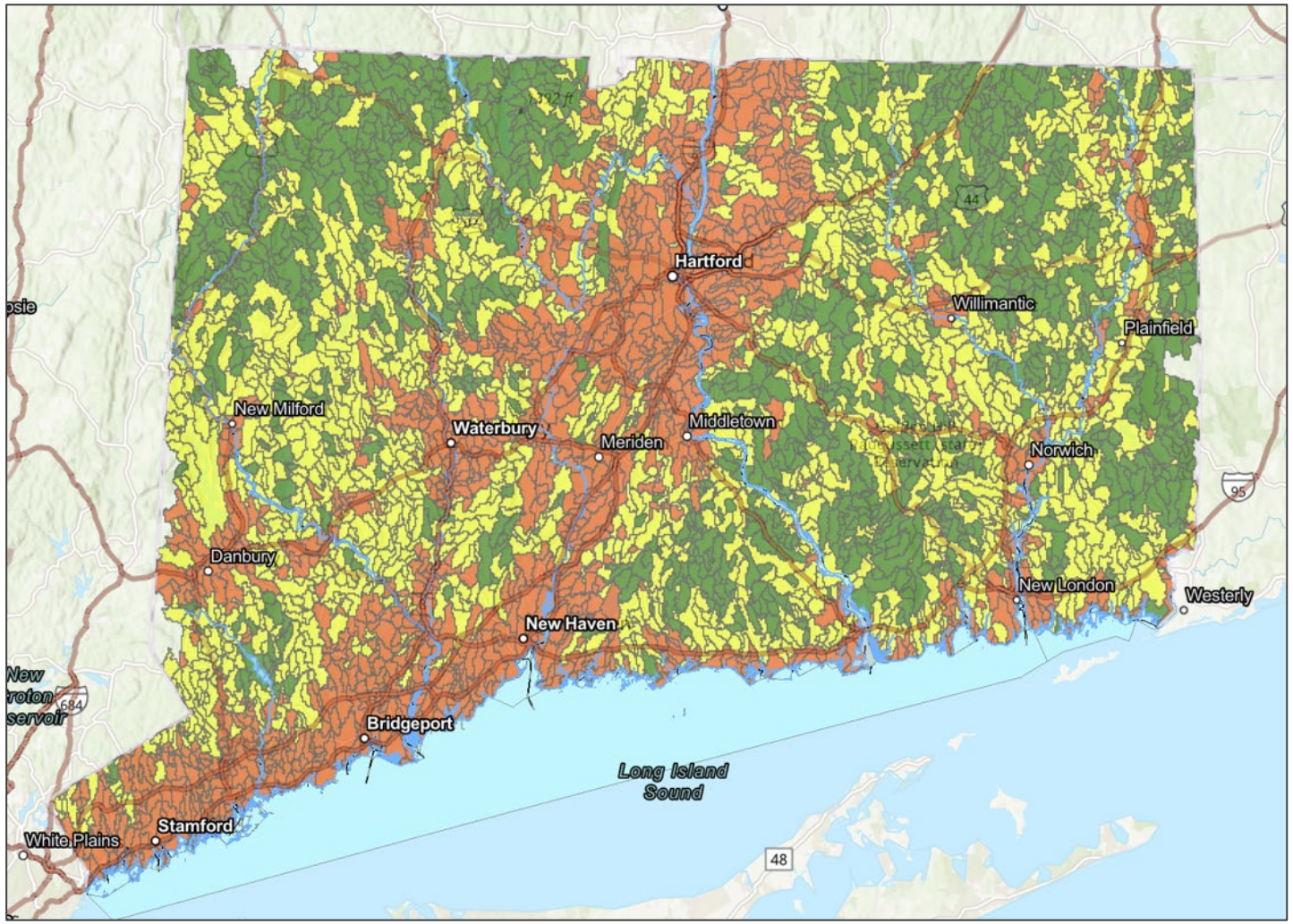
0.43 < CCI < 0.75.

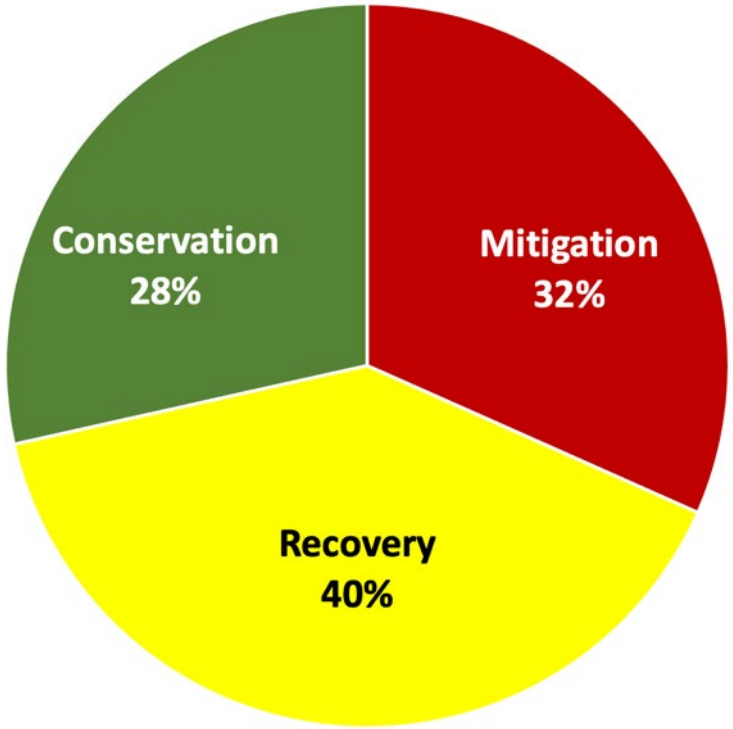
reforesting, riparian protection, mitigation (GSI)

Mitigation: CCI < 0.43

riparian restoration, urban tree canopy initiatives, GSI

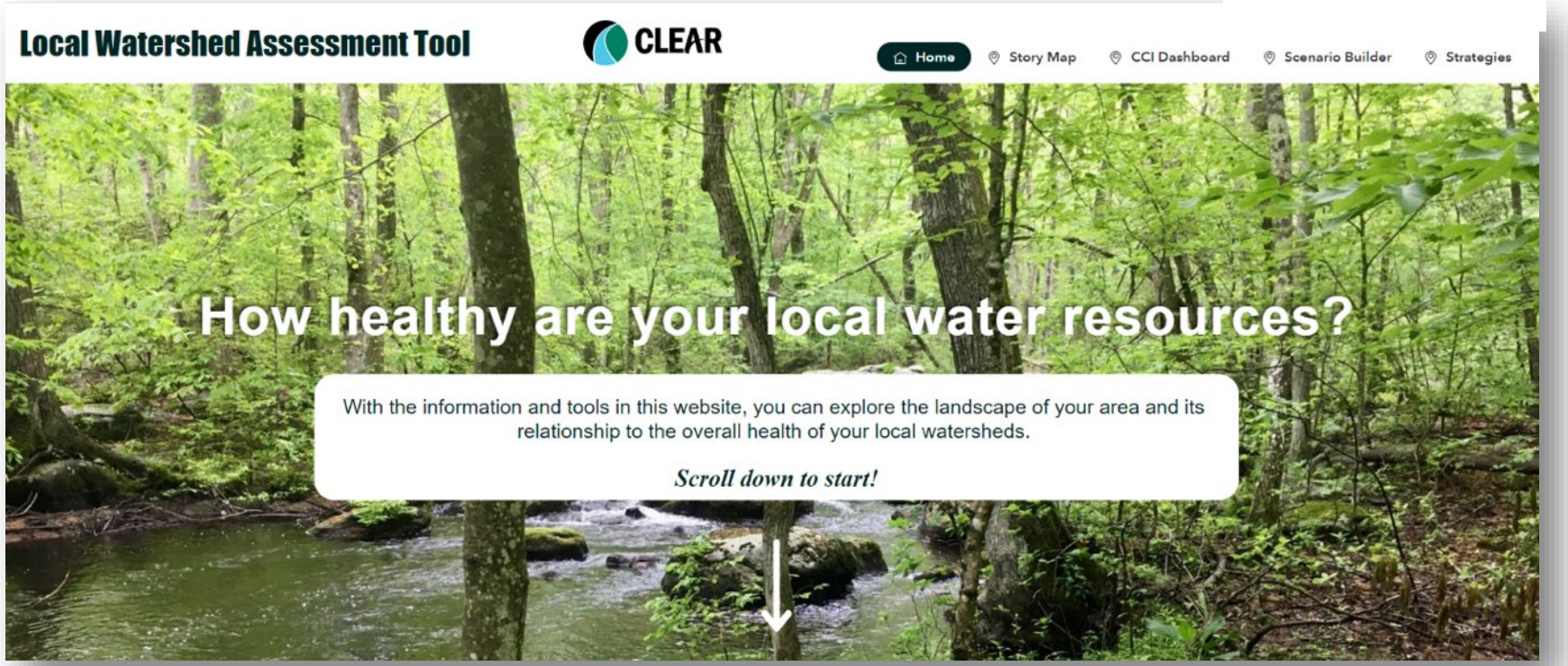
CCI map of CT


Hartford
Willimantic
Plainfield
New Milford
Waterbury
Meriden
Middletown
Norwich
Danbury
New London
Westerly
New Haven
Bridgeport
Long Island Sound
Stamford
White Plains
44
95
48
684


Conservation
28%
Mitigation
32%
Recovery
40%

Local Watershed Assessment Tool

- https://s.uconn.edu/wshedtool
- integrates a Story Map, Dashboard, and Scenario Builder



https://s.uconn.edu/sourcewater_protection

A Parcel-based Prioritization for Source Water Protection in CT

CLEAR

UCONN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

UCONN | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

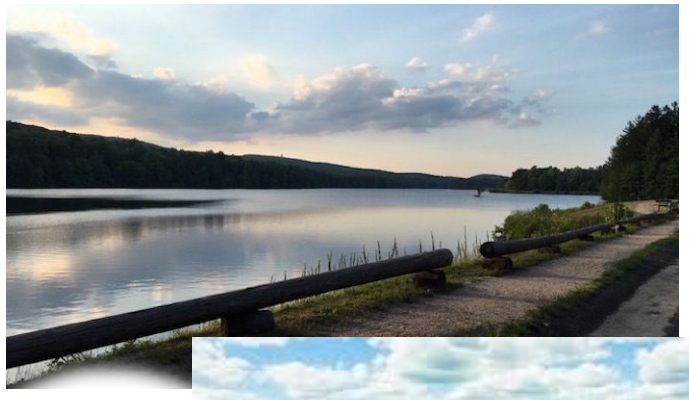
Project Overview

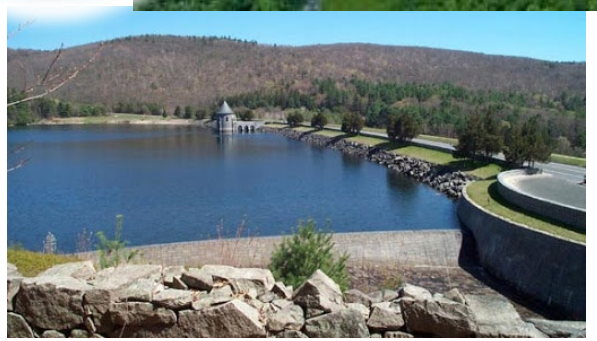
- Funded by the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation
- In partnership with the Dept. Of Public Health
- Goal: parcel prioritization for source water protection

  Coordinate a GIS analysis covering

  ✓ drinking water watersheds (DWW)

  ✓ aquifer protection areas (APA)



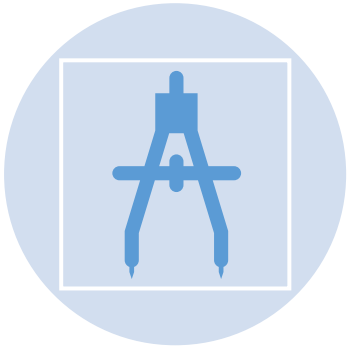


CLEAR
University of Connecticut

Methods

Collect Parcels

Define Metrics



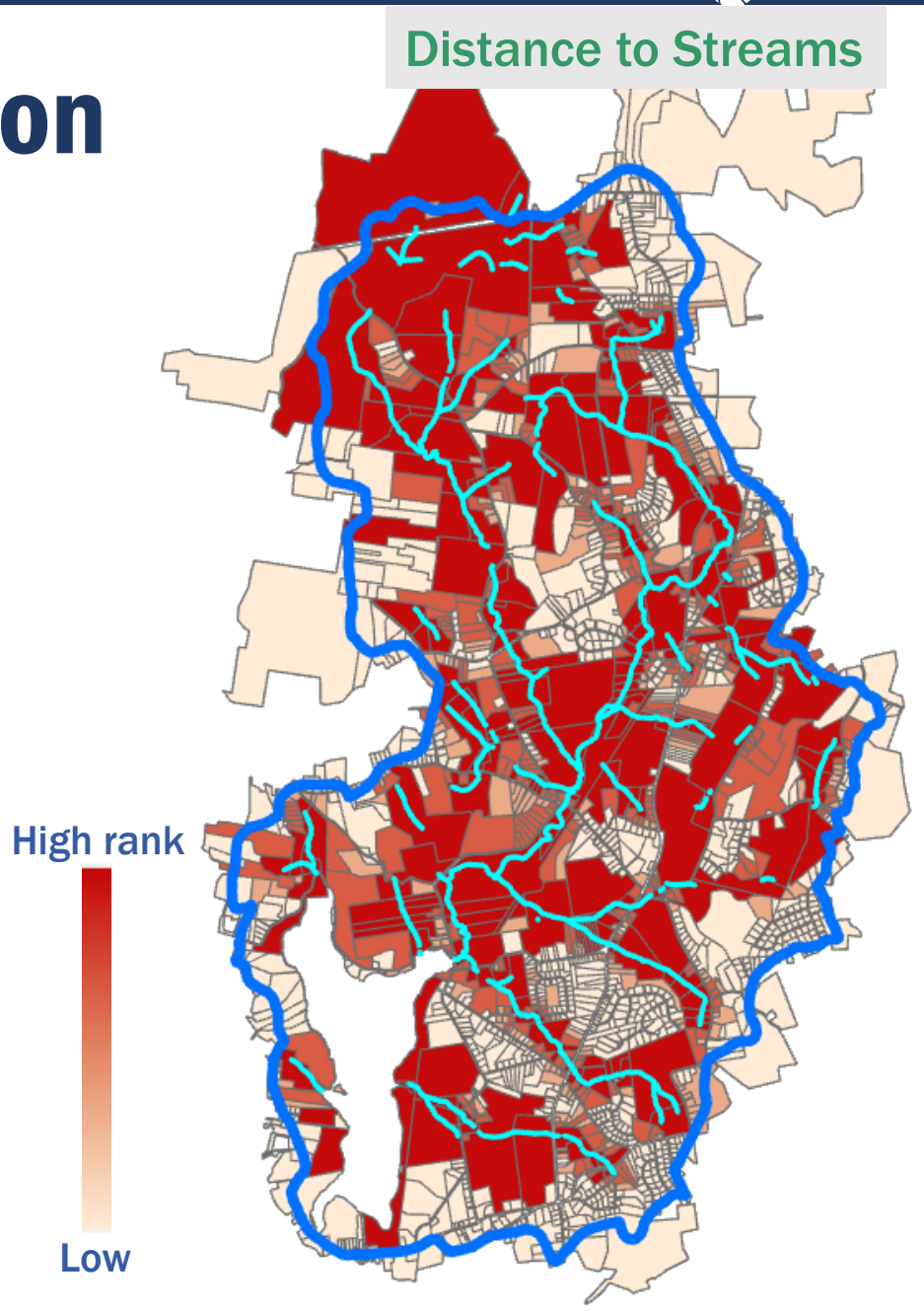
Calculate Ranks

Develop Web Tool

Metrics for Surface Water Protection

Parcels have higher priority:

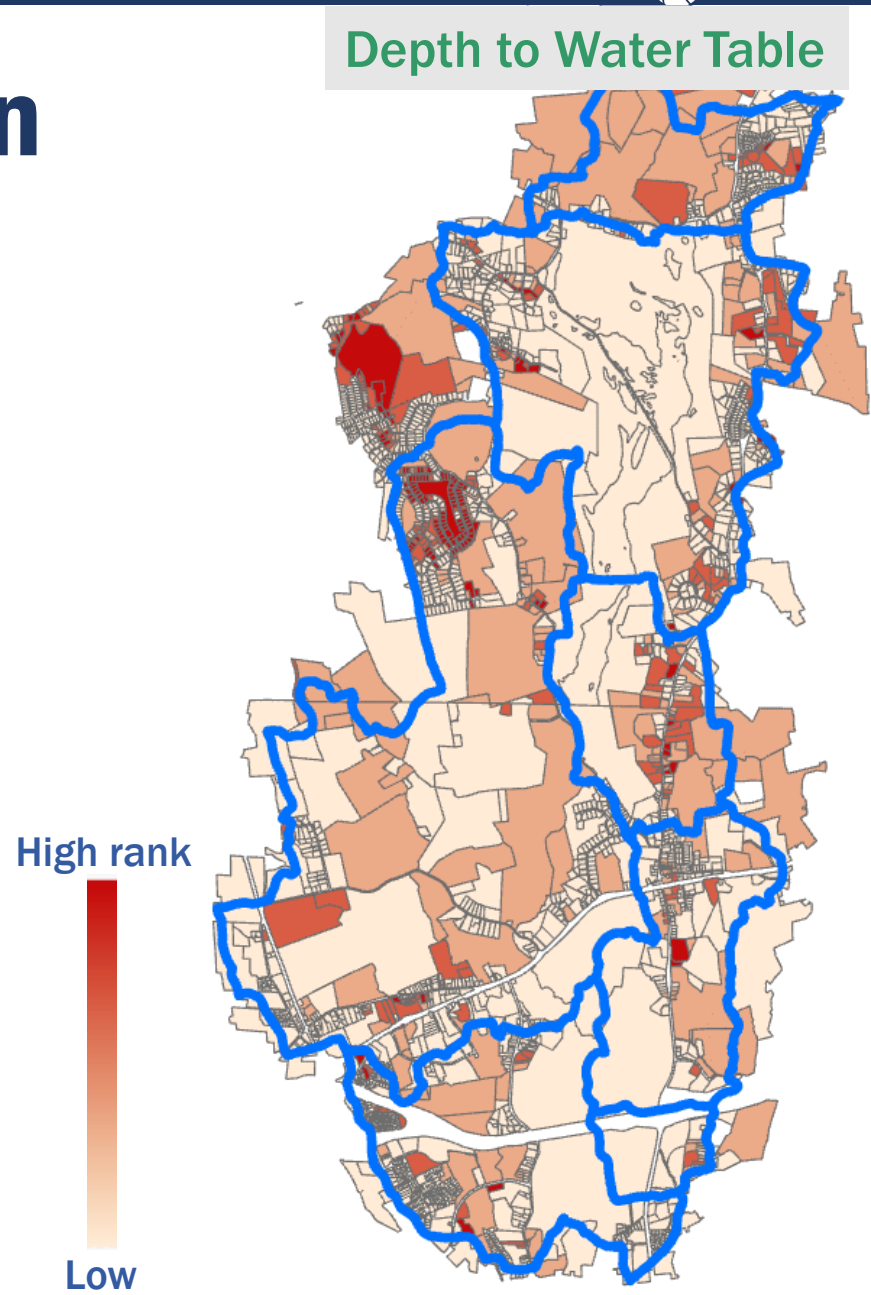
- Closer to and have greater lengths of Stream
- Closer to and have higher % area of Waterbody
- Closer to and have higher % area of Wetland
- Closer to Treatment Plant Intake
- Greater area and higher % area of Riparian Zone



Metrics for Surface Water Protection

Parcels have higher priority:

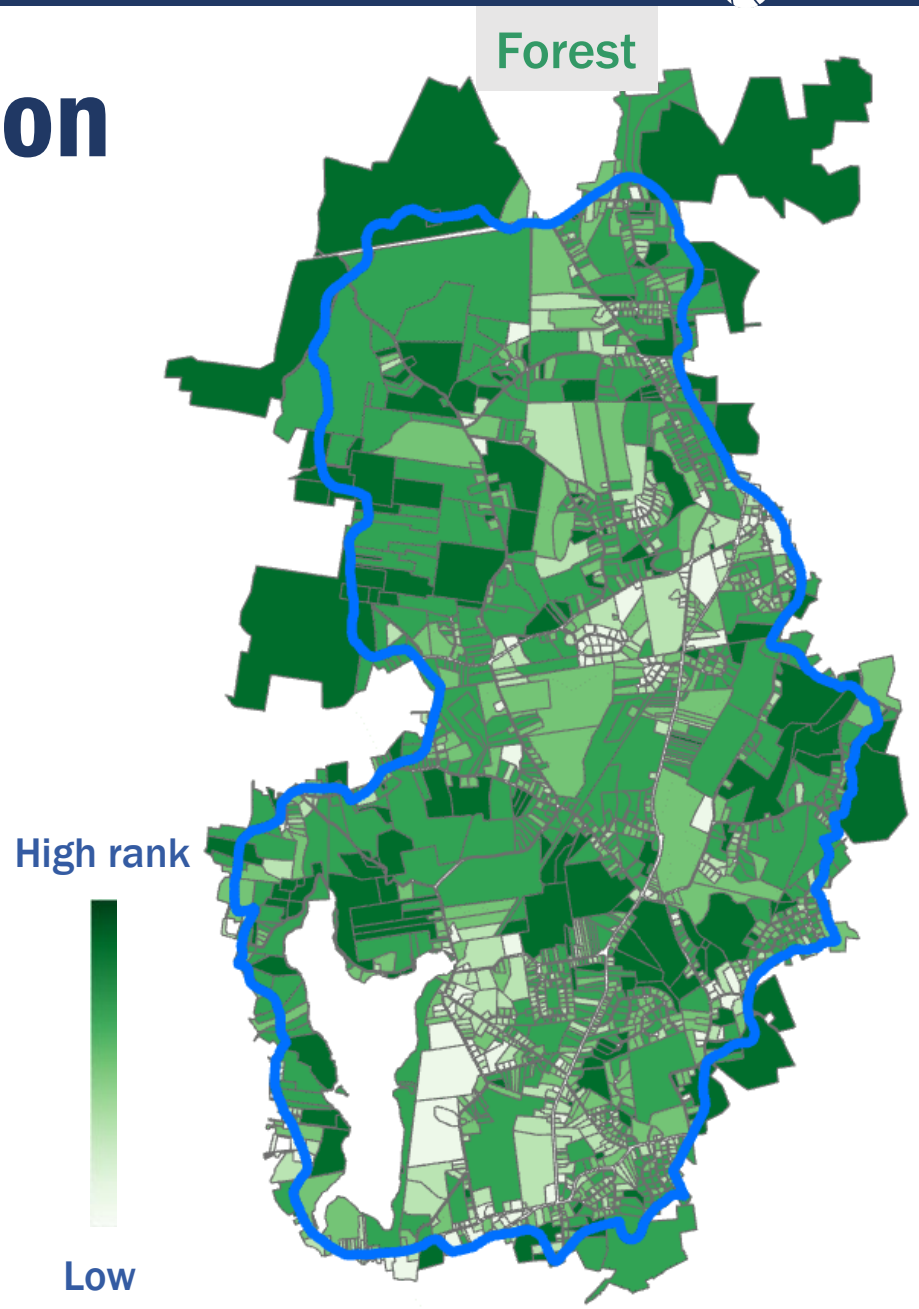
- Higher % area of soil types that are vulnerable to contamination
  - Shallow Depths to water Table
  - Shallow Depths to Restrictions
  - High Erodibility
  - High Conductivity
- Higher % area covered by Steep Slopes



Metrics for Surface Water Protection

Parcels have higher priority:

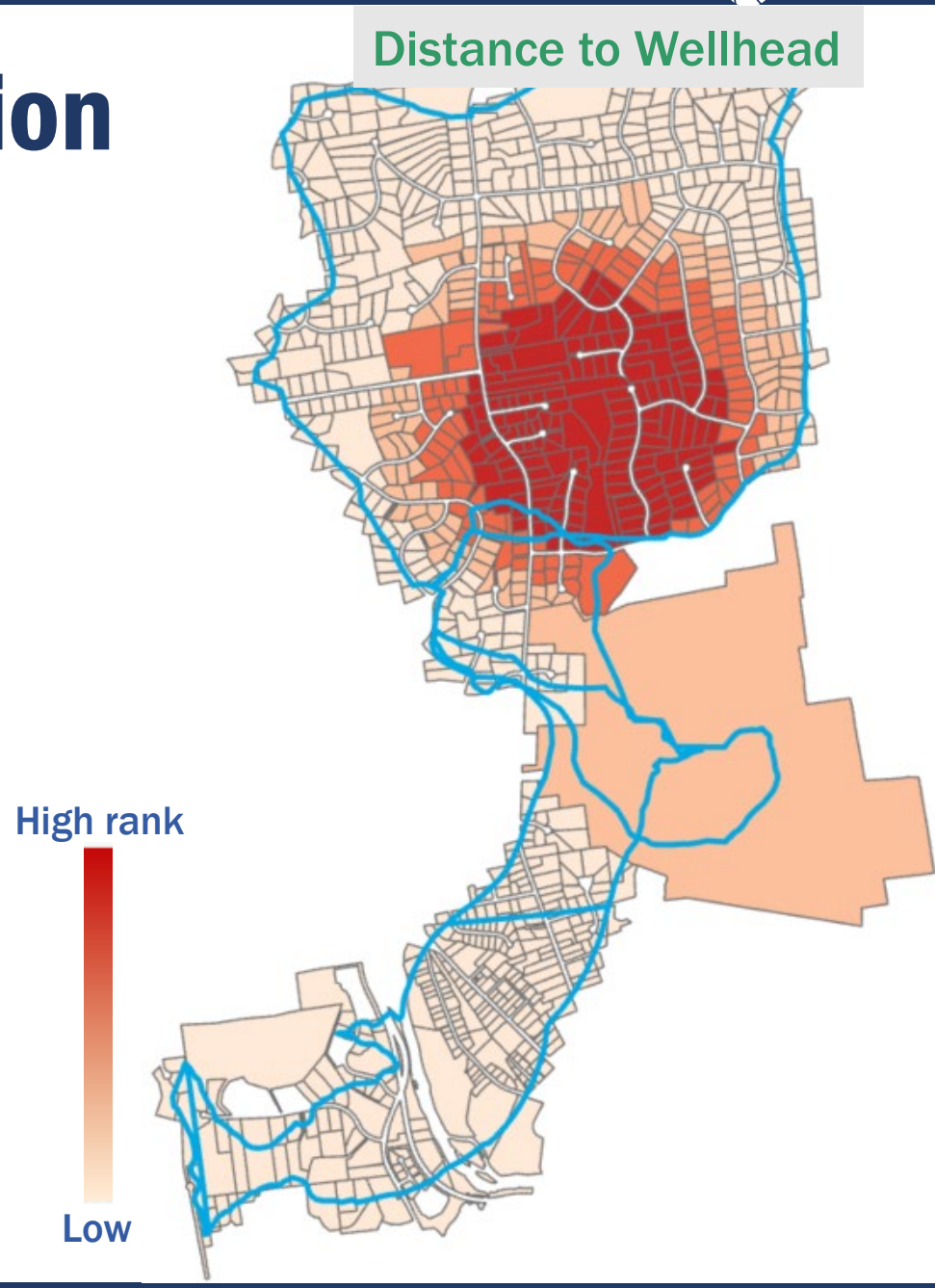
- Higher % area covered by
  - Forest
  - Core forest
- Lower % area covered by
  - Impervious surface
  - Developed open-space (turf)



