

2010 Schedule

- Session # 1

An Introduction to Northampton County

This session will define the planning process and will focus on the Northampton County Comprehensive Plan as an instrument of local policy and importance.

Monday, September 20, 2010 - 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

- Session # 2

Participants in the Planning Process and Planning's Legal Foundations

This session will introduce the key players in the community planning process including the Planning Commission, the governing body, the staff, and the Board of Zoning Appeals. In addition, the session will review key legal principles and practices associated with community planning.

Thursday, September 30, 2010 - 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

- Session #3

Managing Change: The Tools of Planning

This session will review the primary tools of plan implementation. Topics to be covered will include Zoning – What It Is and How It Works; Subdivision Regulations; Capital Improvements Programming; and Chesapeake Bay Regulations.

Tuesday, October 5, 2010 - 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

- Session #4

Managing Change: Balancing Growth with Our Natural Environment

Participants will examine how community planning works in harmony with Northampton County's natural environment.

Monday, October 18, 2010 – 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

- Session #5

Inventing Northampton County's Tomorrow Today

In addition to graduation, this session will feature presentations by class members. The topics to be covered will vary and will have been assigned during earlier academy sessions.

Monday, October 25, 2010 - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

All sessions will be held in Conference Room #2 located in the temporary County Administrative Offices, former Northampton Middle School at 7247 Young Street, Machipongo, Virginia.

Northampton County Planning Dept.
P.O. Box 538
Eastville, VA 23347

Northampton County 2010

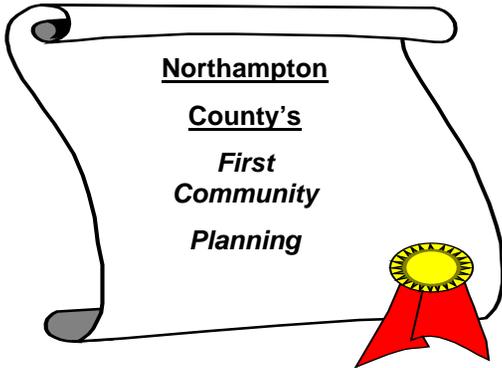
Community Planning Academy



This project is being funded in part by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through Grant #NA 09NOS4190163 of the U. S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



One way to measure the strength of a community is to examine the role of civic involvement and citizen awareness. In communities blessed with a high quality of life, citizen involvement and awareness are self-evident attributes.

THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COMMUNITY PLANNING ACADEMY, the first academy of its kind on the Eastern Shore, represents Northampton County's commitment to civic awareness and citizen involvement. The Planning Academy will provide Northampton County citizens a solid introduction to the community planning process. In so doing, the academy will serve as a forum for discussing how Northampton County's future can be shaped through planning.

The Academy will provide each participant with a planning framework that is Northampton County specific. A primary academy goal will be the enhancement of citizen knowledge regarding the community planning process, the legal foundations of planning, and the role citizens can play in developing a dialogue regarding Northampton County's future.

The Planning Academy will begin September 20 and continue through October 25, 2010 featuring five sessions. Each session will be held in the evening from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Each session, as noted in the brochure, will focus on distinct topics. The goal throughout will be the sharing of information that will positively influence the future of Northampton County.

The Planning Academy will not advocate solutions, nor will it involve political philosophy or ideology. Instead, the Academy will discuss the County's planning process with an opportunity for active dialogue. Class size is limited to twenty-five (25)

individuals. It is important that each class member understands the time commitment involved in the Academy. A nominal fee of \$30.00 per participant is required to cover the cost of materials, refreshments, and the graduation ceremony.

Participants in the course will be eligible to enroll in the new Virginia Planner 101 Program being designed as a pilot program by VA Tech and the Citizens Planning Education Association of Virginia. Ten (10) participants in the Community Planning Academy will be given the opportunity to enroll at no cost.

Applications for the Northampton County Community Planning Academy must be received no later than **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2010**. Please return application and fee to the mailing address below along with the fee. Checks should be made payable to County Treasurer.

TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE RECERTIFICATION POINTS.

For more information please contact:

Sandra G. Benson, AICP
Northampton County Department of Planning
P.O. Box 538
Eastville, VA 23347
Telephone: (757) 678-0440, extension 29
Fax: (757) 678-0483



Application
Northampton Co. Community Planning Academy

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ (H) _____ (W)

_____ (C)

E-Mail Address: _____

Magisterial District: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Length of County Residency: _____

Why are you interested in being selected to participate in the 2010 Northampton Community Planning Academy? _____

Do you have an area of particular concern you wish the Community Planning Academy to address? _____

Please identify three (3) planning issues currently facing the County. _____

Please identify three (3) planning issues likely to face the County in the next five to ten years.

If selected, attendance at all sessions is mandatory. Please feel free to attach any additional information you feel pertinent to consideration of your request.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

August 16, 2010
For Immediate Release

Contact: Sandra Benson, Director of Planning & Zoning
Northampton County Dept. of Planning & Zoning
757-678-0440, ext. 29

Northampton County to Offer Community Planning Academy

During September and October, Northampton County will offer an opportunity for citizens and youth (age 18 or younger) to learn more about the planning process, the rules and regulations governing zoning, the legal bases for planning, and ethics in the planning process. The course will include an opportunity to discuss planning issues and the County's future, with a focus on the roles our water and other natural resources may play in future development. The class will be limited to 25 participants and will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the following dates:

September 20, 2010
September 30, 2010
October 5, 2010
October 18, 2010
October 25, 2010

Each participant selected must commit to attend all the sessions. There is a fee of \$30 for each adult participant to cover the cost of materials and refreshments; there is no fee for youth participants. In selecting participants for the class, an effort will be made to achieve a broad-based representation of the community. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 10, 2010. Applicants selected to participate will be notified by the Northampton County Planning Department shortly thereafter.

The course will be led by Dr. Mike Chandler, former faculty member at VA Tech. During his tenure at Tech, Dr. Chandler served as a Blacksburg Town Council member. He has a long association with PlanVIRGINIA/Citizens Planning Education Association of Virginia (formerly the Virginia Citizens' Planning Association) and is the trainer for various certification courses for citizen planners. The class is being underwritten by a grant from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Coastal Zone Management Program.

Participants in the course will be eligible to enroll in the new Virginia Planner 101 Program which will be available October 1, 2010. This brand-new learning opportunity is being designed by VA Tech and the Citizens Planning Education Association of Virginia and will feature ten (10) hours of self-directed computer-based study regarding planning in Virginia. This is a pilot program which will initially be available in three regions of the state, with Northampton County being included in the initial offering. The cost of the program is \$99 per student; however, grant assistance may be available. As an extra benefit of attending the Community Planning Academy, ten (10) participants will be given the opportunity to enroll in the Virginia Planner 101 Program at no cost - a \$99 value for free.

For additional information and to request an application form, contact Sandra Benson, Director of Planning & Zoning, by phone at 757-678-0440, extension 29, or by email sbenson@co.northampton.va.us.



Participants in Northampton County's first COMMUNITY PLANNING ACADEMY, offered during the fall of 2010. The first academy of its kind on the Eastern Shore, Northampton's Planning Academy was offered to provide County citizens a solid introduction to the community planning process by serving as a forum for discussing how Northampton County's future can be shaped through planning.

Standing (L to R) : Severn Carpenter, Artie Miles, Pete Messick, Glenda Bradley, Granville Hogg, Estelle Murphy, John McCormick, Gail McCormick, George Bryan, Rick Hubbard, Peter Lawrence, Jonah Fogel (instructor), Gordon Campbell, Mike Chandler (instructor)
 Seated: Carl Harris, Christine Carpenter, Sarah Morgan, Bob Meyers

Not pictured: Traci Johnson, Raymond Salopek

A demonstration of Northampton County's commitment to civic awareness and citizen involvement, the Academy provided each participant with a planning framework that was Northampton County-specific. A primary academy goal was the enhancement of citizen knowledge regarding the community planning process, the legal foundations of planning, the role of natural resources in the planning process, and the role citizens can play in developing a dialogue regarding Northampton County's future.

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Virginia Coastal Zone
 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

**Inventing Northampton County's Future:
The Role of Comprehensive Planning**

**Northampton County
Community Planning Academy
Session One
September 20, 2010**

**Michael Chandler
Director of Education, CPEAV
Professor Emeritus, VA Tech**

Michael Chandler
Director of Education
Citizen's Planning Education Association of Virginia
Professor Emeritus, Virginia Tech
Richmond, Virginia

Michael Chandler is Director of Education for the Citizen's Planning Education Association of Virginia (CPEAV), a planning consultant, and a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech. In his CPEAV role he conducts the Virginia Certified Planning Commissioners' Program, the Virginia Certified Boards of Zoning Appeals, the annual CPEAV Commonwealth Planning and Zoning Conference, as well as other training and educational offerings. He assumed this position on January 1, 2003 following his retirement from Virginia Tech.

During his 27 plus year career with Virginia Tech, he was responsible for the design, delivery and evaluation of off-campus extension and continuing education programs focused on community planning, land use, and public management issues. Prior to joining the faculty of Virginia Tech, Mr. Chandler worked two years as a legislative research specialist in Georgia, five years as a land use planner/community development agent in selected Virginia localities and two years as a high school government teacher.

Mr. Chandler attended Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia where he received the Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education. He continued his formal education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) where he was awarded the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree. Mr. Chandler's formal education also includes a doctorate from the University of Georgia in Public Administration.

Mr. Chandler was a member of the Blacksburg Planning Commission for three years (two years as chairman) prior to his election to the Blacksburg Town Council in 1984. He was re-elected to a fifth term in 2000 and served on the Council through December 31, 2002. He resigned his seat upon relocating to Chesterfield County in 2003. Mr. Chandler is active in several state and national professional associations. From 1992 to 1994, Mr. Chandler served as President of the Virginia Citizens Planning Association (now CPEAV). He also served a two year term (1996-98) as President of the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (VAPA). From 2000-2004, he served a term on the American Planning Association National Board of Directors. In addition to providing planning consultative services, Mr. Chandler has conducted planning commission and board of zoning appeals training programs, seminars and conferences in 43 states since 1990. He can be reached in the following way:

Michael Chandler
603 Farnham Circle
Richmond, VA 23236
Phone: (804) 794-6236
Fax: (804) 794-6257
E-mail: rmchan@vt.edu

THE NATURE OF PLANNING

1. To plan means to....
2. A planned activity is characterized by....
3. Land use planning means....
4. Who is responsible for land use planning in your community?

DEFINING PLANNING

Planning is an organized way of determining community needs and setting goals and objectives to address the needs.

Planning is the organization of events and activities.

Planning is the art and science of anticipatory problem solving.

Planning is a forward
thinking process.

Planning bridges the gap
from where we are
to where we want to go.

Planning is deciding
in advance
to do something.

Planning is a process
that can help
move a community
from today's reality
to tomorrow's possibilities.

Planning is defending
the common interest against
the onslaught of
parochial interest.

PLANNING:

The act of planning is
Consciously recognizing the
Futurity of present decisions

Source: Peter Drucker

BASIC LEGAL CONCEPTS: HIERARCHY OF LAWS

Federal:

U.S. Constitution
Acts of Congress
Administrative Rules
Judicial Rulings – Case Law

State:

Virginia Constitution
Virginia Code
Acts of the Assembly
Administrative Rules
Judicial Rulings – Case Law (Supreme Court)

Local:

Charter Provisions
Uniform Powers Act
Dillons Rule
Local Ordinance Authority
Judicial Rulings – Case Law (Circuit Court)

THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

1. Focuses on physical development.
2. Should reflect community goals and should define development and redevelopment policies.
3. Should be an articulate statement about a community's preferred land use pattern.
4. Should be comprehensive in design and long-range in orientation.
5. Should be vision driven and a byproduct of civic input.

WHAT GOES INTO A PLAN

- Facts. The study and analysis of past and present conditions, as well as emerging trends.
- Potential. A prediction of future conditions. An analysis of potential opportunities and potential problems. A futures orientation.
- Perceptions. An assessment of the community's aspirations and attitudes.
- Concepts. A statement about the policies and/or plans, methods and tools which will bring the plan to life.
- Implementation. A listing of specific steps and action designed to implement the plans goals, objectives and policies.
- Feedback. A system to analyze plan accomplishments, deficiencies and needed adjustments on a periodic basis.

BASIC STEPS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

1. Plan and schedule the process, including a planning horizon.
2. Gather and analyze data.
3. Identify issues, define problems, define opportunities, define plan elements.
4. Develop a preferred vision of the future.
5. Develop goals and objectives for the plan and each participant.
6. Develop the plan.
7. Evaluate the plan and modify accordingly.
8. Adopt the plan.
9. Implement the plan according to a schedule.
10. Monitor the plans impact, determine the plans effectiveness and make adjustments.

**DECLARATION OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT
(VA CODE 15.2-2200)**

THE PURPOSE OF PLANNING ENABLING AUTHORITY IS TO ENCOURAGE LOCALITIES TO:

- A. Improve Public Health, Safety, Convenience And Welfare Of Their Citizens;
- B. Plan For Future Development Of Existing Communities So That Transportation Systems Are Carefully Planned;
- C. Allow New Community Centers To Be Developed With Adequate Highway, Utility, Health, Educational And Recreational Facilities;
- D. Recognize The Needs Of Mineral Resources, Agriculture, Industry, And Business Providing For Future Growth;
- E. Provide Residential Areas With Healthy Surrounding For Family Life;
- F. Preserve Agricultural And Forestal Land;
- G. Make Growth Of The Community Consonant With The Efficient And Economical Use Of Public Funds.

**ARTICLE THREE
THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
15.2-2223 THROUGH 15.2-2232**

15.2-2223 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO BE PREPARED AND ADOPTED

1. The Commission Shall Prepare A Plan For The Physical Development Of The Jurisdiction And The Governing Body Shall Adopt A Comprehensive Plan.

15.2-2223 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SCOPE AND PURPOSE

1. The Commission Shall Make Studies And Surveys Of Existing Conditions And Trends Of Growth And The Probable Future Growth Requirements Of The Community.
2. The Comprehensive Plan Shall Guide And Accomplish A Coordinated, Adjusted And Harmonious Development Of The Territory Covered By The Plan.
3. The Plan Shall Promote The Health, Safety, Morals, Order, Convenience, Prosperity And General Welfare Of The Citizens Living In The Jurisdiction.
4. The Plan Shall Be General In Nature And Shall Designate The General Location, Character And Extent Of Each Feature Shown On The Plan And Will Indicate Where Existing Lands Or Facilities Are To Be Extended, Removed, Relocated, Widened, Vacated, Narrowed, Abandoned, Or Changed In Use.
5. The Plan Shall Show The Locality's Long-Range Recommendations For The Development Of The Territory Covered By The Plan.
6. The Plan May Include, But Need Not Be Limited To:

- A. The Designation Of Areas For Various Types Of Public And Private Development And Use Such As Residential, Business, Industrial, Agricultural, Mineral Resources, Conservation, Recreation, Public Service, Flood Plain, Drainage And Others.
- B. The Designation Of A Transportation System Including Streets, Highways, Railways, Waterways, Airports, Parkways, And The Like.
- C. The Designation Of A System Of Community Service Facilities Such As Parks, Schools, Forests, Hospitals, Waterworks, Sewage Disposal, Public Buildings, And The Like.
- D. The Designation Of Historical Areas And Urban Renewal Areas.
- E. The Designation Of Areas For Implementation Of Reasonable Groundwater Protection Measures.
- F. An Official Map, Capital Improvements Program, Subdivision Ordinance, Zoning Ordinance And Maps, Mineral Resource District Maps, And Agricultural And Forestal Maps.
- G. The Location Of Existing Or Proposed Recycling Centers.
- H. The Designation Of Areas And Measures For Construction And/Or Maintenance Of Affordable Housing To Meet The Needs Of Current And Future Residents Of All Income Levels In The Locality Considering The Needs Of The Planning District.

15.2-2224 **STUDIES TO BE MADE AND PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

- 1. The Commission Shall Survey And Study Such Matters As The Use Of Land, Preservation Of Agricultural And Forestal Land, Production Of Food And Fiber, Characteristics And Conditions Of Existing Growth, Trends Of Growth, Natural Resources, Historical Areas, Groundwater, Surface Water, Geologic Factors, Population Factors, Employment, Environmental And Economic Factors, Existing Public Facilities, Drainage,

Flood Control And Damage Prevention Measure, Transportation Facilities, The Need For Affordable Housing In Both The Locality And The Planning District In Which It Is Situated And Any Other Matters Relating To The Subject Matter And The General Purposes Of The Plan.

2. The Commission, Where Appropriate, Shall Include Information From The Dept. Of Historic Resources And The Dept. Of Mines, Minerals And Energy.
3. Probable Future Economic And Population Growth Of The Territory And Requirements Therefore.
4. The Comprehensive Plan Shall Recommend Methods Of Implementation That May Include But Need Not Be Limited To:
 - A. An Official Map
 - B. A Capital Improvement Program
 - C. A Subdivision Ordinance
 - D. A Zoning Ordinance And Maps
 - E. A Mineral Resources Map
5. The Comprehensive Plan Shall Include A Current Map Of The Area Covered By The Plan.

15.2-2225 **NOTICE HEARING AND PLAN RECOMMENDATION**

1. A Hearing Must Be Held On The Plan And, If Approved, The Commission Shall By Resolution Recommend The Plan Or Part Thereof, To The Governing Body.

15.2-2226 **ADOPTION OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE PLAN**

1. The Governing Body Shall Act Within Ninety Days On The Planning Commission's Recommendation

15.2-2227 **RETURN OF THE PLAN TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

1. If Disapproved, The Plan Shall Be Returned To The Commission With A Written Statement Explaining Why The Commission Shall Have Sixty Days To Reconsider The Plan.

15.2-2228 **ADOPTION OF PARTS OF PLAN**

1. The Commission May Adopt Parts Of The Plan Covering One Or More Sections Of The Locality Or One Or More Functional Areas.

15.2-2229 **AMENDMENTS**

1. Amendments Are Permissible. If Requested In Writing By The Governing Body, The Commission Must Prepare The Amendment.

15.2-2230 **REVIEW EVERY FIVE YEARS**

1. The Plan Must Be Reviewed At Least Every Five Years By The Planning Commission To Determine If Amending Is Needed.

15.2-2231 **INCLUSION OF TOWNS IN PLANS AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS**

1. A County Plan May Include Incorporated Towns To The Extent The Town Relates To Planning In Unincorporated Areas As A Whole.
2. Any Municipal Plan May Include Adjacent Unincorporated Areas To The Extent The Areas Relate To Municipal Planning As A Whole.
3. Must Have Approval Of The Appropriate Governing Body To Have Effect.

15.2-2232 **LEGAL STATUS OF THE PLAN**

1. Upon Adoption, The Plan Shall Control The General Location, Character And Extent Of Each Feature Shown On The Plan.
2. No Street Or Connection To An Existing Street, Park Or Other Public Area, Public Building Or Public Structure, Public Utility Facility Or Public Service Corporation Facility Other Than Railroad Facility, Whether Publicly Or Privately Owned, Shall Be Constructed, Established Or Authorized, Until Its Location Has Been Approved By The Commission As Being Substantially In Accordance With The Plan.
3. The Governing Body, By Majority Vote, May Overrule The Commission.
4. Certain Exceptions Are Noted In The Code.