Metrics for Ground Water Protection

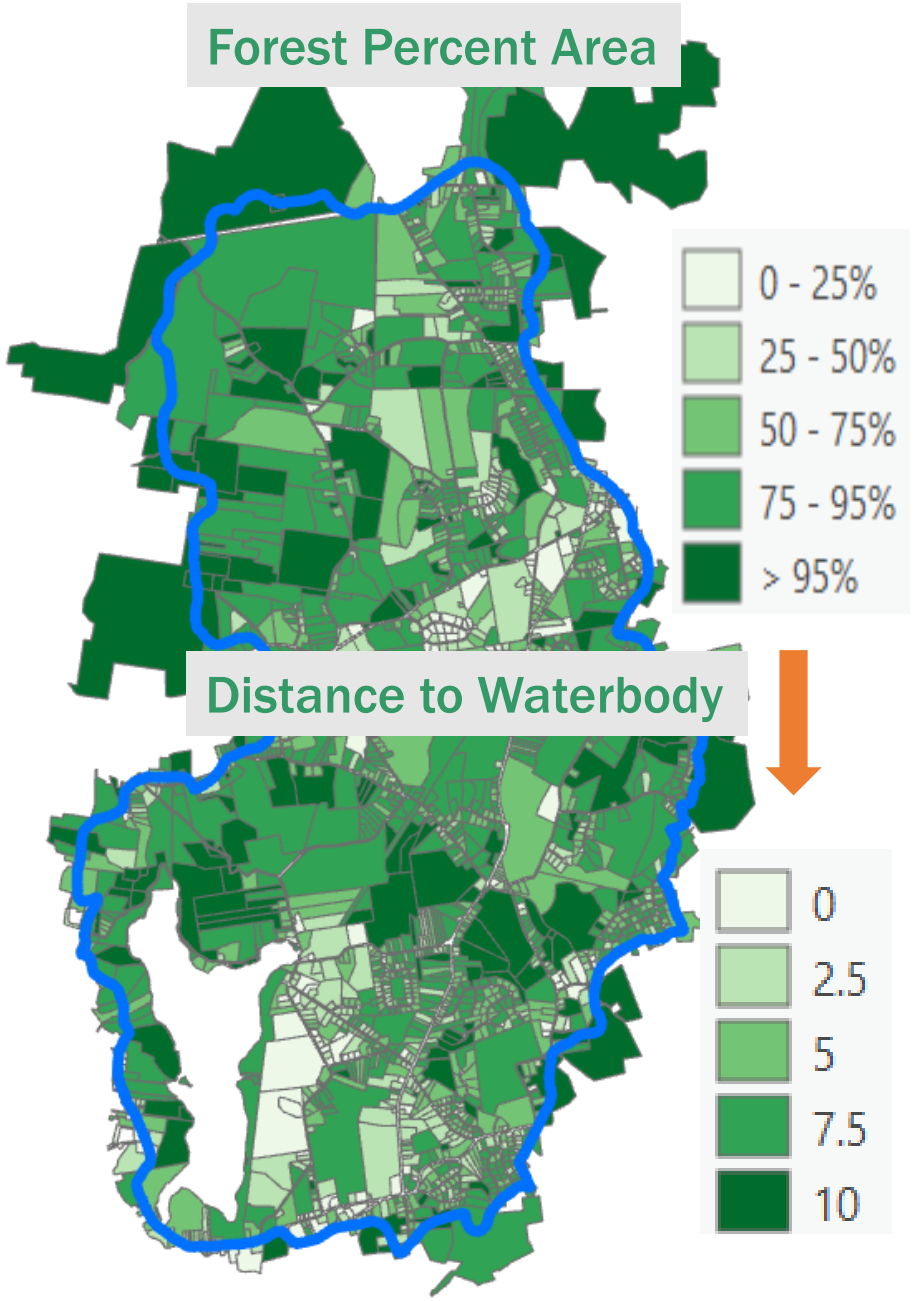
Parcels have higher priority:

- Closer to Wellhead
- Greater area and % area of Undeveloped Land
- Contains high Surficial Aquifer Potential
- Does NOT contain impaired Ground Water Quality



Assign Scores to Metric Values

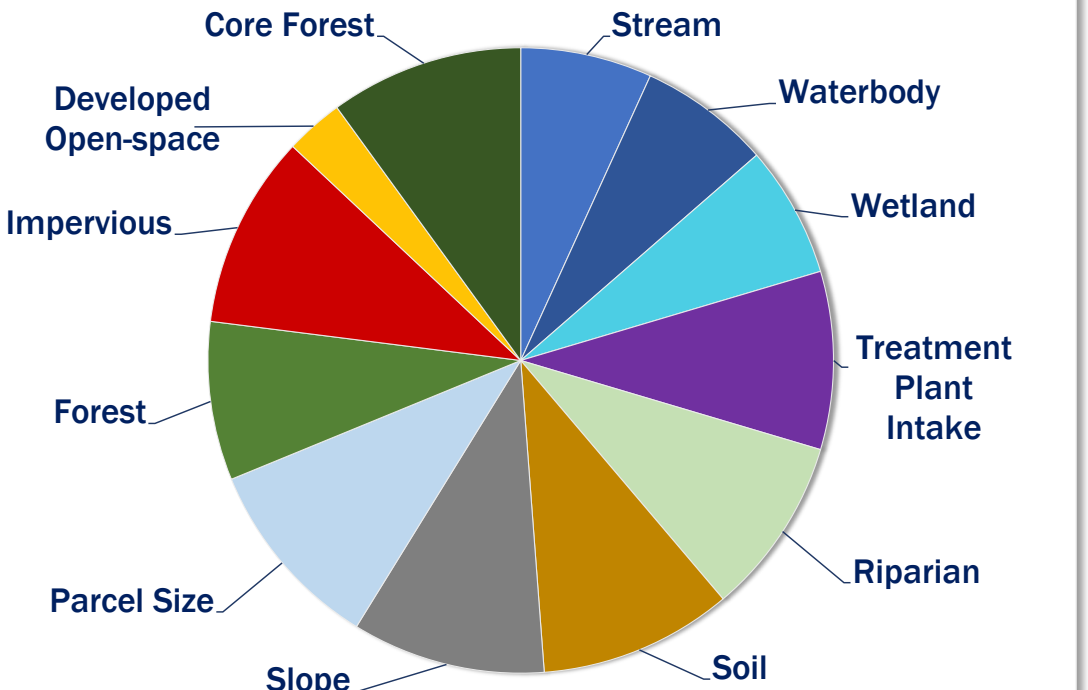
- Value range of each metric varies.
- Metrics need to have the same score range to be comparable.
  - Reclassify each metric map
  - Assign a score from 0 – 10 to each class



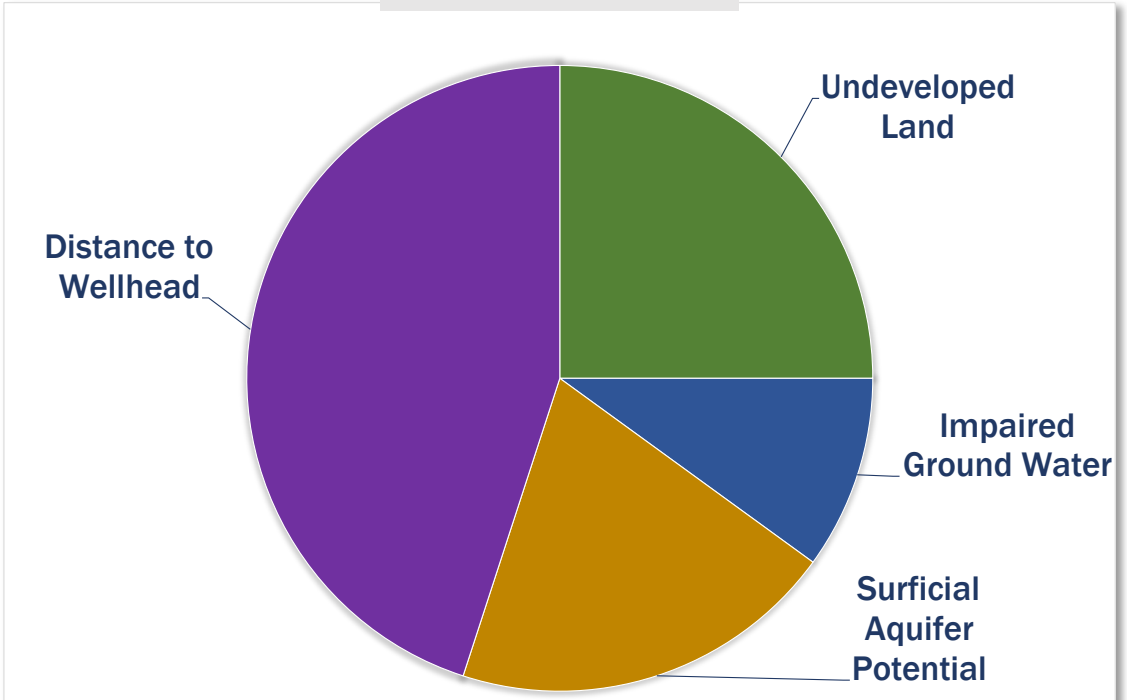
Metric Weights

- Sum of weights = 1
- More important metrics get higher weights.
- Determined by expert opinion

Surface Water



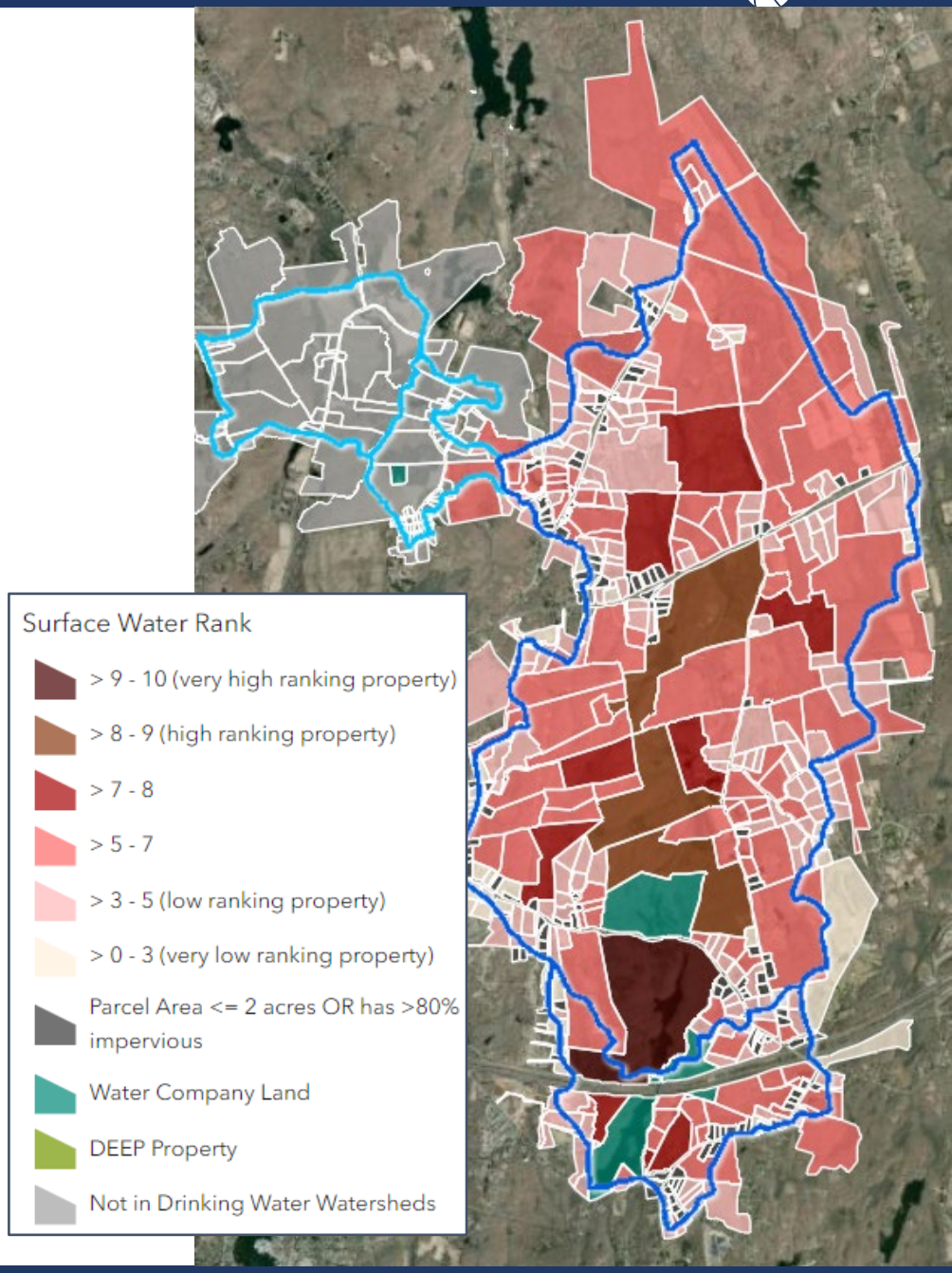
Ground Water



Summarize Parcel Ranking

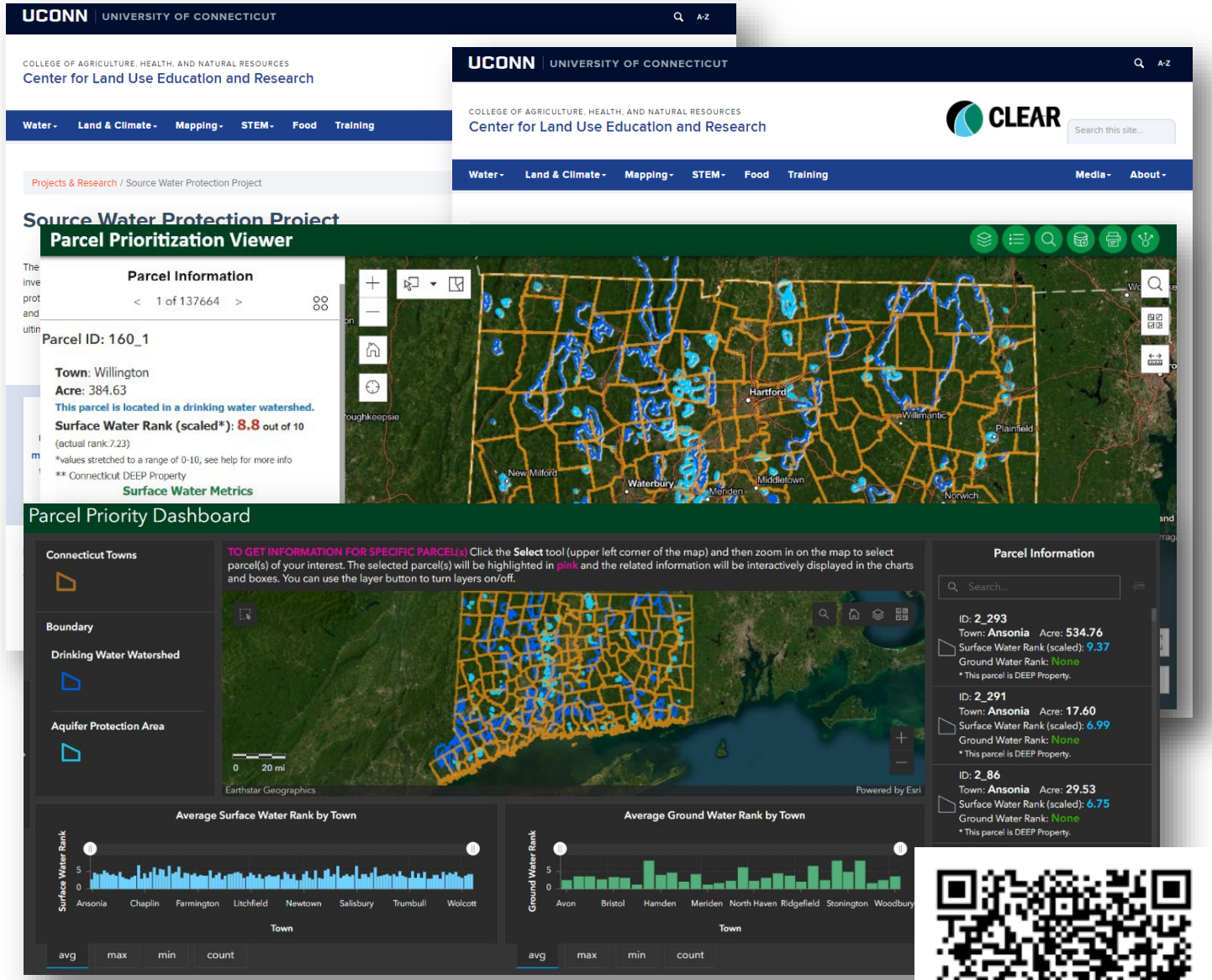
Rank = ∑ Weight × Metric Score

- Score range 0 – 10
- Calculate surface and ground water ranks separately
  - Parcels in both DWW and APA get bonus points
- Highlight parcel priorities by excluding parcels
  - Owned by water company
  - Owned by state
  - Too small or too developed