Understanding and Appreciating the Comprehensive Plan

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

The comprehensive plan is a tangible representation of what a community wants to be in the future.

Comp Plan Characteristic

First, it is a *physical plan*. The plan translates community hopes, dreams, aspirations and values into a scheme that describes how, why, when and where to build, rebuild, or preserve the community.

A second characteristic of the comprehensive plan is that it is *long-range*, covering a time period approximating 20 years into the future.

A third characteristic of the plan is that it is *comprehensive*. It covers the entire community. A comprehensive plan encompasses all the functions that make a community work, such as transportation, housing, land use, utility systems, public facilities, business and industry, agriculture, and open space. Moreover, a good comprehensive plan will consider the interrelationship between and among the functional uses noted above.

A fourth characteristic of the plan is its ability to *guide growth and development within the community*. Indeed, a good comprehensive plan should function as a policy document to be used by local leaders when making decisions and when taking local actions. Examples will include:

1. Requests to change zoning of a particular parcel of land.
2. Decisions about expansion of major infrastructure.
3. Decisions about location of new infrastructure.
4. Decisions about major public investments.

Comp Plan Nomenclature

The Plan should be:

- a. Long range
- b. Jurisdiction-wide
- c. General in character
- d. Comprehensive per topics/elements

The Plan should feature:

- a. District/area plans
- b. Specific in character
- c. Specific in area
- d. Focused on change management

The Plan should feature:

- a. Functional plans
- b. Focused on a single topic
- c. With tie-ins to related subjects
- d. Focused on short and long-term timeline

Steps in Developing a Future Plan

1. Identify important issues on which the planning process will function.
2. Identify community strengths and weaknesses.
3. Identify community assets and liabilities.
4. Identify community orchids and onions.
5. Analyze community data and inputs.
6. Collect/map information about growth and location patterns.
7. Map current projects/project build-out.
8. Develop a vision/direction for the community.
9. Develop goals/objectives and strategies to achieve the vision.
10. Map the vision

Mapping Future Land Use

1. Map/document existing land use.
2. Affirm/agree on trends and indicators of activity.
3. Affirm/agree on internal local and regional assumptions as well as external assumptions.
4. Identify areas that appear to be growth-prone and map.
5. Identify areas that appear to be growth-resistant and map.
6. Map projects that have been approved/sanctioned, but not yet built. This map documents what will likely be built in the near future.
7. Overlay the current project map on top of the town's existing land use map to see how new projects relate to existing development.
8. Determine land availability and map by color. For example, blue would describe already developed lands, green for open space/agricultural preserves, red for under-developed lands. Record any federal or state lands or lands owned by local or regional agencies.
9. Determine the physical capacity of a specific area location to support a specific land use. Land capability analysis is used to identify areas where land development should not or cannot be supported. Variables to consider include the following:
 - Areas already developed
 - Lands in flood plains

- Areas with geologic hazards
- Lands with steeply sloping terrain
- Lands protected from development via easements and other contracts
- Areas that cannot be served economically by central utilities such as water and sewer.
- Areas that are underserved via roads and roadways
- Lands featuring rare/endangered species as well as historic sites/districts

10. Select general categories of development such as residential uses, employment uses, retail shopping areas, circulation features, public services and facilities, and non-urban land uses such as agriculture and forestal uses.

11. Project future rates of development such as rapid growth, moderate growth, slow growth, no growth, slow decline and/or moderate decline.

12. Identify (map) land development policies reflecting the preferred mix of residential development (low-density, moderate-density and high-density) retail and commercial uses including mixed use developments, industrial uses, public and semi-public uses, agricultural, forest areas, water uses, as well as any other land use classification deemed important to the community's future.

ORGANIZATION OF A GENERAL PLAN

Introduction

- Purpose and nature of the plan
- Role of the planning process in local government
- Relationship of the general plan to district and functional plans

Background

- Historical background of development in the community
- Current conditions and trends
 - The built environment
 - The natural environment
 - The economic environment
 - The social environment
- Current and emerging issues that have long-term implications

Assumptions

- Assumed effects of external forces on the future of the local community
 - Physical developments
 - Social developments
 - Economic developments
 - Political developments
- Local policies, values, and actions that will affect development
- Regional issues; regional goals
- Forecasts of regional and local growth

Overview of the Plan

- Community vision statement
- Community goals and policies
- Basic community design concepts
- Major design proposals

General Plan Diagram

Elements/Chapters/Themes

- Land Use
 - Residential areas
 - Working areas (commercial, industrial, etc.)
 - Other areas
- Circulation
 - Street network
 - Public transit
- Community facilities
- Utilities
- Natural resources, natural hazards, and open space
- Urban design policies
- Growth management policies
- Other elements as needed

Major Implementation Processes

- Zoning
- Subdivision and site planning
- Capital improvements programming
- Implementation schedule

PRODUCT OF PLANNING

1. A guide for the future.
2. A guide for the present.
3. A means for helping get a community from here (today) to there (tomorrow).
4. A means to preserve the community's character.
5. A means to identify and solve community problems.
6. A means to bring about needed change in the community.
7. A vision of the possible.
8. A commitment to the fostering positive change.
9. A sustainable and livable community.
10. The realization of deeply-held community values.

What A Plan Should Provide

1. A plan should describe a community. It should identify the community's character.
2. A plan should clearly identify how a community will get from today to tomorrow.
3. A plan should show how the new will fit with the old.
4. A plan should clearly identify community problems and propose solutions.
5. A plan should identify strategies for maintaining community attributes and strengths.

6. A plan should state how things will work and where they will be physically located.

7. A plan should provide some guidance as to the timing of development and redevelopment.

8. A plan should contain a specific change strategy.

9. A plan should be developed with strong public input.

10. A plan should be consequential and capable of making a community difference.

Making Sure Our Plans and Our Tools of Planning are Relevant and Timely

1. Does your plan tell a story?
2. Does your plan clearly and succinctly communicate a message citizens will value and remember?
3. Does your plan describe a preferred future for your community and identify how the preferred future can be realized?
4. Does your plan contain a change strategy, as well as a way to manage change over time?
5. Is your plan used when important local fiscal decisions are made by your community's elected leadership?

6. To what extent does your zoning ordinance support your plan? Use a one to five scale where one equals a mismatch and five equals a perfect match _____.

7. To what extent does your subdivision ordinance support your plan? Use a one to five scale when answering this question _____.

8. To what extent does the C.I.P. support your plan? Use a one to five scale when answering this question _____.

9. To what extent are the goals and objectives contained in your plan linked to the statements of intent contained in your zoning ordinance? Use a one to five scale when answering this question _____.

10. Does the planning commission use a structured process to periodically assess the continued relevance of your subdivision and zoning ordinances vis-à-vis the comprehensive plan? Yes or No.

The Need for Accountability

If our plans are to be documents of consequence they must be accountable.

To be accountable means giving an account, being answerable or explainable.

Accountability must be defined by action.

Accountable plans feature the following:

- Specific goals, objectives and actions.
- A specific action agenda tied to a who, what, when, why and how sequence.
- Anticipated outcomes and the capacity to measure impacts.

COMMUNITY PLANNING ACADEMY

SESSION ONE EVALUATION

AN INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY PLANNING

1. DID YOU FIND THE SESSION TO BE OF VALUE?

YES _____ NO _____

2. PLEASE COMMENT ON THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION PRESENTED.

NOT ENOUGH _____
ABOUT RIGHT _____
TOO MUCH _____

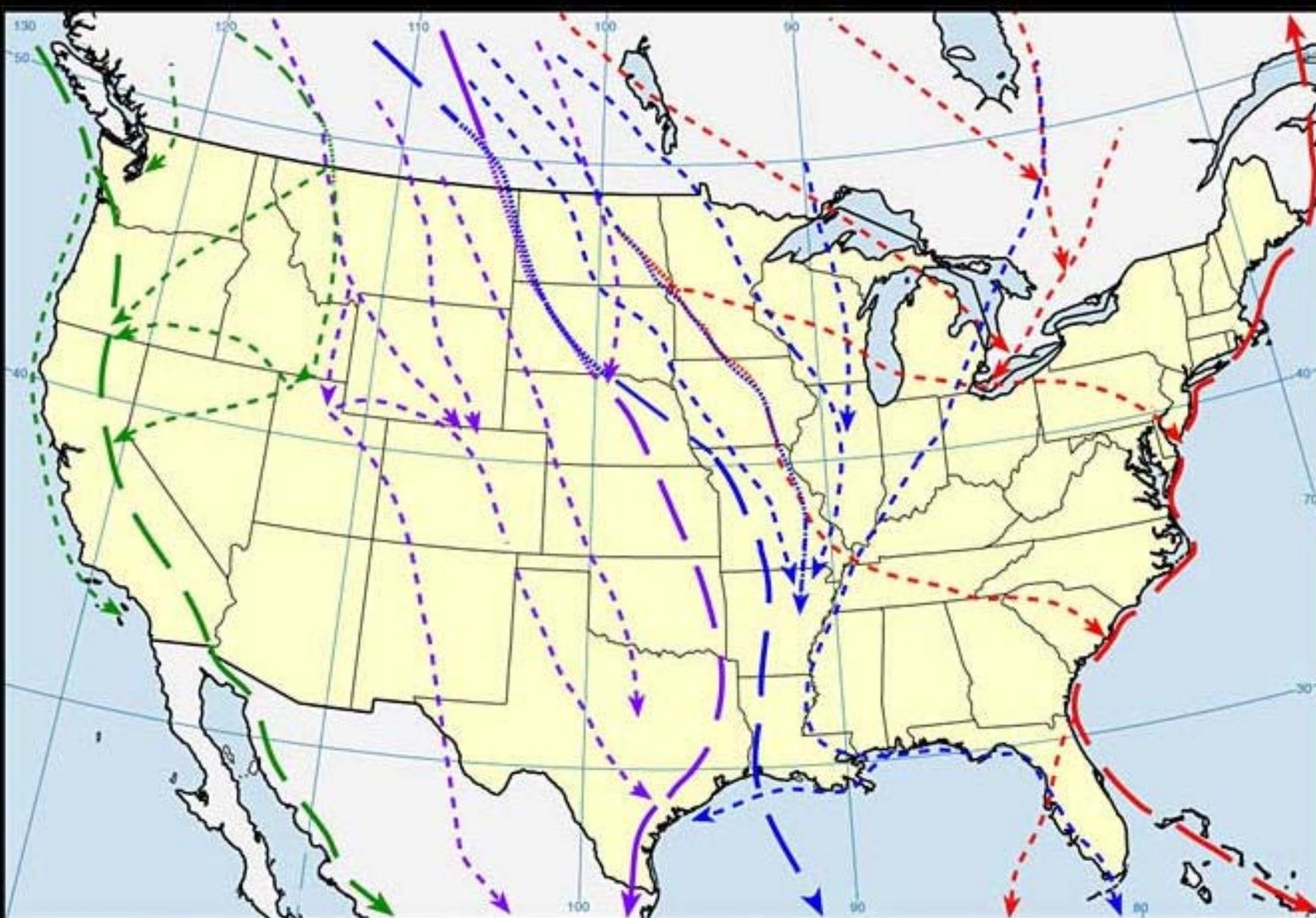
3. WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE SESSION?

4. WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT THE SESSION?

Priority Conservation Areas

A Virginia Coastal Zone Program Supported Project





***North American Migration Flyways
(with Principal Routes)***

Atlantic Flyway	
Mississippi Flyway	
Central Flyway	
Pacific Flyway	





"I am with the Government and... I am here to help"

- Conservation happens at the local level
- Assumptions:
 - Planners/Commissioners – need information
 - Ecologists/Natural Resource Managers – don't have the local perspective
- Goal – provide synthesized information to local officials to make informed decisions



Project Team

- VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries
- VA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation
- VCU – Center for Environmental Studies



Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs)

....are lands and surface waters indentified as important for conservation of Virginia's wildlife, plants, and natural communities. The identified lands/waters can be used to prioritize areas for preservation, protection or specific management action.



Dept. of Conservation & Recreation

Division of Natural Heritage

- Project Review - T&E authority for plants and insects
- Conservation Planning

Mission Statement:

To conserve Virginia's biodiversity through statewide biological inventory, protection, and stewardship. This is accomplished by maintaining a statewide database for conservation planning, project review, land protection for the conservation of biodiversity, and the protection and ecological management of natural heritage resources



Virginia Commonwealth University

Center for Environmental Studies

- Major public research institution
- Focus on aquatic community assessment
- Leader in environmental science geospatial applications
- INSTAR - ***IN*teractive *ST*ream *A*ssessment *R*esource**



Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries

Wildlife Diversity Division

- Regulatory/Project Review – T&E Species
- Conservation Planning: Wildlife Action Plan

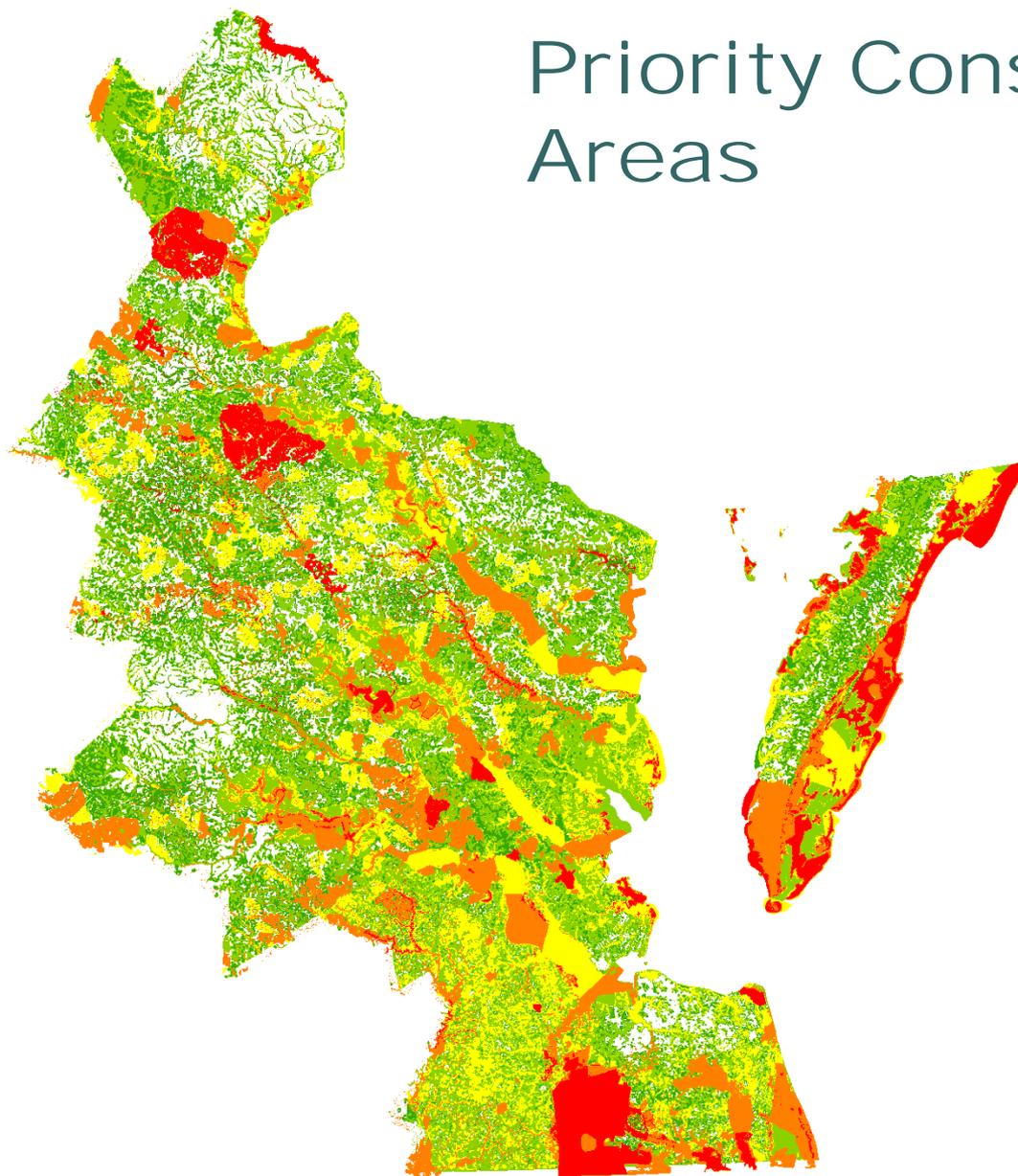
Mission Statement

- **To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth;**
- To provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation and to work diligently to safeguard the rights of the people to hunt, fish and harvest game as provided for in the Constitution of Virginia;
- To promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing;
- To provide educational outreach programs and materials that foster an awareness of and appreciation for Virginia's fish and wildlife resources, their habitats, and hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities.

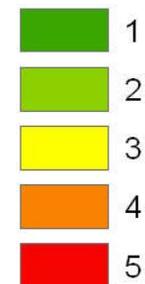




Priority Conservation Areas



Legend



Map Caveats and Limitations

- Intended to guide conservation planning
- Statewide data – not at local scale
- Subjective - Based on current priorities
- Snapshot in time
- Based on available information
- Does not account for lands already conserved



VDGIF - Component



Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan

- Plan for conserving *Species of Greatest Conservation Need* and their habitats
- 924 Species ranked in Tiers (I – IV)
- Tier I, II + species habitat maps
- Conservation Actions – variety of sources

<http://bewildvirginia.org/>



Conservation Actions – Wildlife Action Plan

Mappable Actions:

- acquire or protect *needed* habitats
- protect large blocks of contiguous habitat
- create forest/upland buffers around marshes and protect wooded wetlands
- protect/establish riparian buffers



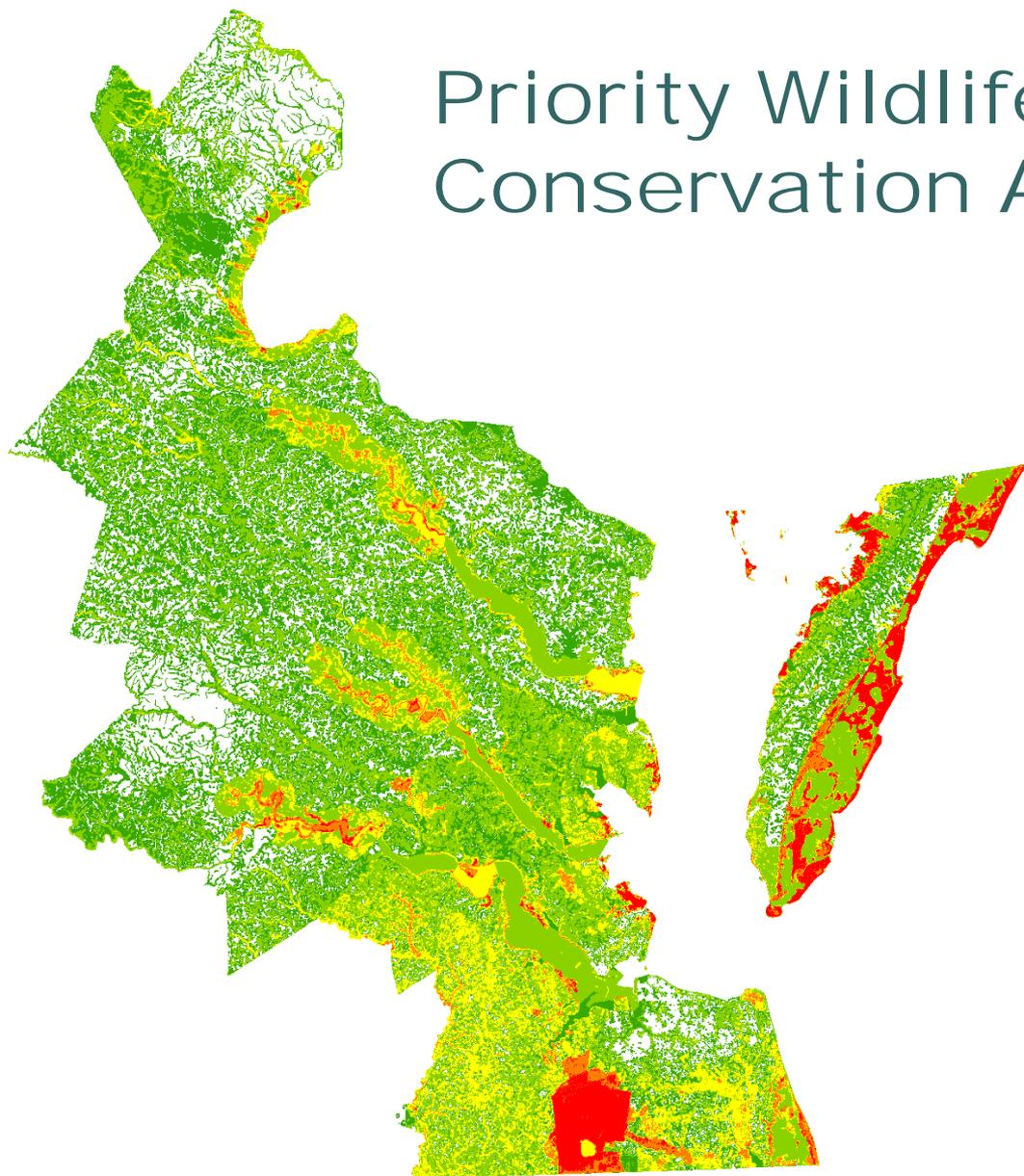
Priority Wildlife Diversity Conservation Areas

- Based on Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan
 - mapped Tier I/II+ habitat
 - recommended conservation actions
- Other wildlife resource spatial data:
 - Important Bird Areas
 - Colonial waterbird sites
 - Coldwater streams
 - Anadromous fish use areas
- Input from wildlife diversity biologists

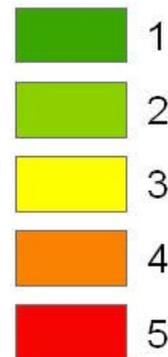




Priority Wildlife Diversity Conservation Areas



Legend



Northampton County

Terrestrial Tiered Species Habitats



photo by Alex Wilke



Lou Hinshelwood

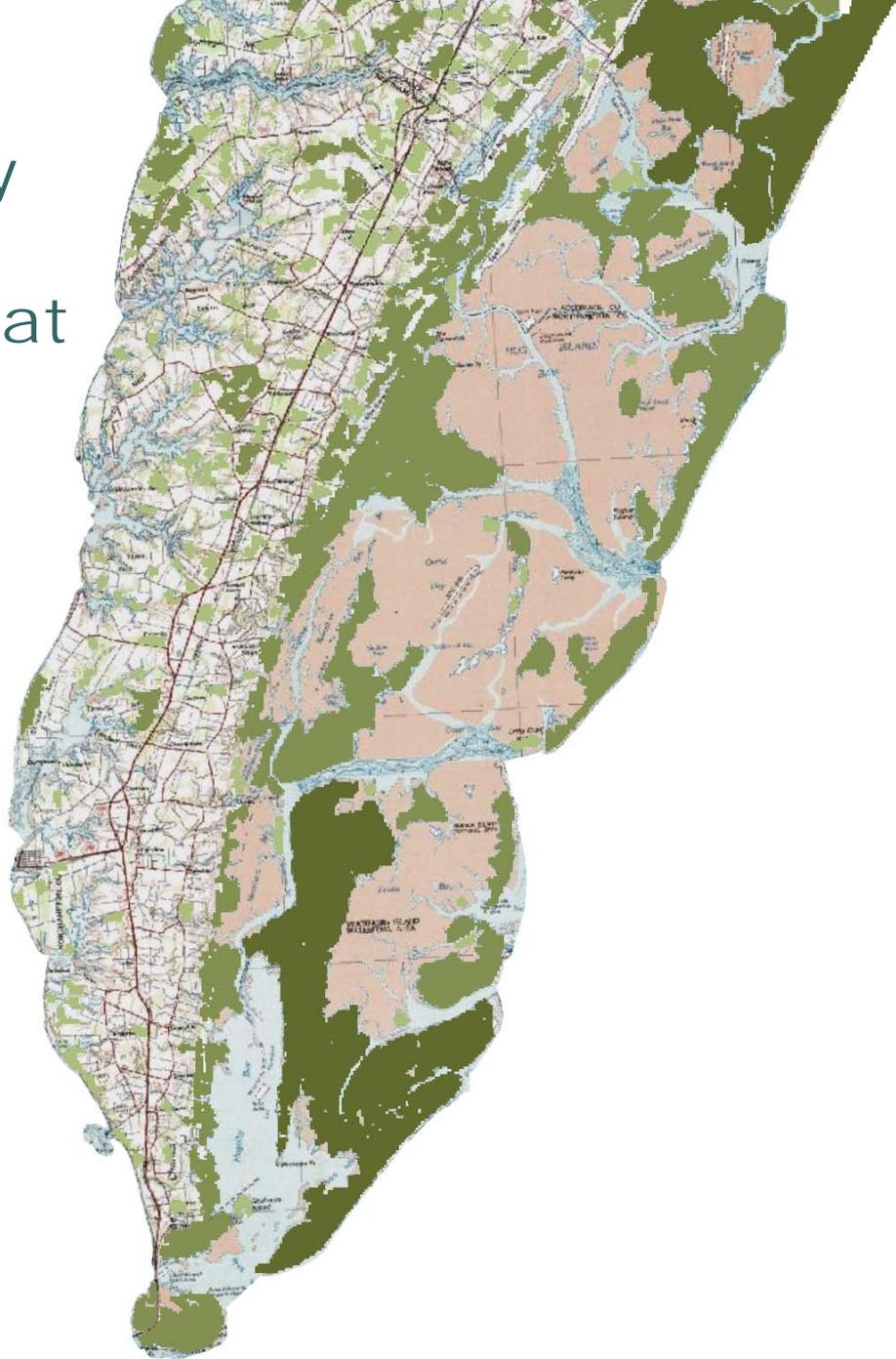


Gary Gaston



Northampton County

Unfragmented Habitat (NLN Cores)



Northampton County

Audubon Important Bird Areas



Northampton County

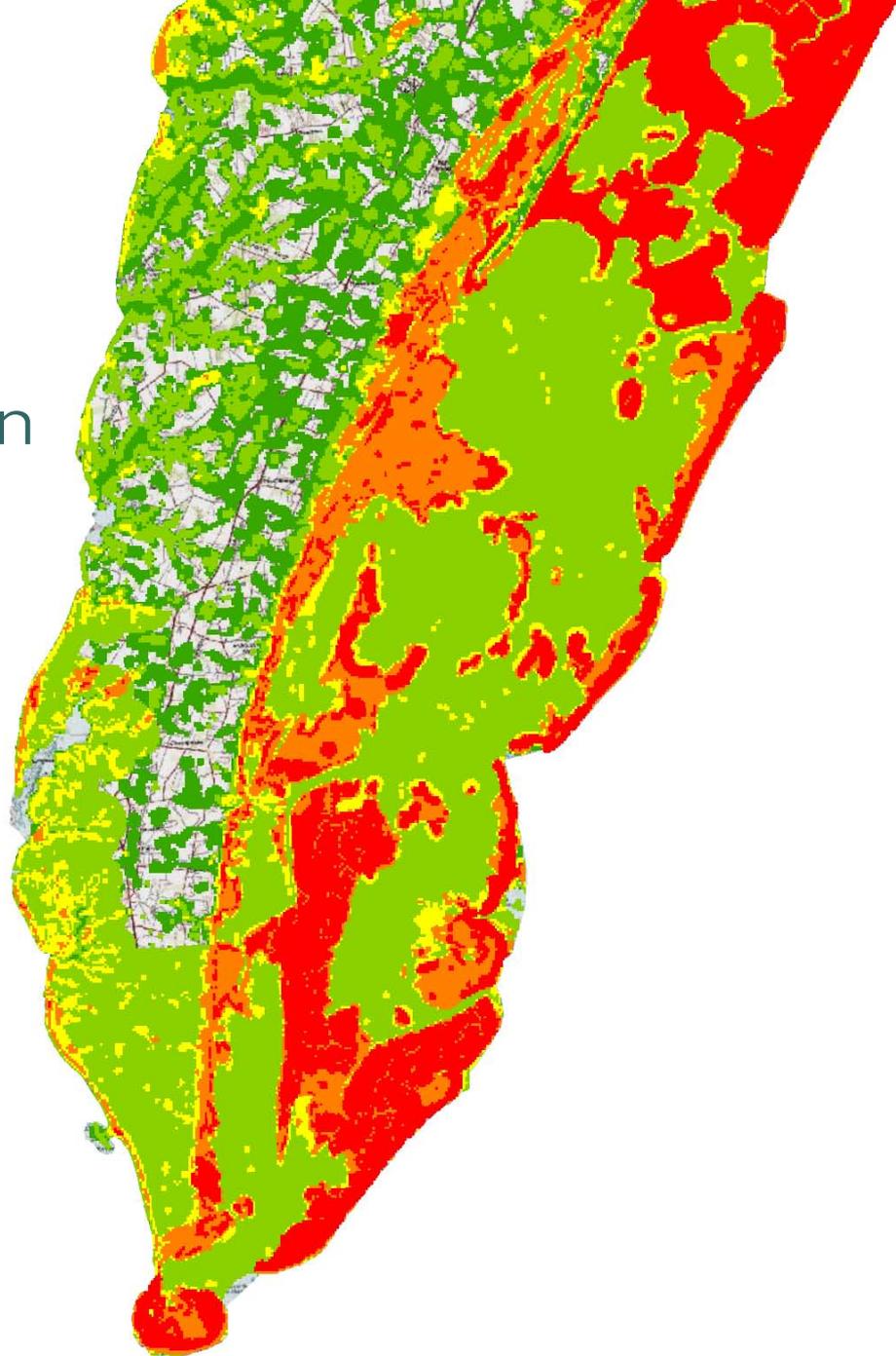
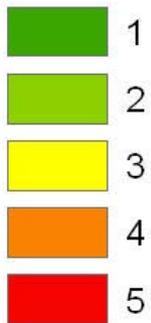
- Wetlands
- Stream riparian buffers