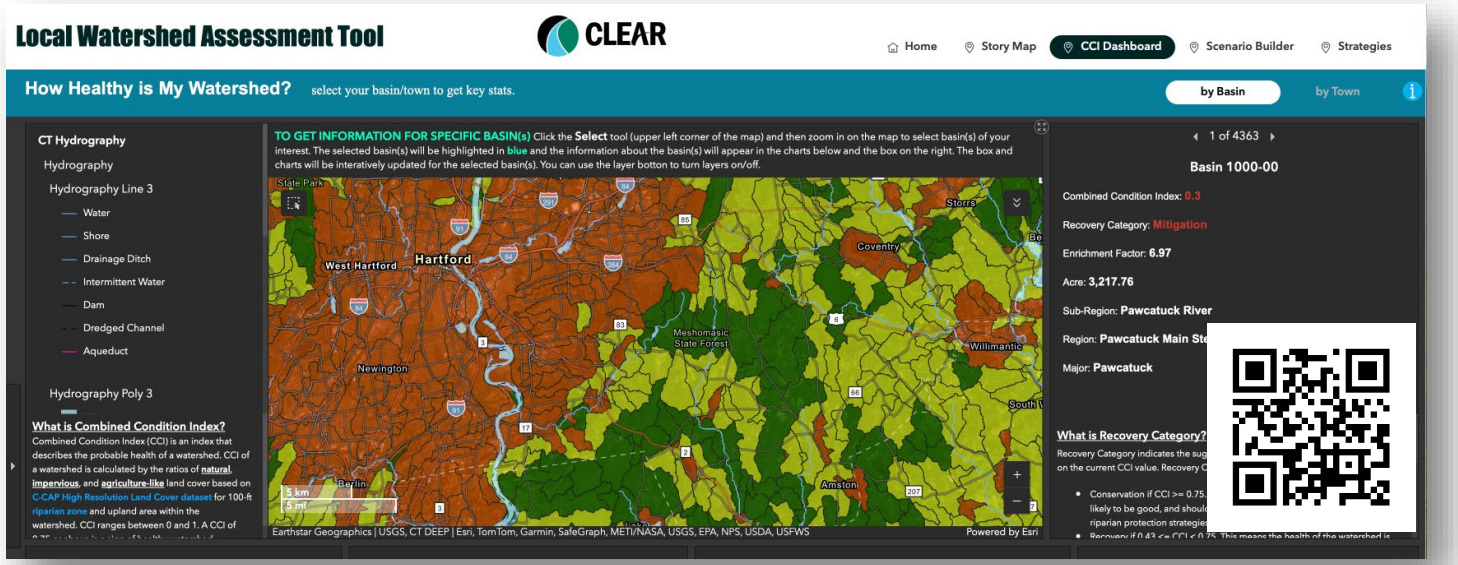
Web Tool

- Home page with project background, methods, and help
- A map viewer to
  - display data layers and parcel info
  - query parcels by location or attributes
  - download parcel info
- A Dashboard that summarizes parcel priorities by towns

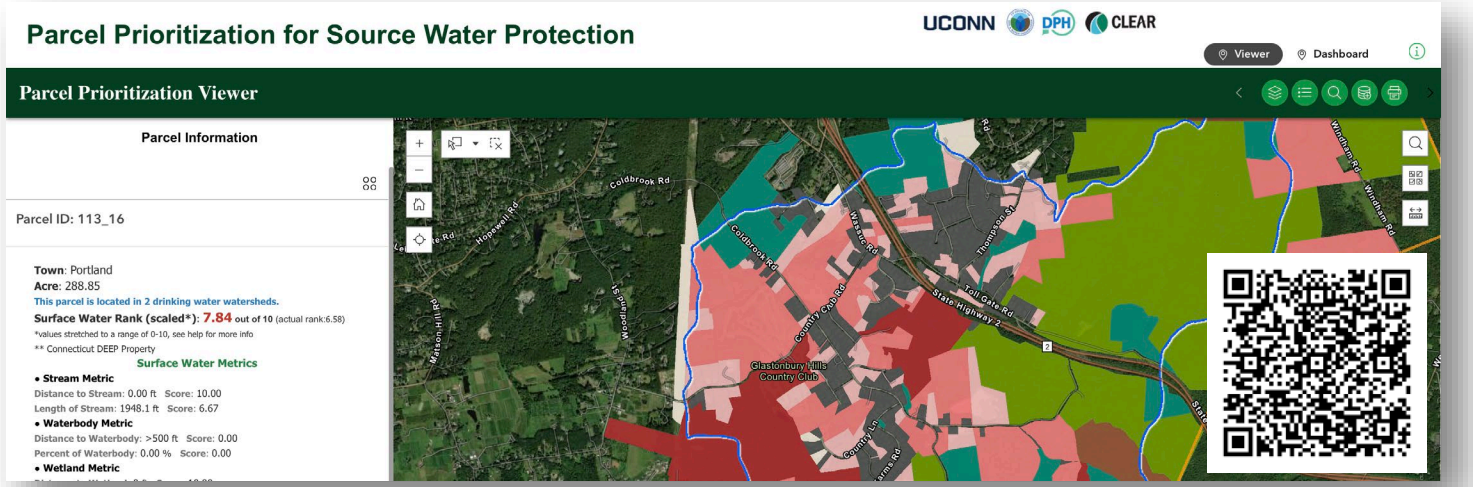


https://s.uconn.edu/sourcewater_protection

Phew!
Thank you!



https://s.uconn.edu/wshedtool



https://s.uconn.edu/sourcewater_protection

Dave Dickson, UConn CLEAR

David.Dickson@uconn.edu

WATER UTILITY PANEL

John O'Neil, Manchester Water Works (NH)

Alex Ashby, Albany Water Department (NY)

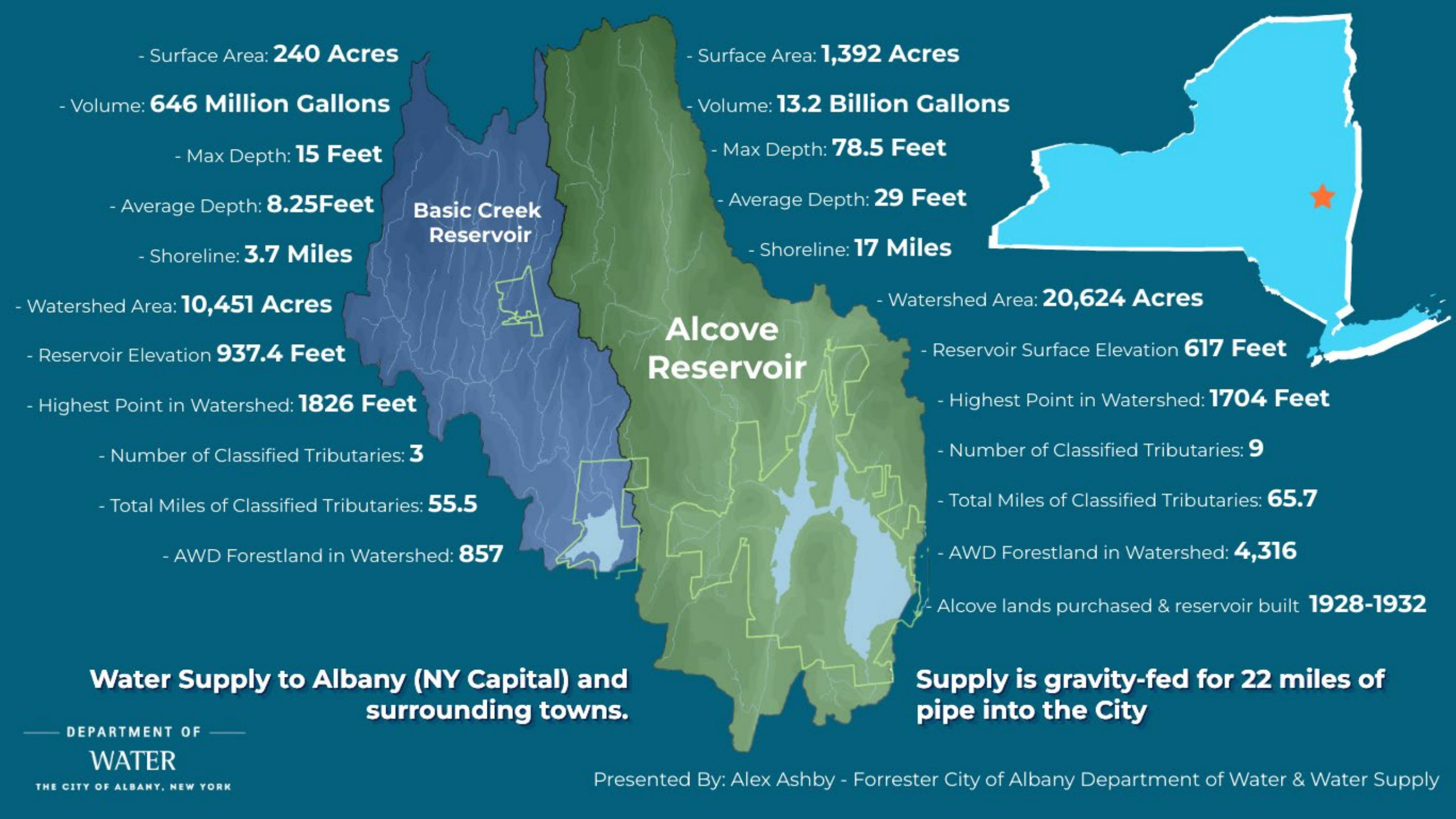
Nick Kevey, West Virginia American Water (WV)

Moderated by **Beth Garcia, EPA Region 3**

Watershed Management

Lake Massabesic (2,500 ac)

- Since 1874, drinking water supply for Manchester, NH region
- Water supply for over 159,000 people
- Large portion of watershed open to public for recreation


- Surface Area: 240 Acres
- Volume: 646 Million Gallons
- Max Depth: 15 Feet
- Average Depth: 8.25Feet
- Shoreline: 3.7 Miles
- Watershed Area: 10,451 Acres
- Reservoir Elevation 937.4 Feet
- Highest Point in Watershed: 1826 Feet
- Number of Classified Tributaries: 3
- Total Miles of Classified Tributaries: 55.5
- AWD Forestland in Watershed: 857
Basic Creek Reservoir
- Surface Area: 1,392 Acres
- Volume: 13.2 Billion Gallons
- Max Depth: 78.5 Feet
- Average Depth: 29 Feet
- Shoreline: 17 Miles
- Watershed Area: 20,624 Acres
- Reservoir Surface Elevation 617 Feet
- Highest Point in Watershed: 1704 Feet
- Number of Classified Tributaries: 9
- Total Miles of Classified Tributaries: 65.7
- AWD Forestland in Watershed: 4,316
- Alcove lands purchased & reservoir built 1928-1932
Alcove Reservoir
Water Supply to Albany (NY Capital) and surrounding towns.
Supply is gravity-fed for 22 miles of pipe into the City
DEPARTMENT OF
WATER
THE CITY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK
Presented By: Alex Ashby - Forrester City of Albany Department of Water & Water Supply

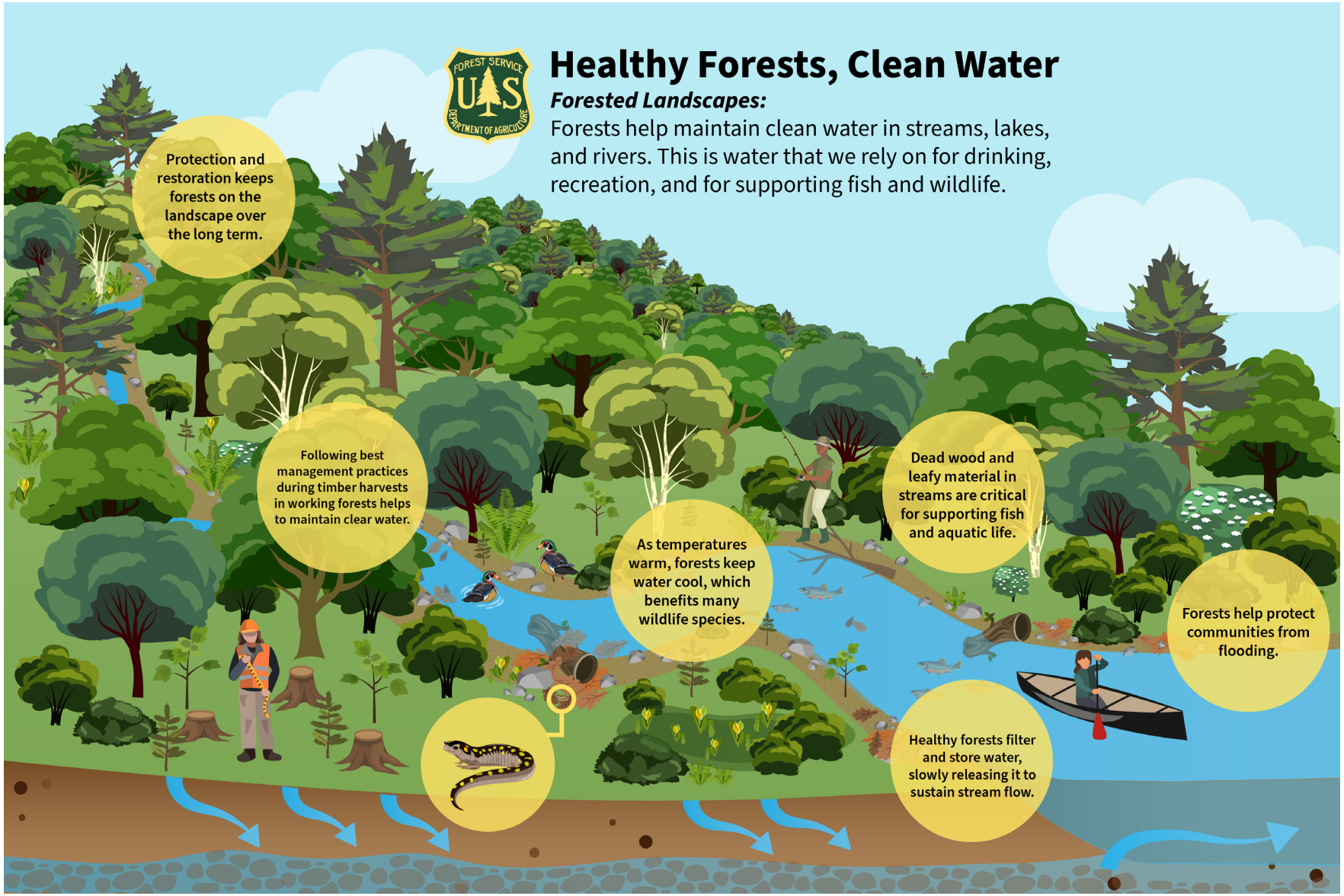
FORESTRY PANEL

Chris Martin, State Forester of CT (CT)