Northampton County

Priority Wildlife Diversity Conservation Areas

Legend



VCU - Component



photo by Mike Pinder



Photo by Monte McGregor





Background

Levels of scale

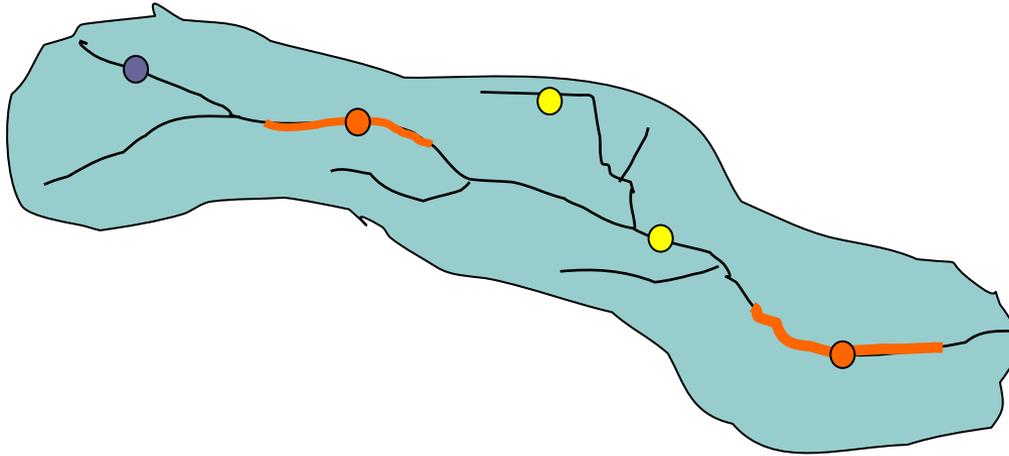
- Stream reach based approach
 - Aquatic Community analysis
 - 50+ variables possible
- Watershed based approach
 - Coarse scale analysis to characterize whole watershed
 - Incorporates various data
 - 6 variables/metrics



Development of Aquatic Resource Integrity Layer

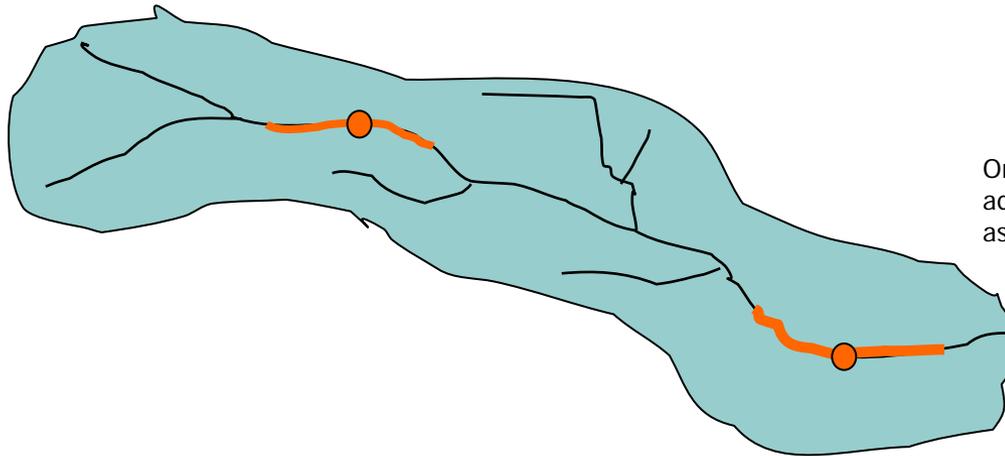


Watershed



- All valid biological data:
- Species lists
 - Individual occurrences
 - Surveys
 - VA DGIF, DNH, VCU, US Army, Local Governments

Stream Reach



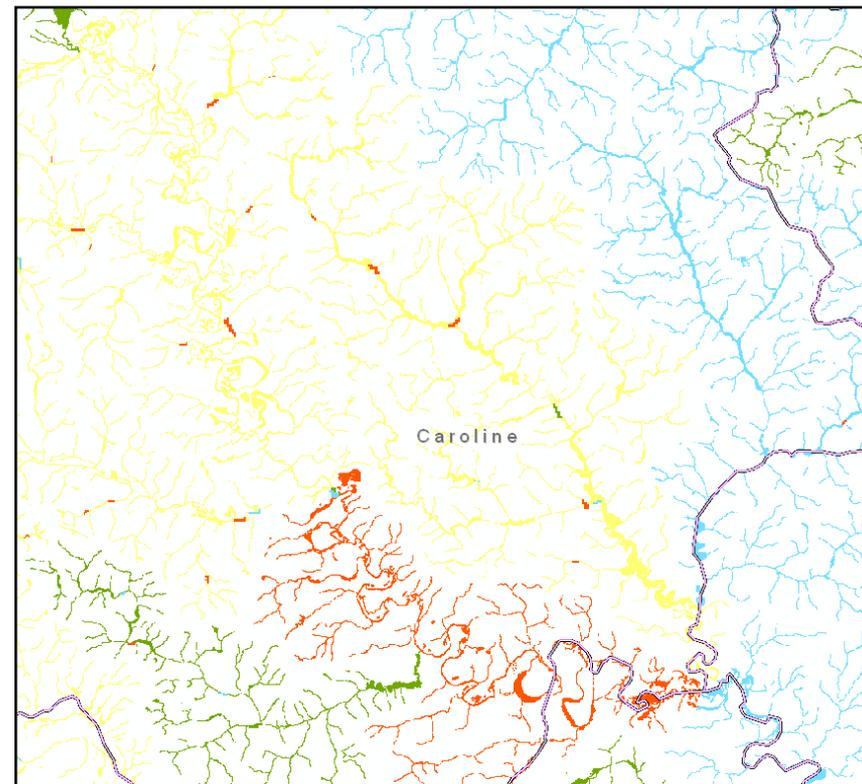
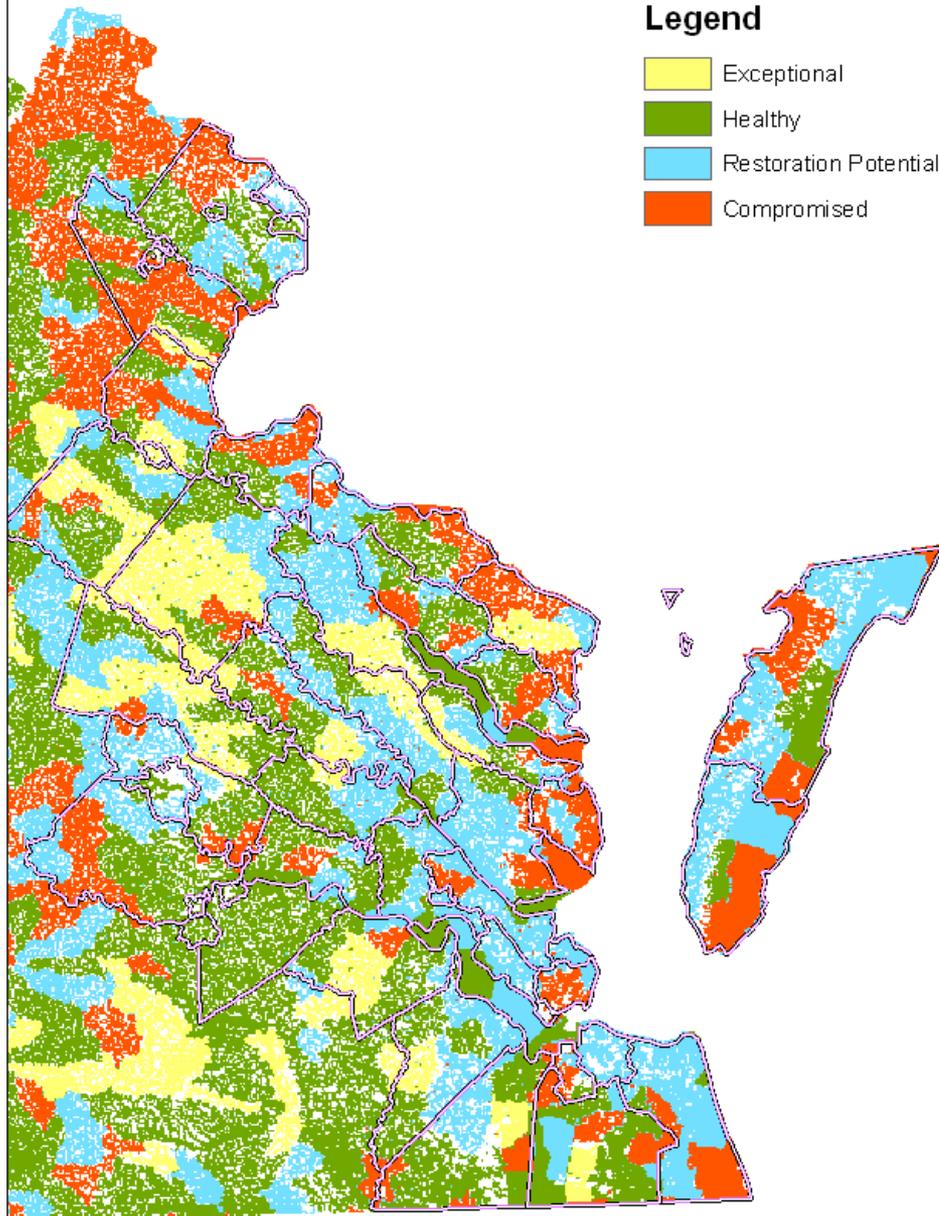
One complete synoptic aquatic community assessment



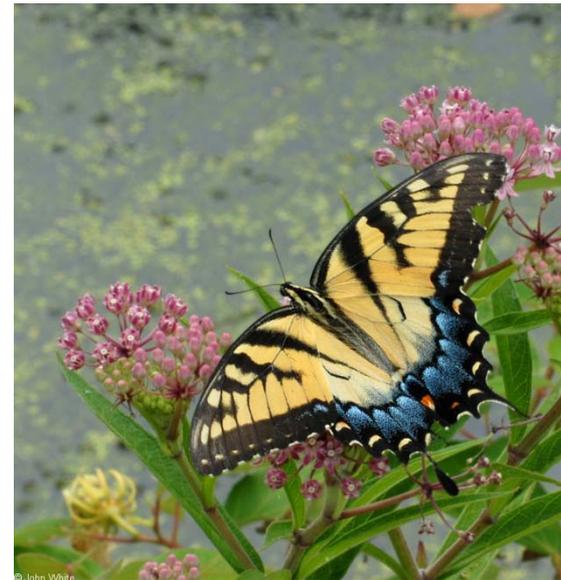


Legend

- Exceptional
- Healthy
- Restoration Potential
- Compromised



DCR - Component



VA Natural Heritage Plan

Spatial tools used for Natural Heritage Plan needs assessment:

Element Occurrences

- rare plants and animals & exemplary natural communities

Conservation Sites & Stream Conservation Units

- include occurrences plus necessary habitat and buffer

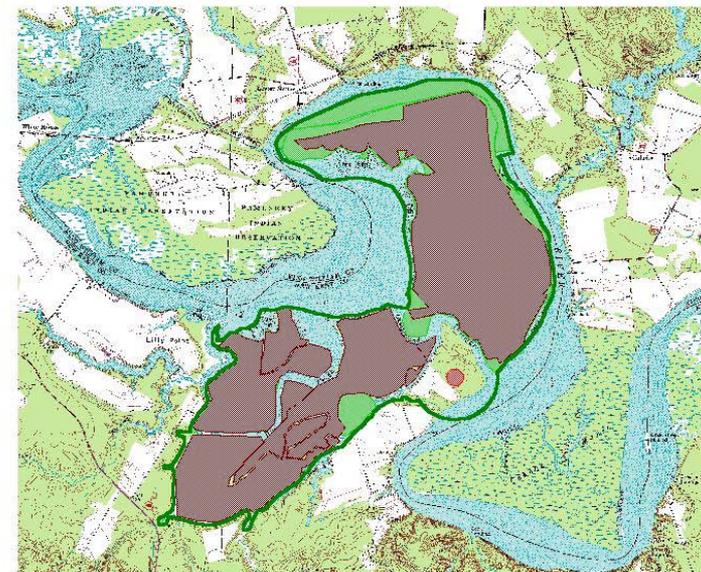
Virginia Conservation Lands Needs Assessment

- a collection of models that address various conservation needs

Conservation Sites

- Boundaries that enclose:
 - At least one natural heritage resource, and
 - The surrounding habitat or buffer necessary for protection
- Represent land that should be conserved for protection of natural heritage resources.
 - Do NOT represent protected lands

Cumberland Marsh - Chamberlayne Point Conservation Site



□ Conservation Site Boundary
■ Element Occurrences
■ Terrestrial Community
■ Vascular Plant
■ Vertebrate Animal