Charlie Laing, NYC DEP Forest Program Manager (NY)

Beth Sassaman, Pennsylvania NRCS State Biologist (PA)

Moderated by **Karl Honkonen, USFS**

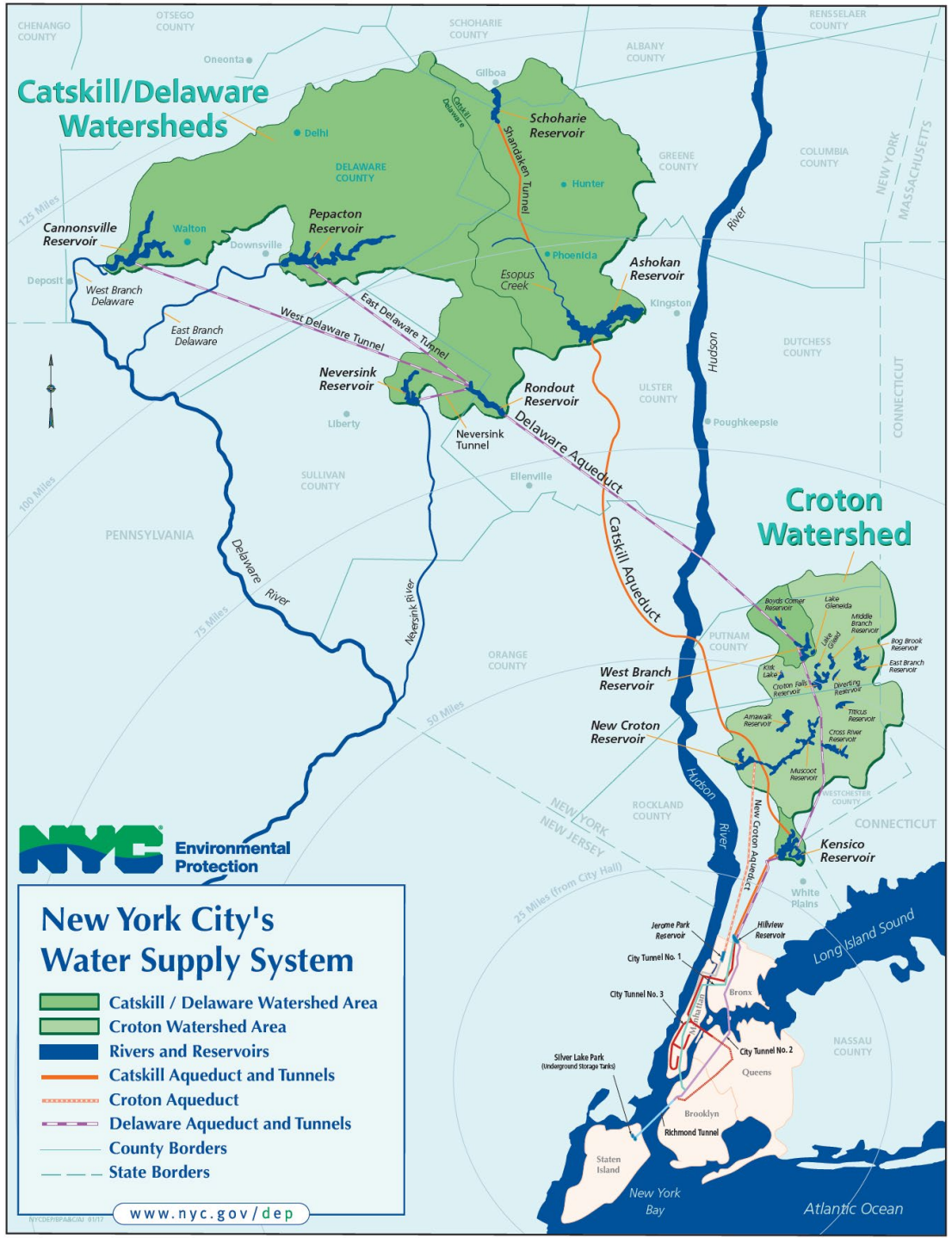

Healthy Forests, Clean Water
Forested Landscapes:
Forests help maintain clean water in streams, lakes, and rivers. This is water that we rely on for drinking, recreation, and for supporting fish and wildlife.
Protection and restoration keeps forests on the landscape over the long term.
Following best management practices during timber harvests in working forests helps to maintain clear water.
As temperatures warm, forests keep water cool, which benefits many wildlife species.
Dead wood and leafy material in streams are critical for supporting fish and aquatic life.
Forests help protect communities from flooding.
Healthy forests filter and store water, slowly releasing it to sustain stream flow.

NYC Department of Environmental Protection Watershed Forest Management

Charles Laing, Forestry Program Manager

November 21, 2024

NYC Environmental Protection



NYC Watershed
System Overview

- 2,000 square mile watershed
- 1.1 billion gallons of water/day
- 9.8 million New Yorkers

- Largest unfiltered water supply in US
- CAT/DEL system 95%
- Croton system 5%

- 3 main aqueducts
- Chlorination, UV treatment

Healthy Forests = Clean Water

Forestry Program Goal: Maintain or enhance New York City-owned water supply forests to produce high quality water and provide other ecosystem services.

NYC Environmental Protection

NYS Forest Action Plan

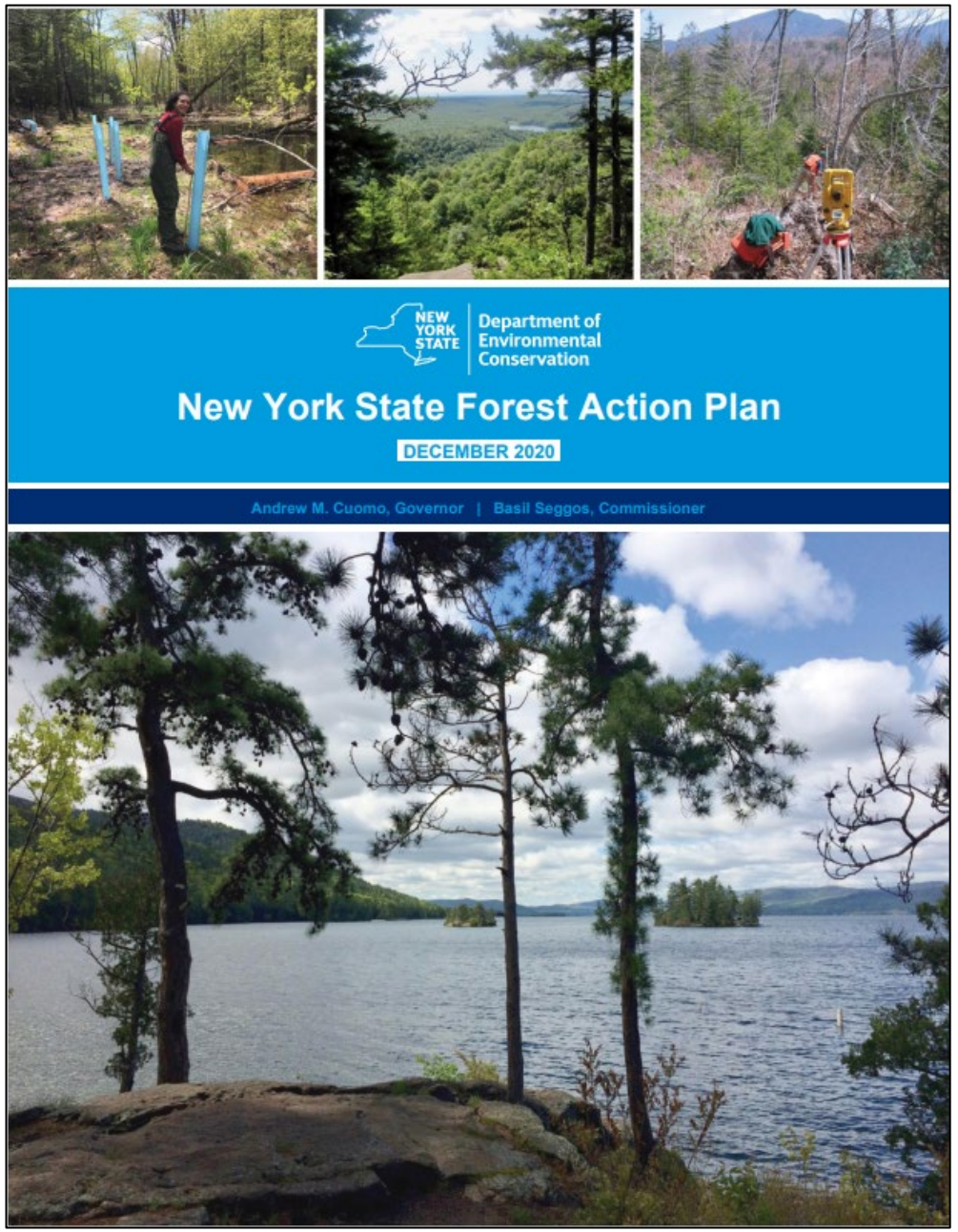
- **Goal #1**: Keep New York's Forests as Forests
  - NYC watershed forests
  - Private forest land in NYC watershed (WAC)

- **Goal #2**: Keep New York's Forests Healthy
  - Climate Change, invasives, deer browse
  - Biodiversity

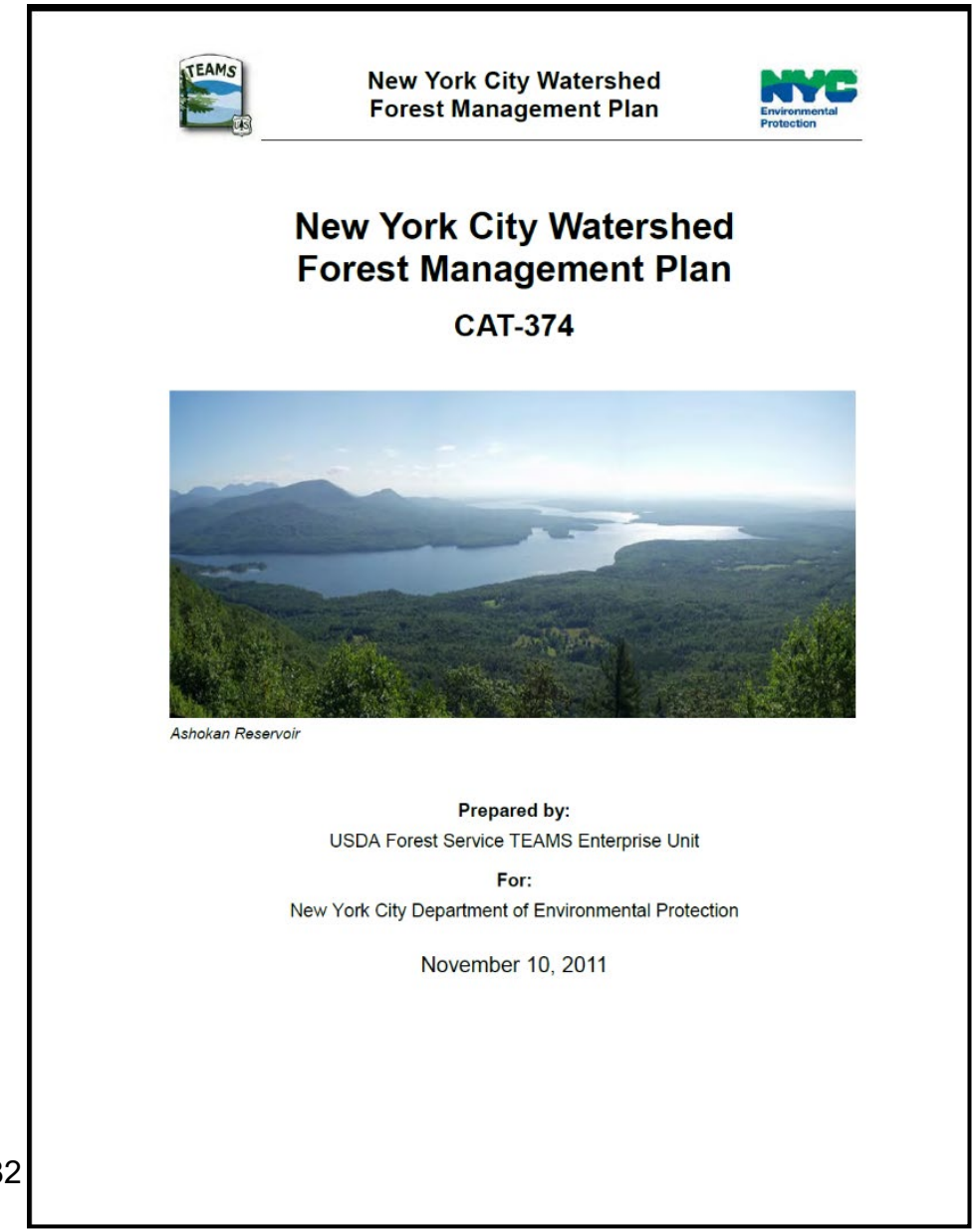
- **Goal #3**: Increase Forest Benefits for Humans and All Living Creatures
  - Forest protection for drinking water quality & supply
  - Economic impacts and forest products

- **Goal #4**: Appreciate, Support, and Protect New York's Forests
  - Sustainable forestry & BMPs

- Multi-State Priority Areas: Highlands Region



Watershed Forest Management Plan

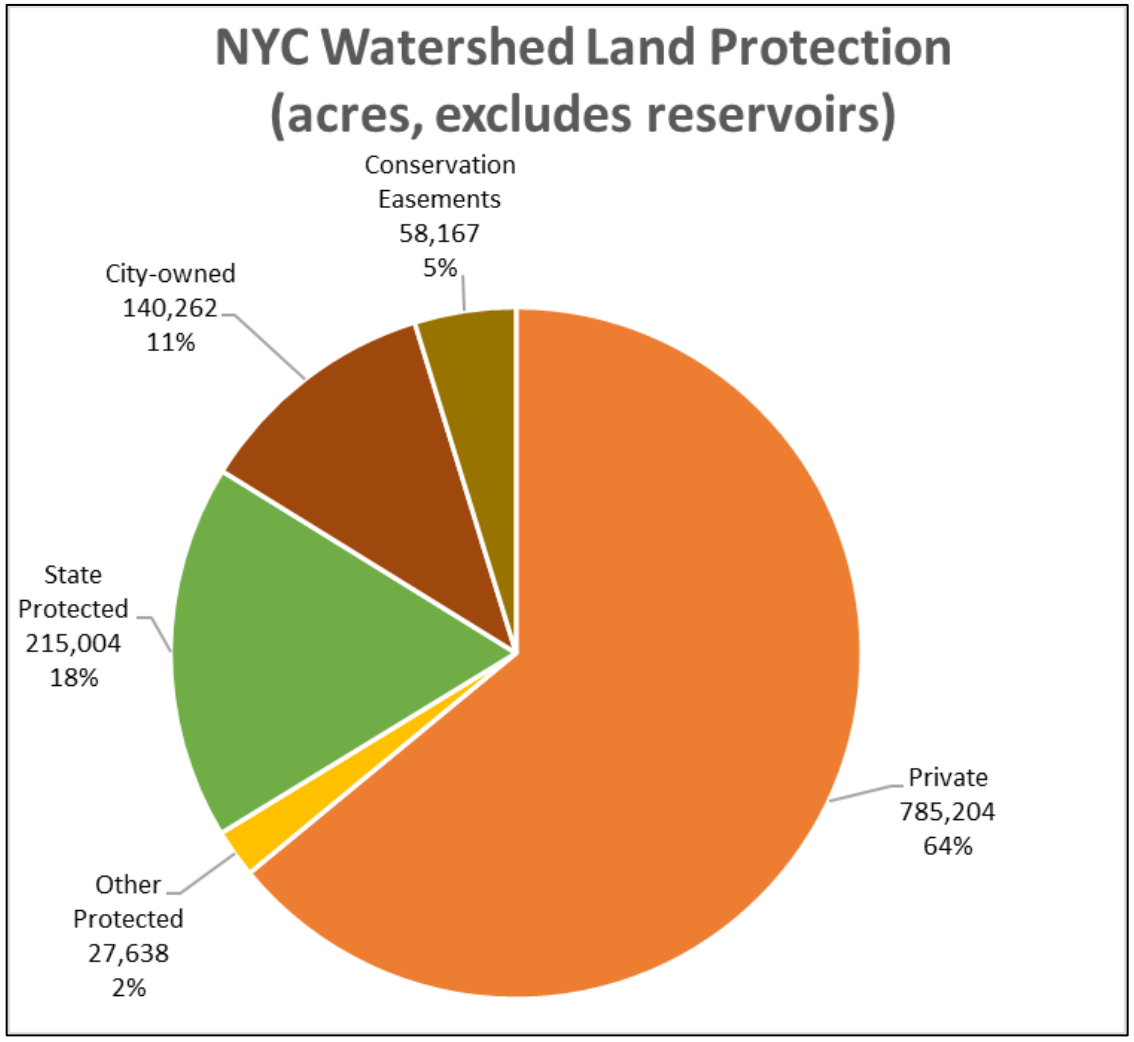


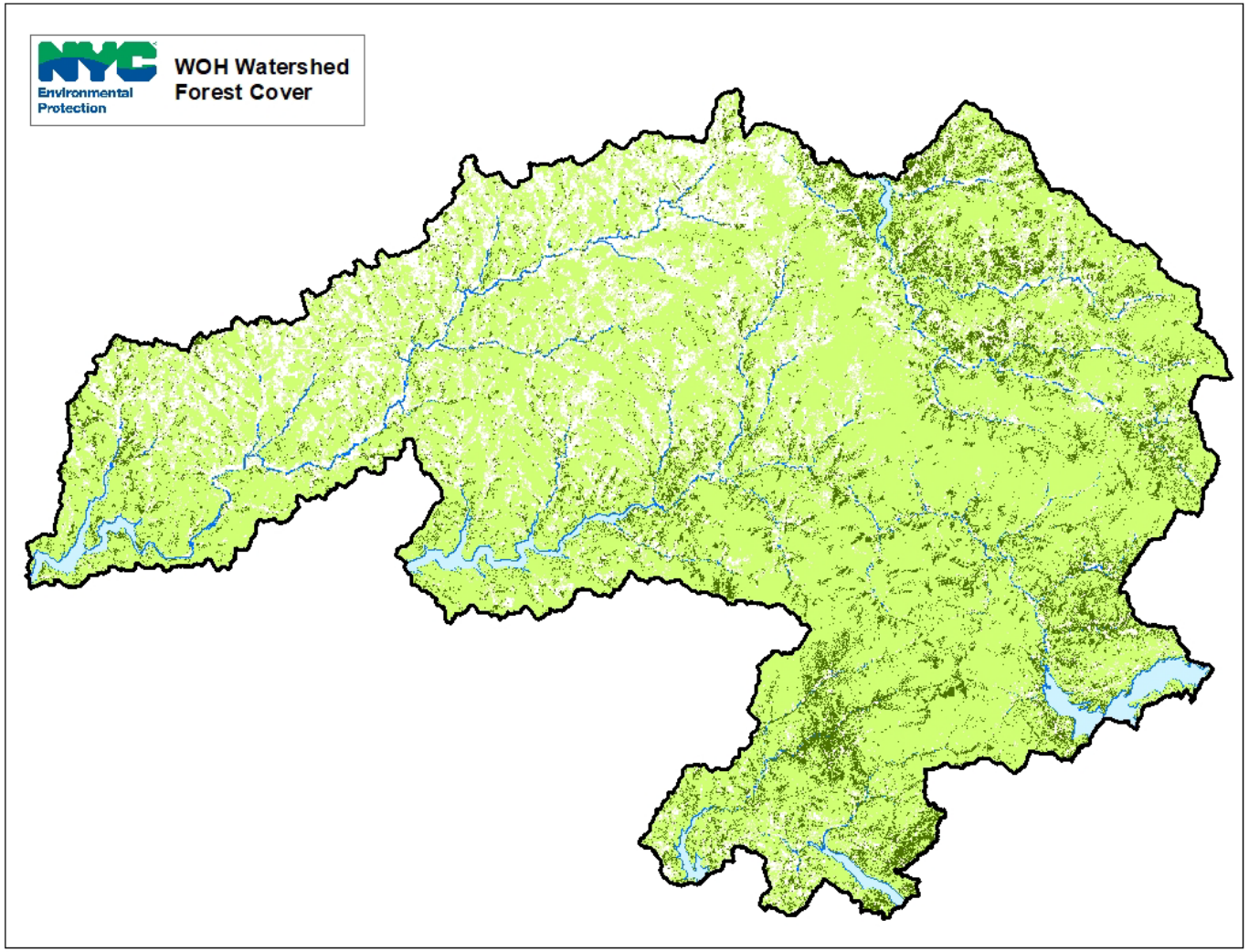
- Assessed the forest condition on City-owned water supply lands
- Wall-to-wall forest inventory
- Provides specific forest management direction for the Agency
- Defines Conservation Practices (CPs) to protect water quality and rare/threatened species during timber harvesting
- Projects that comply with CPs fall under Negative Declaration for Management Plan
- Established Forestry Interdisciplinary Technical Team (FITT)
- GP #1: Forest cover promotes high water quality
  GP #2: Watershed forests provide multiple benefits
  GP #3: Knowledge and information sharing

City Owned Watershed Lands

- 2,000 square mile watershed (1.3M acres)
- Primarily forested (79% WOH, 68% EOH)

- NYC owns 140,262 acres of land in fee
- Of those, 122,750 acres are forested which represents 12% of the watershed forest





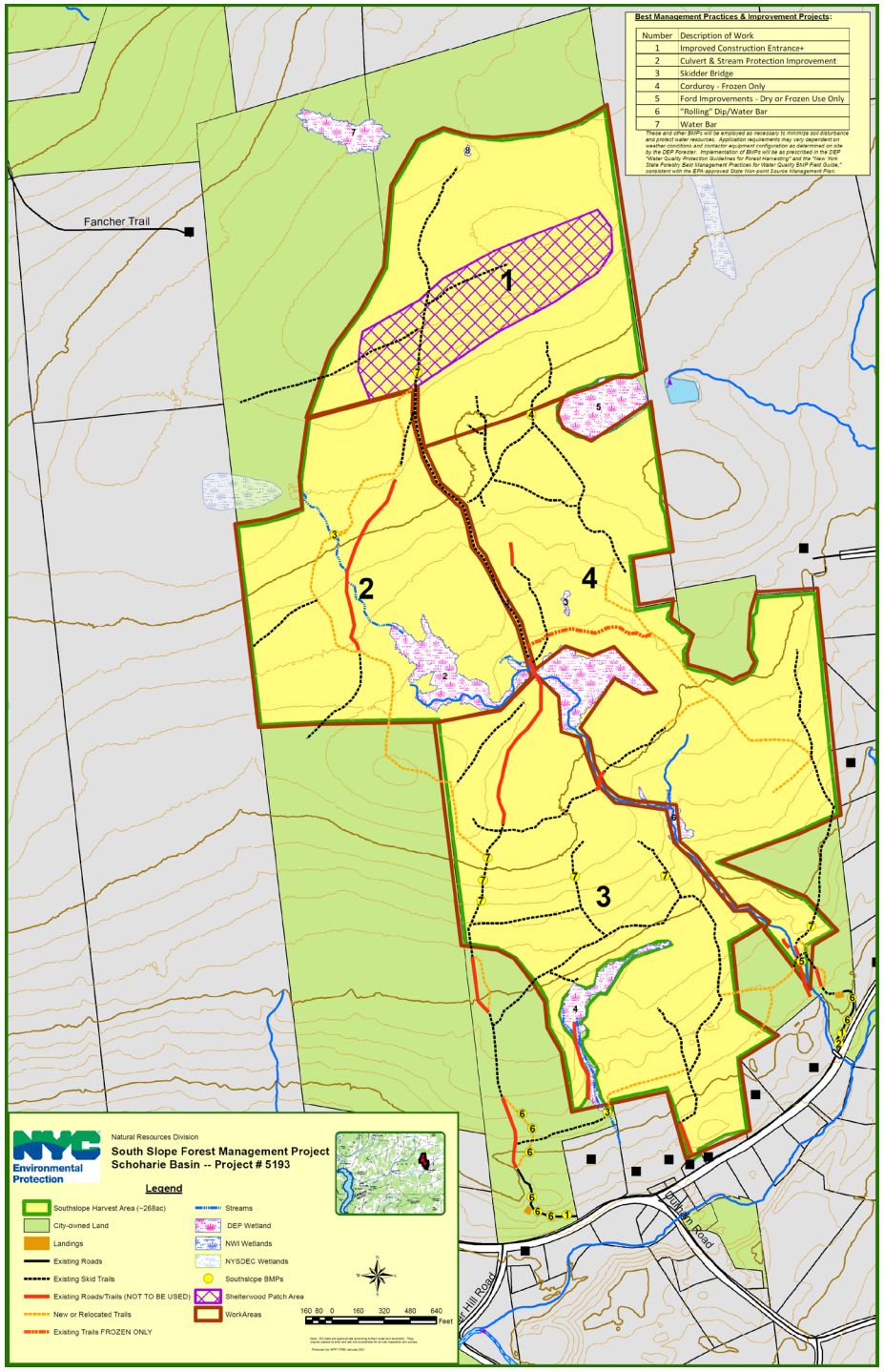
NYC Forest Management

- Maintain/enhance forest cover
- Increase species & structural diversity
- Management through commercial timber harvests
  - 500 – 1,000 acres/yr (4 – 6 projects)
- Harvests put out to bid, cut by local logger, project designed & overseen by DEP forester

FMP Example: **Southslope**

Basin: Schoharie Reservoir
Town: Conesville
Phase: Implementation
Goal: Ash/Hemlock salvage, & regeneration shelterwood

- 270 Acres
- 450 mbf (Mostly maple, hemlock)
- 750 cords firewood & pulpwood



Southslope FMP
Schoharie Basin
9/20/24

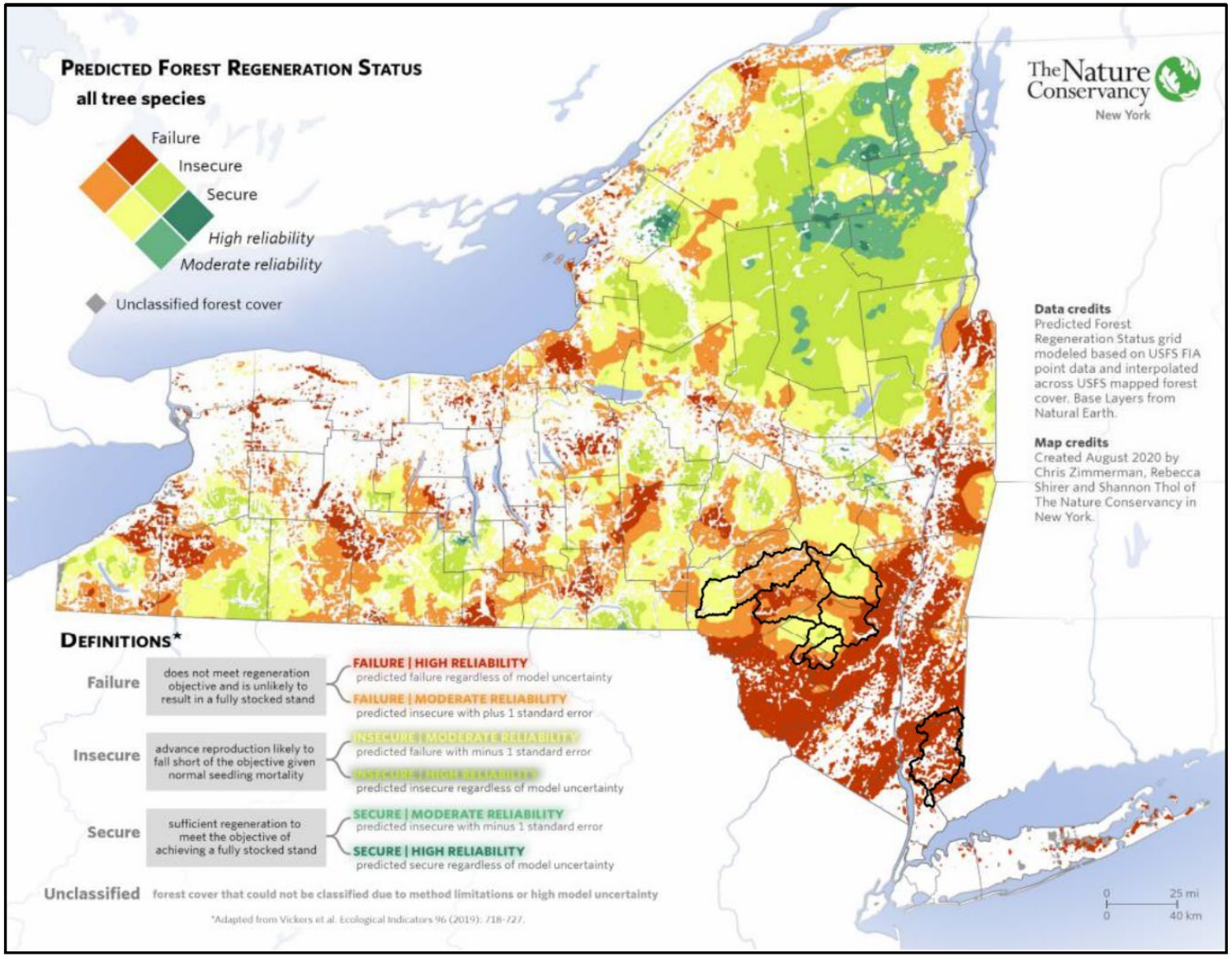
- Skidder bridge
- Corduroy
- Patch/Shelterwood

Challenges

- Parts of NYC Watershed under significant threat of regeneration failure

Climate Change and NYS forests:

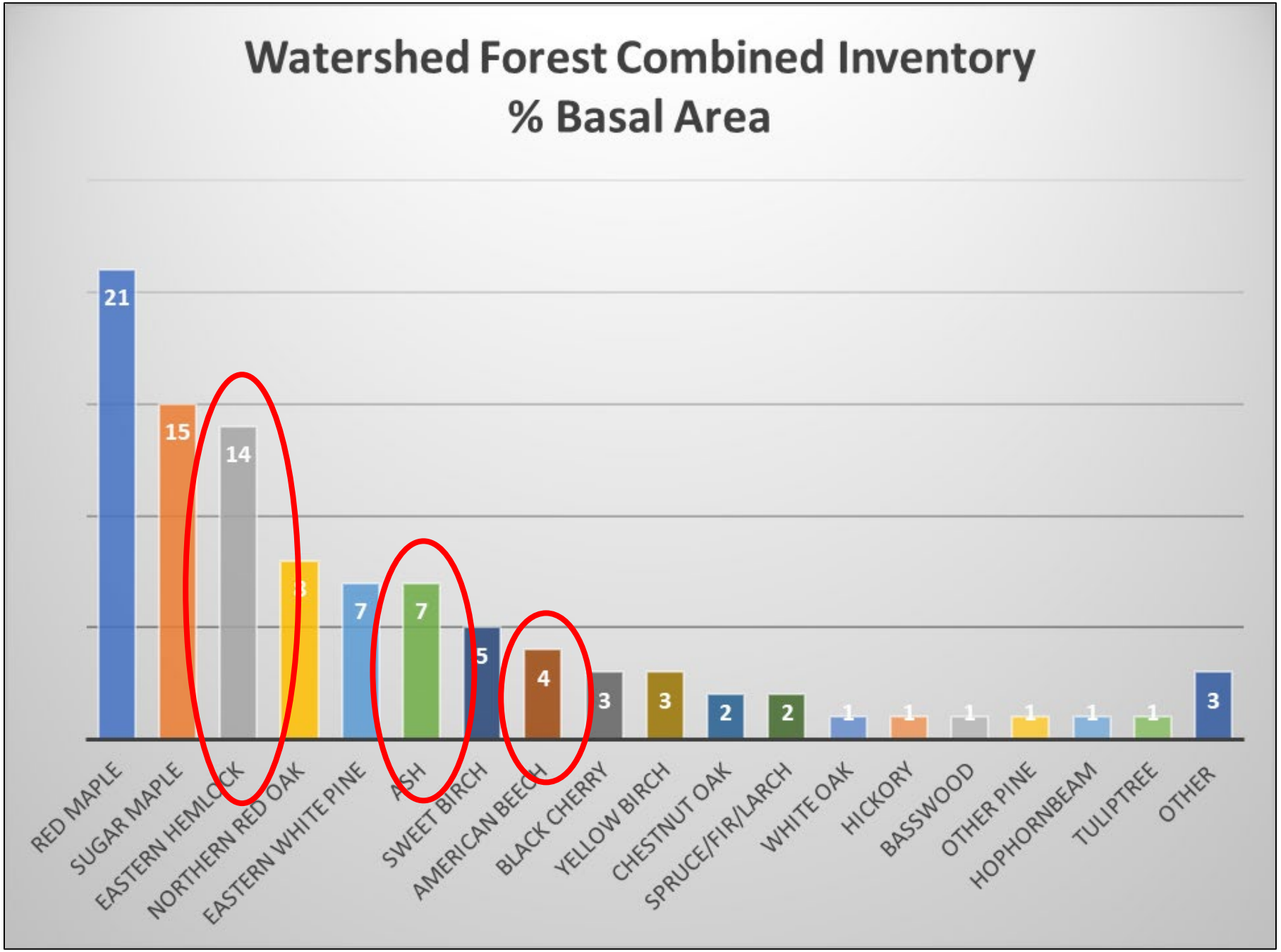
- Temperature increase > changes in species composition, loss of consistent snowpack, operational adjustments
- CO2 increase impacting uptake and growth rates, but favoring some species
- Storm frequency & intensity > more disturbance
- Invasive Species/Pests, expansion of HWA



Forest Composition

Invasive pests & disease:

- Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA)
- Emerald ash borer (EAB)
- Beech leaf disease (BLD)

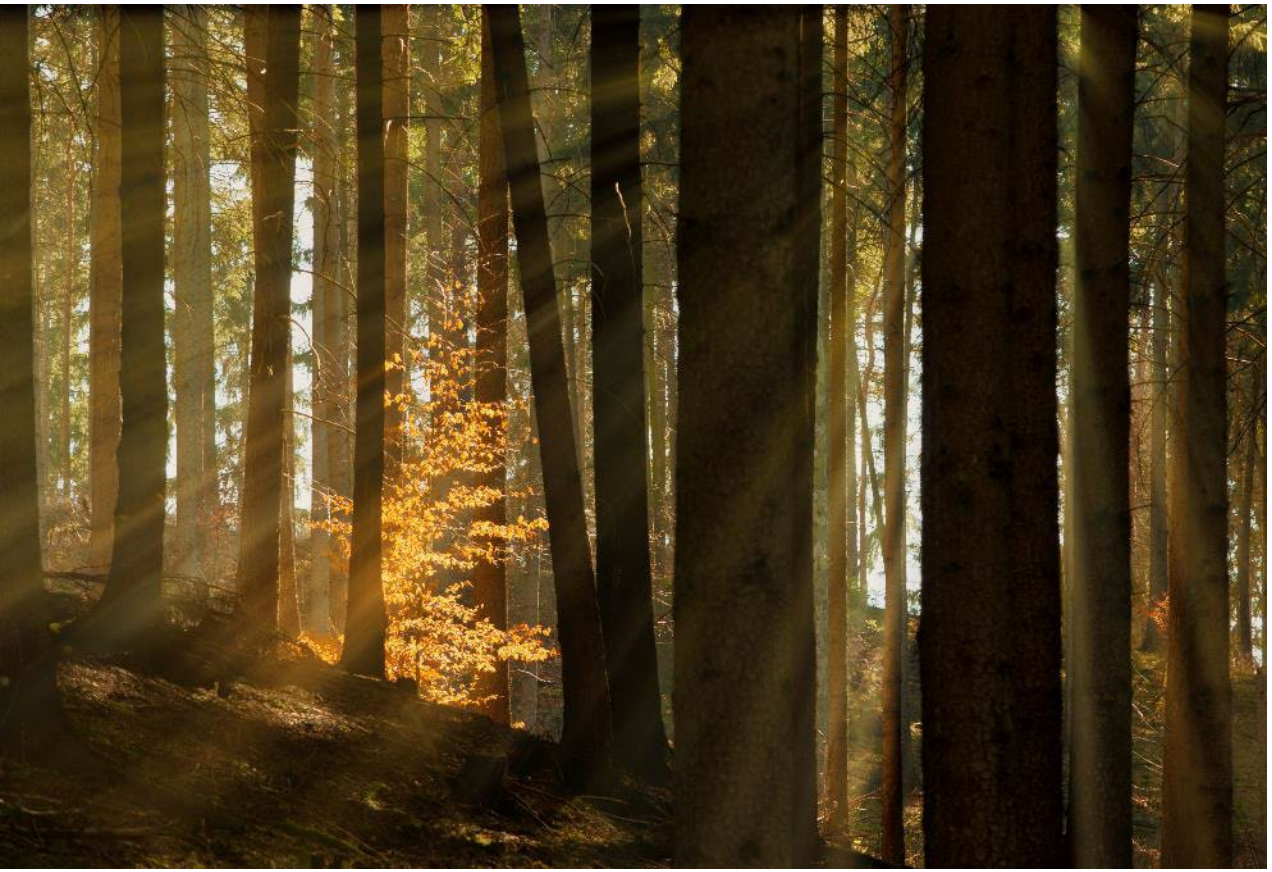


In summary:

- DEP manages its watershed forest for long term water quality protection
- Forest management guided by Watershed Forest Management Plan
- Primary mechanism is through commercial timber harvests
- Working to increase non-commercial/stewardship capacity for invasives management and reforestation through grants & partnerships
- Forest management projects are designed & overseen by DEP foresters with review and input from in-house specialists
- Goals of increased structural and species diversity made even more important with climate change and related threats

NYC Environmental Protection

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



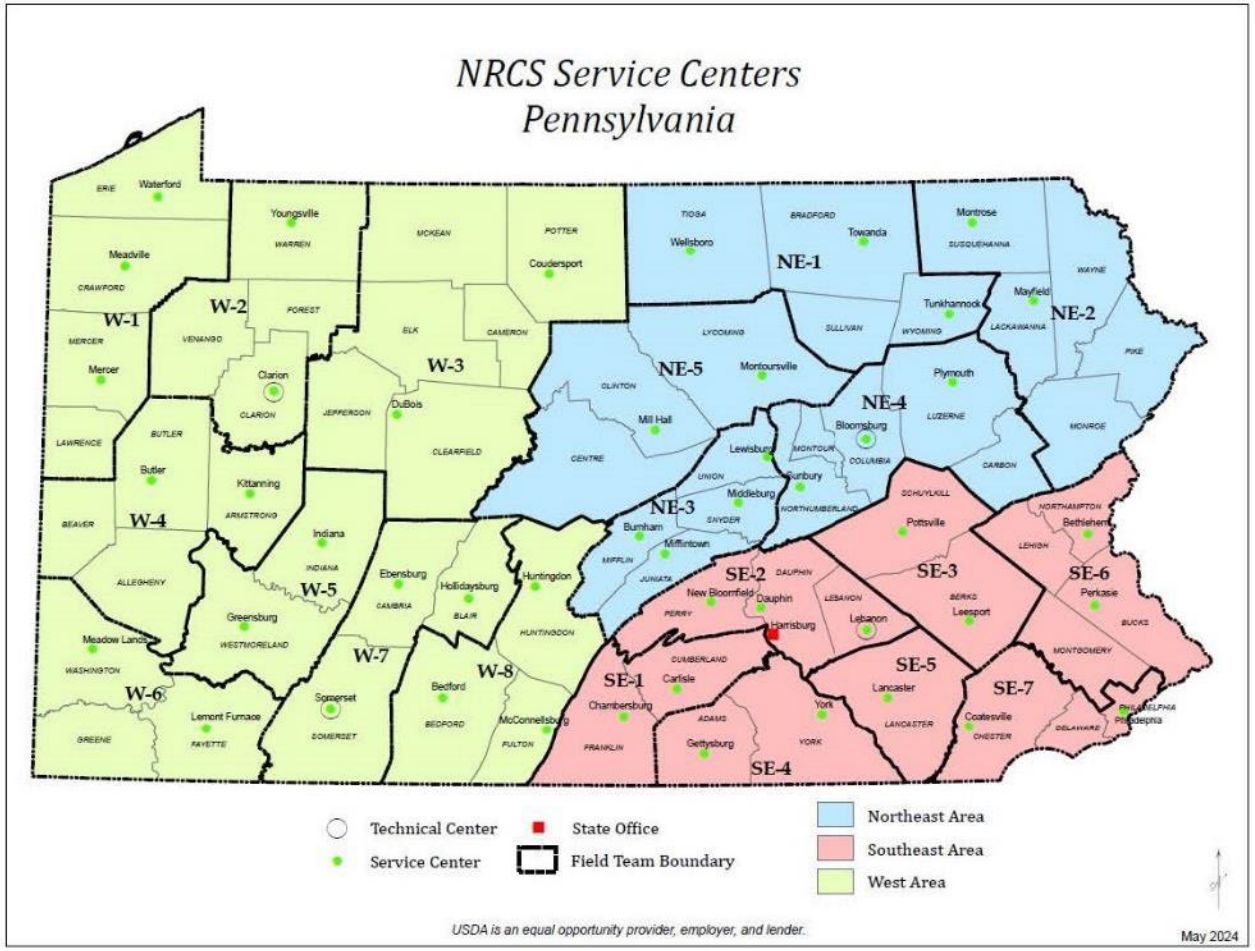
NRCS Forestry and Water Quality Programs in Pennsylvania

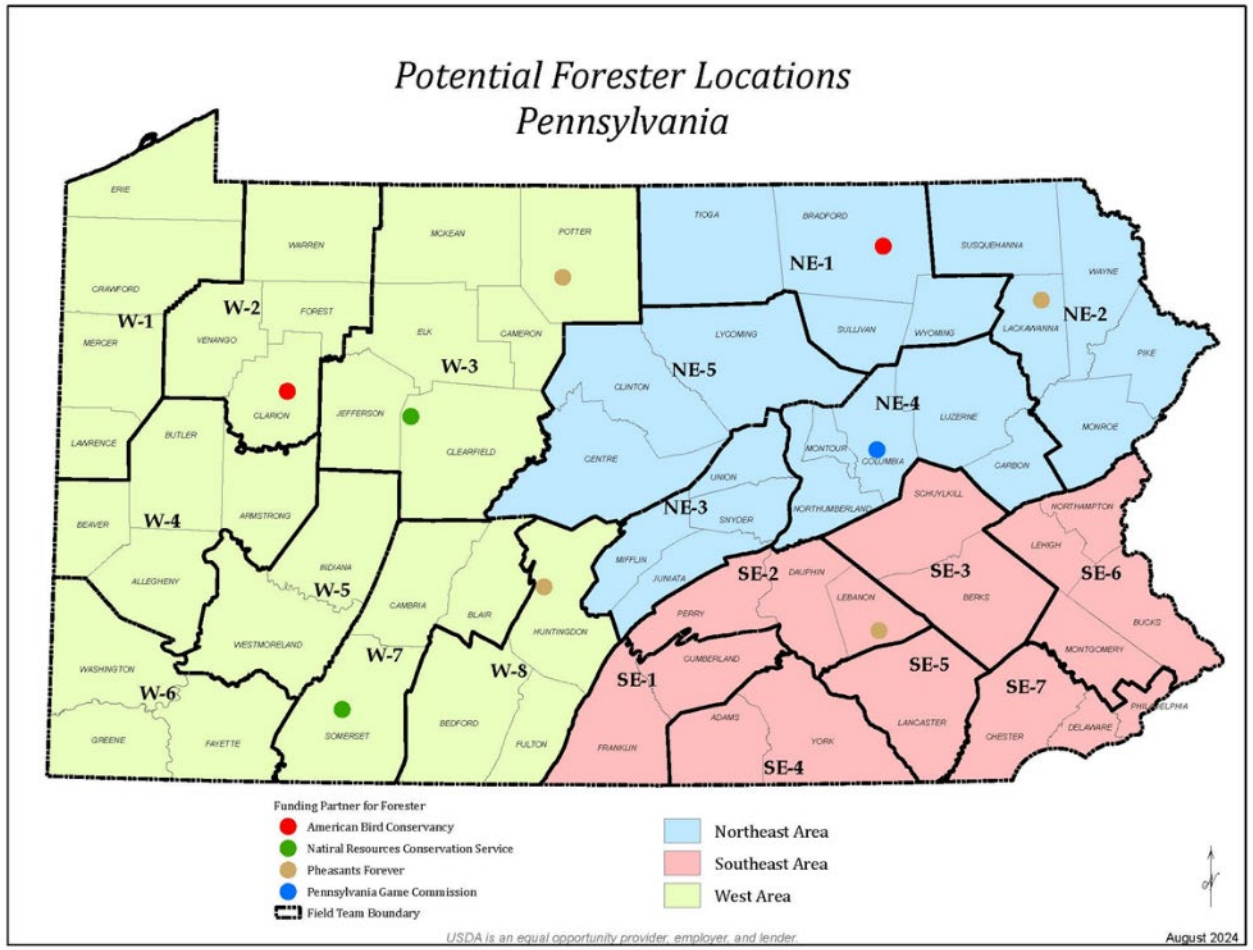
FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Mission: We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

- NRCS helps American farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners voluntarily implement conservation that works for them.


NRCS Service Centers
Pennsylvania
NE-1
NE-2
NE-3
NE-4
NE-5
W-1
W-2
W-3
W-4
W-5
W-6
W-7
W-8
SE-1
SE-2
SE-3
SE-4
SE-5
SE-6
SE-7
Technical Center
Service Center
State Office
Field Team Boundary
Northeast Area
Southeast Area
West Area
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
May 2024


Potential Forester Locations
Pennsylvania
NE-1
NE-2
NE-3
NE-4
NE-5
W-1
W-2
W-3
W-4
W-5
W-6
W-7
W-8
SE-1
SE-2
SE-3
SE-4
SE-5
SE-6
SE-7
Funding Partner for Forester
American Bird Conservancy
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Pheasants Forever
Pennsylvania Game Commission
Field Team Boundary
Northeast Area
Southeast Area
West Area
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
August 2024

Pennsylvania Forest Action Plan Objectives

1. Land Use Change
2. Forest Health
3. Sustainable Forest Management
4. Climate Change
5. Communicating Natural Resource Values
6. Energy Management & Development
7. Wildland Fire and Public Safety
8. Plant and Animal Habitat
9. Forest-related Economy and Jobs
10. Forest Recreation
11. Water and Soil

NRCS Resource Concerns

1. Soil
2. Water
3. Air
4. Plants
5. Animals
6. Energy
7. Humans

Beth Sassaman
State Wildlife Biologist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture
359 East Park Drive, Suite 2
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 237-2125
beth.sassaman@usda.gov
www.nrcs.usda.gov/pennsylvania

DEMYSTIFYING FUNDING PANEL

Karl Honkonen, USFS

Karen Sughrue, EPA Headquarters Office of Water

Matthew Vandersande, NRCS

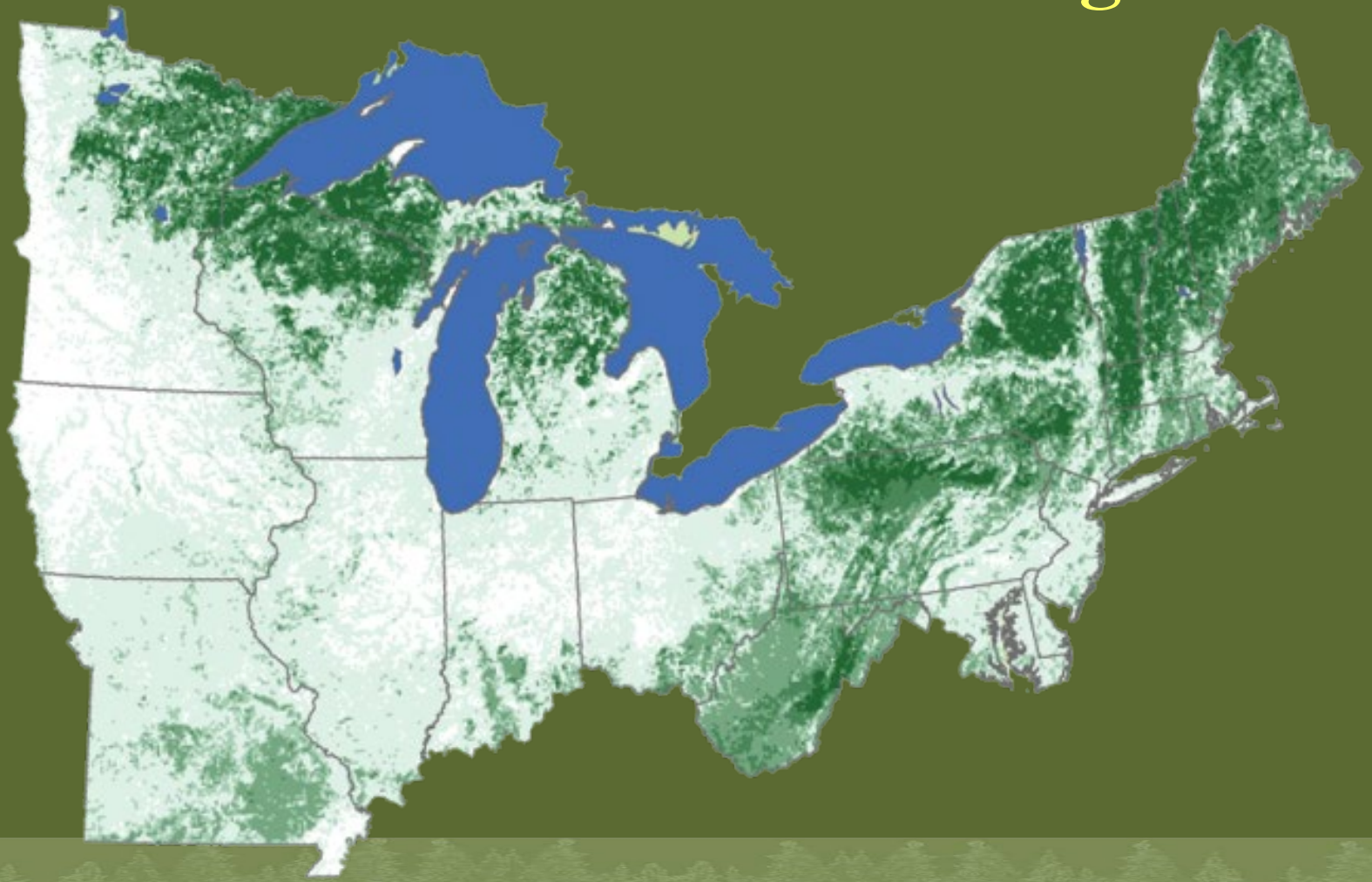
Moderated by **Katie Lynch, EPA Region 2**

Funding opportunities

Northeast-Mid-Atlantic Forest and Water Partnership

Karl Honkonen
Watershed Forester
US Forest Service
Eastern Region/State Private and Tribal Forestry

US Forest Service Eastern Region



Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR)

- **Eligibility**: State agencies, nonprofit organizations (501c3), universities, and units of local government.
- **Application deadline** November 15, 2024.
- Region 9 - Grants & Agreements

Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program for Tribes

- **Eligibility:** Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- **Application deadline:** December 16, 2024

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

- **Eligibility:** State agencies, Tribal communities, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and local governments that work within the Great Lakes Basin of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.
- **Application deadline** September 18, 2024

Wildfire Risk Reduction

- **Eligibility**: varies by grant category, but includes state forestry agencies, Sovereign Tribal nations, non-profit organizations, forest fire compacts, and academic institutions.
- **Application Deadline**: November 15, 2024 - January 15, 2025

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Invasive Species Non-Federal Lands

» **Eligibility**: All Eastern Region state forestry departments or equivalent state agencies that have a responsibility for forest health are eligible. Other organizations are eligible (e.g., institutes of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and local governments), but the application must also include an email of support from the state forest health agency lead.

» **Application Deadline**: 15 November 2024

Karl Honkonen

karl.w.honkonen@usda.gov

USDA Forest Service

Eastern Region/State Private and Tribal Forestry

339-788-1150

www.fs.usda.gov/r9

EPA Resources for Forest and Water Protection

- **Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF & DWSRF)**
  - Maine Forestry Direct Link Loan Program

New and Used Equipment Purchases	Retrofit of Existing Equipment	Miscellaneous Purchases
Tree Planter and Associated Equipment	Floatation Tires	Metal Bridges
Mulching Machines	Bogey Wheels	Wooden Bridges
Cut-to-Length Harvesters	GPS Equipment Tracking Systems	Bottomless arches
Forwarders	Harvester and processor heads	Sediment and erosion control products
Skidders equipped for in woods operations		Portable Plastic Roads
Tracked feller bunchers equipped with booms		
Tractors		
Swing machines*		
Graders		

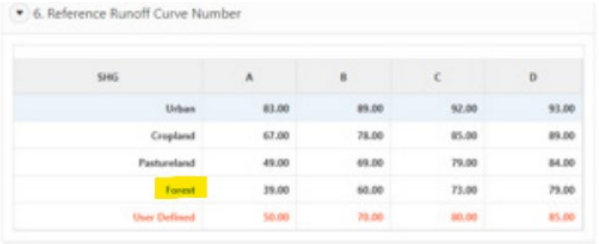
  - Sebago Lake, Portland Water District, Maine (watershed partnership)

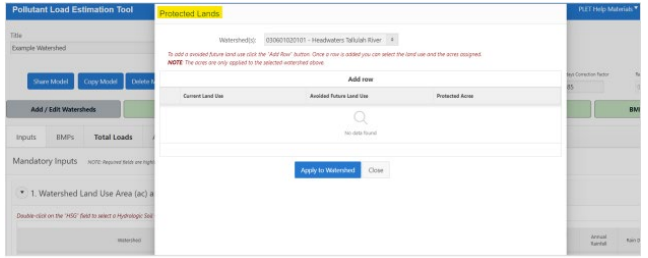
  - Skagit Public Utility District, Washington (250 acres of forest)

  - Jefferson County Department of Public Health, Washington (land acquisition loan fund pilot)

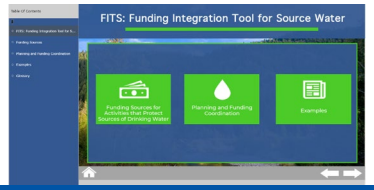
- **CWA Section 319 Grants**
  - Advancing Watershed Protection Through Land Conservation (guide and fact sheet)

- **Pollutant Load Estimation Tool (PLET)**
  - New Protected Lands Feature





- **Funding Integration Tool for Source Water (FITS)**



Select NRCS Programs and Initiatives

- Farm Bill Programs
  - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
  - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
  - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Landscape Conservation Initiatives
  - Working Lands For Wildlife (WLFW)
  - National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)
  - Longleaf Pine Initiative (LLPI)
- Project-Based Programs
  - Regional Conservation Planning Partnership (RCPP)
  - Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership (JCLRP)

GROUP BREAKOUTS

NORTHEAST MID-ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP FOR
FORESTS & WATER

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

State-based small group discussions:

1. **What is our greatest success related to forests/water?**
2. **What is my greatest challenge in advancing work?**
3. **What resources already exist in my state?**
4. **How can collaboration and/or state-based partnerships help us achieve progress and address challenges?**

Thank you to our excellent lineup of speakers, panelists, and moderators; EPA for providing funding for the forum; and to our amazing planning team that put all of this together!

- Steve Vitko and Joshua Tracy, RWA (and our exceptional hosts!) + all the RWA staff who pitched in
- Sherri Comerford, EPA HQ
- Kira Jacobs, EPA Region 1
- Katie Lynch, EPA Region 2
- Chris Anderson, Beth Garcia, and Virginia Vassalotti, EPA Region 3
- Denise Savageau, NACD northeast chair
- Karl Honkonen, USFS
- Annica McGuirk, NACD