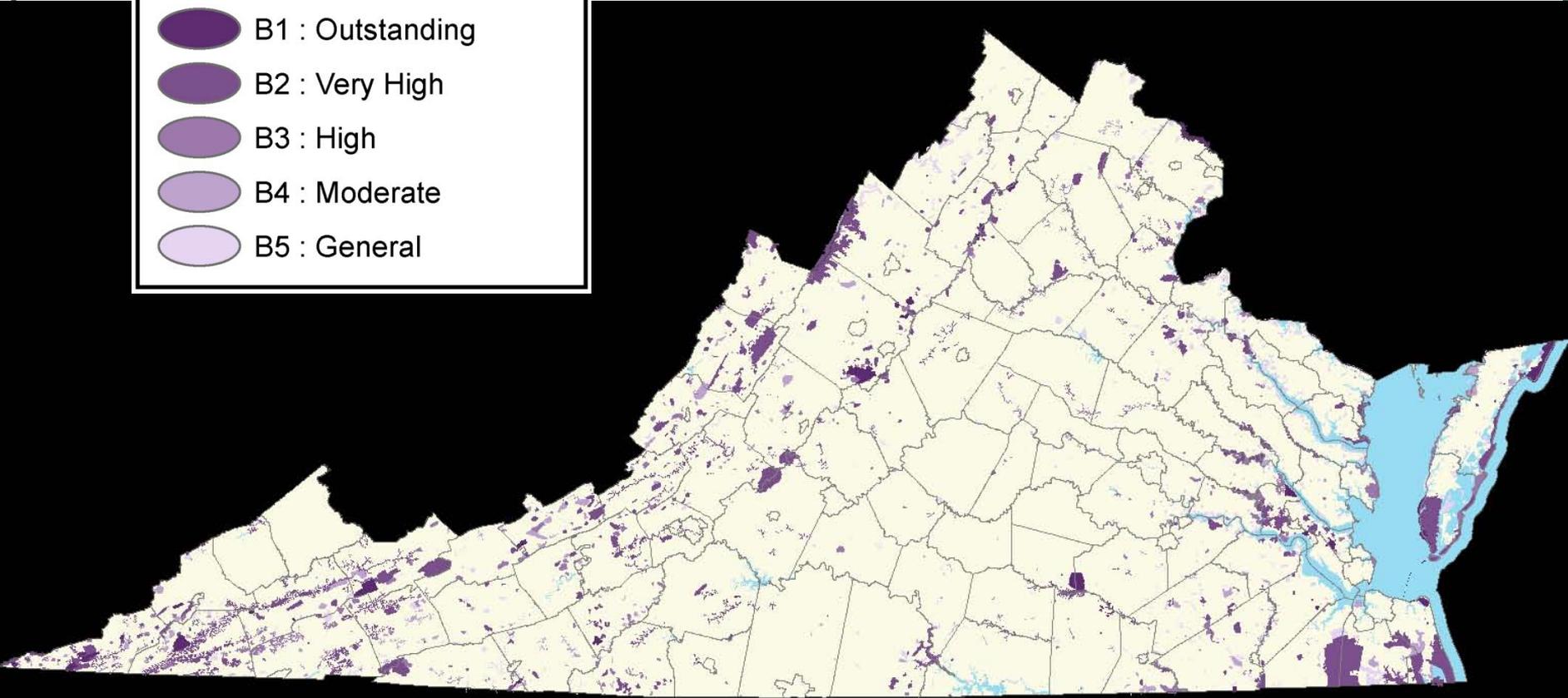


2 0 2 4 Miles

Conservation Sites B-rank

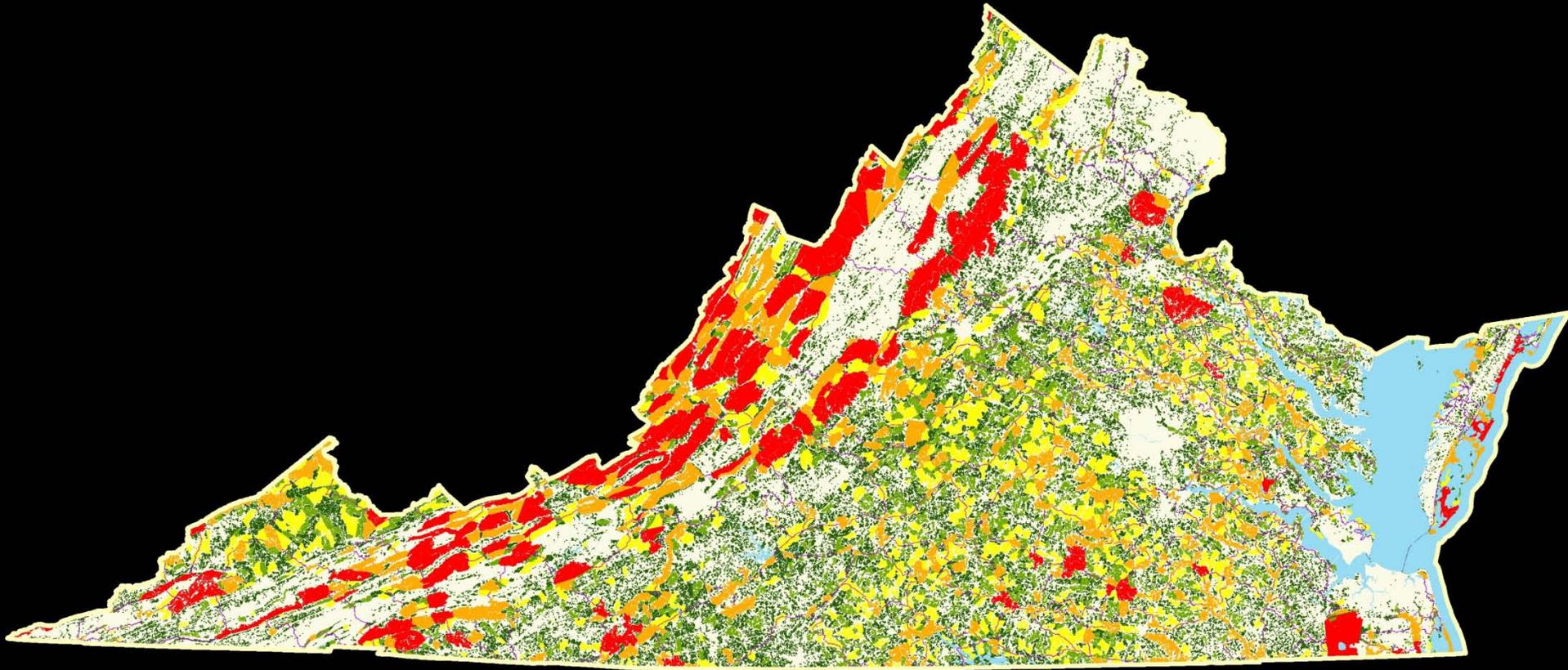
Biodiversity Significance

-  B1 : Outstanding
-  B2 : Very High
-  B3 : High
-  B4 : Moderate
-  B5 : General

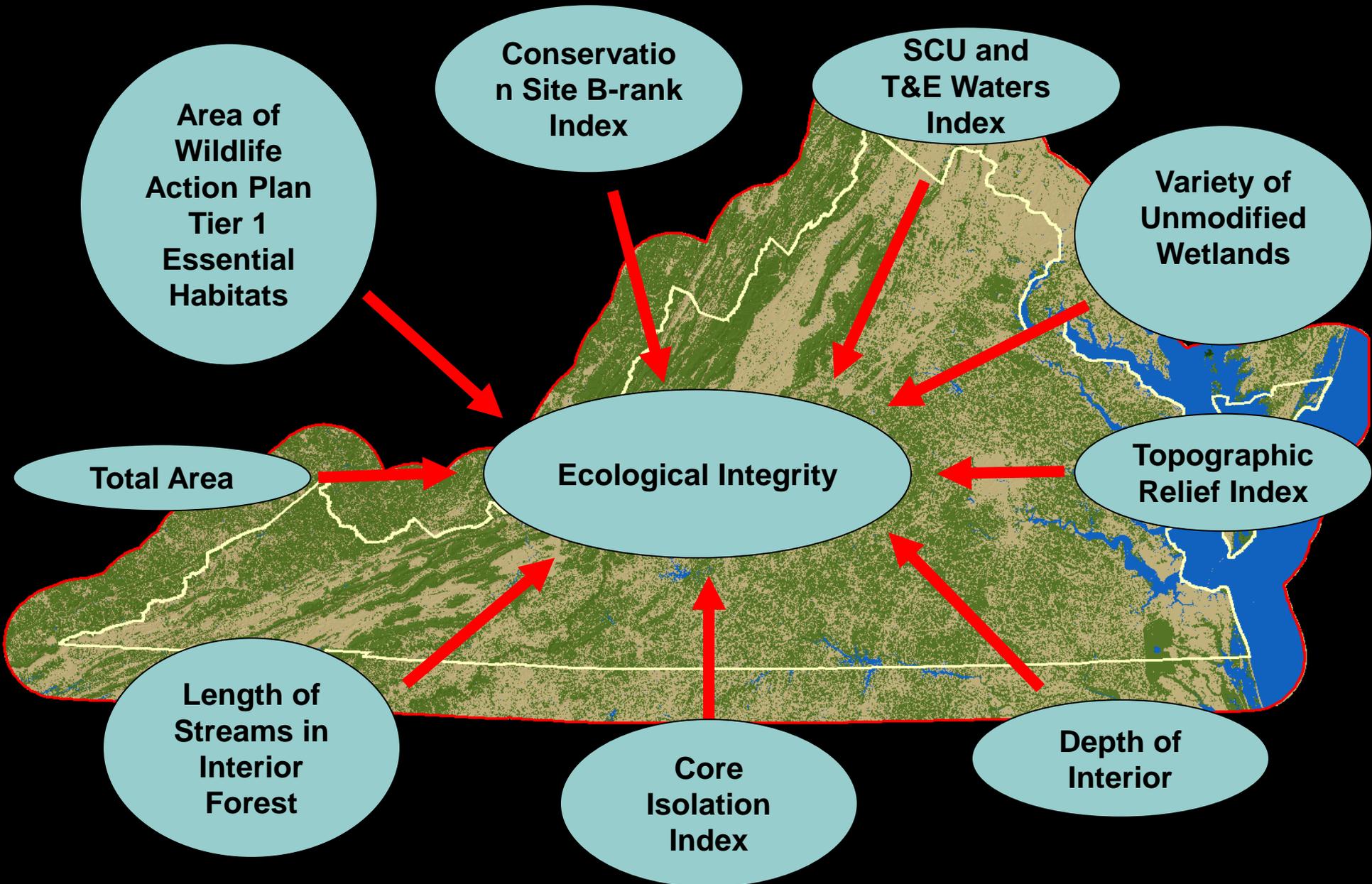


Natural Landscape Assessment

a landscape-scale GIS analysis for identifying, prioritizing, and linking natural habitats in Virginia



Ecological Integrity Model

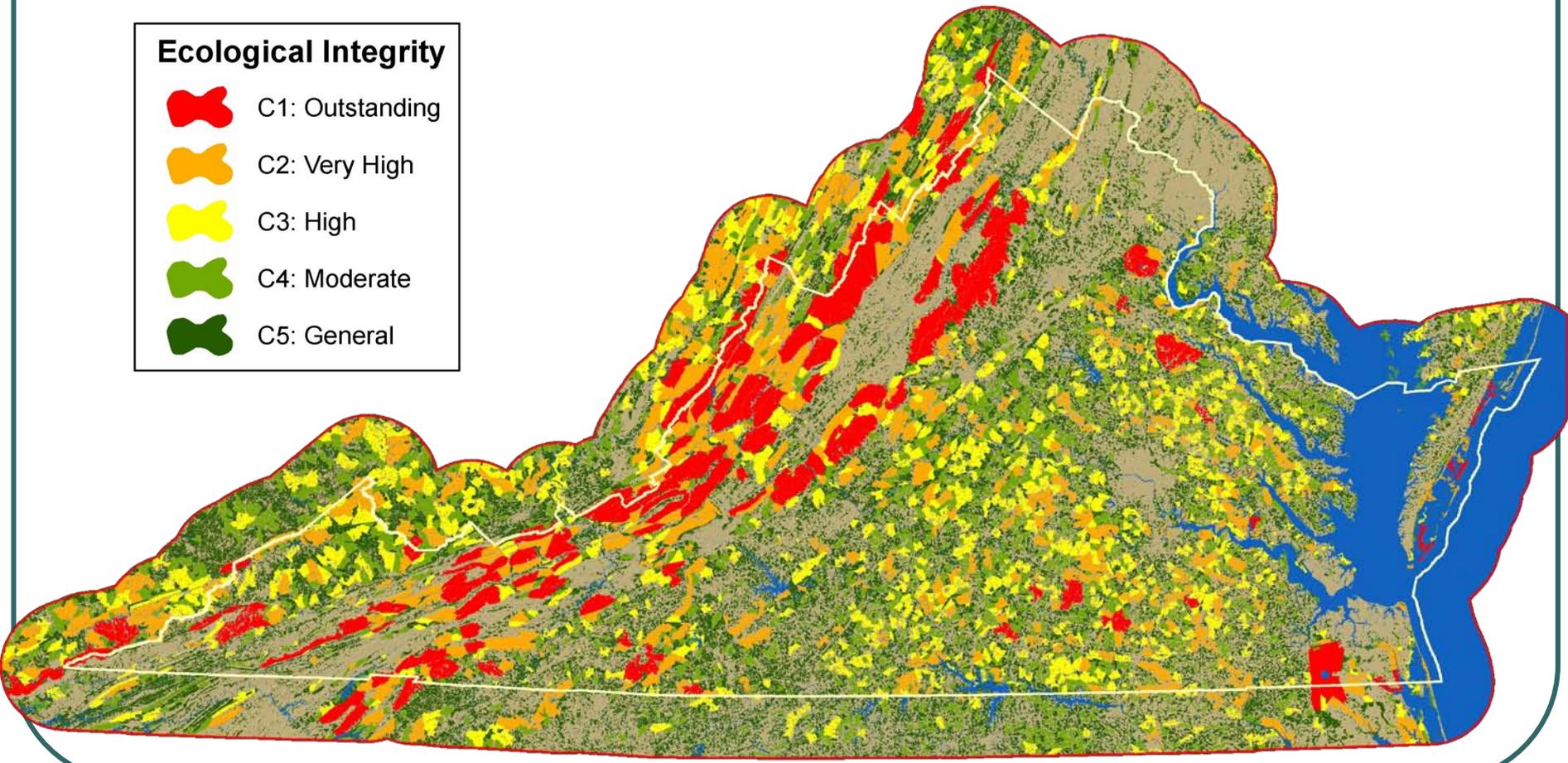


Cores and Habitat Fragments by Ecological Integrity

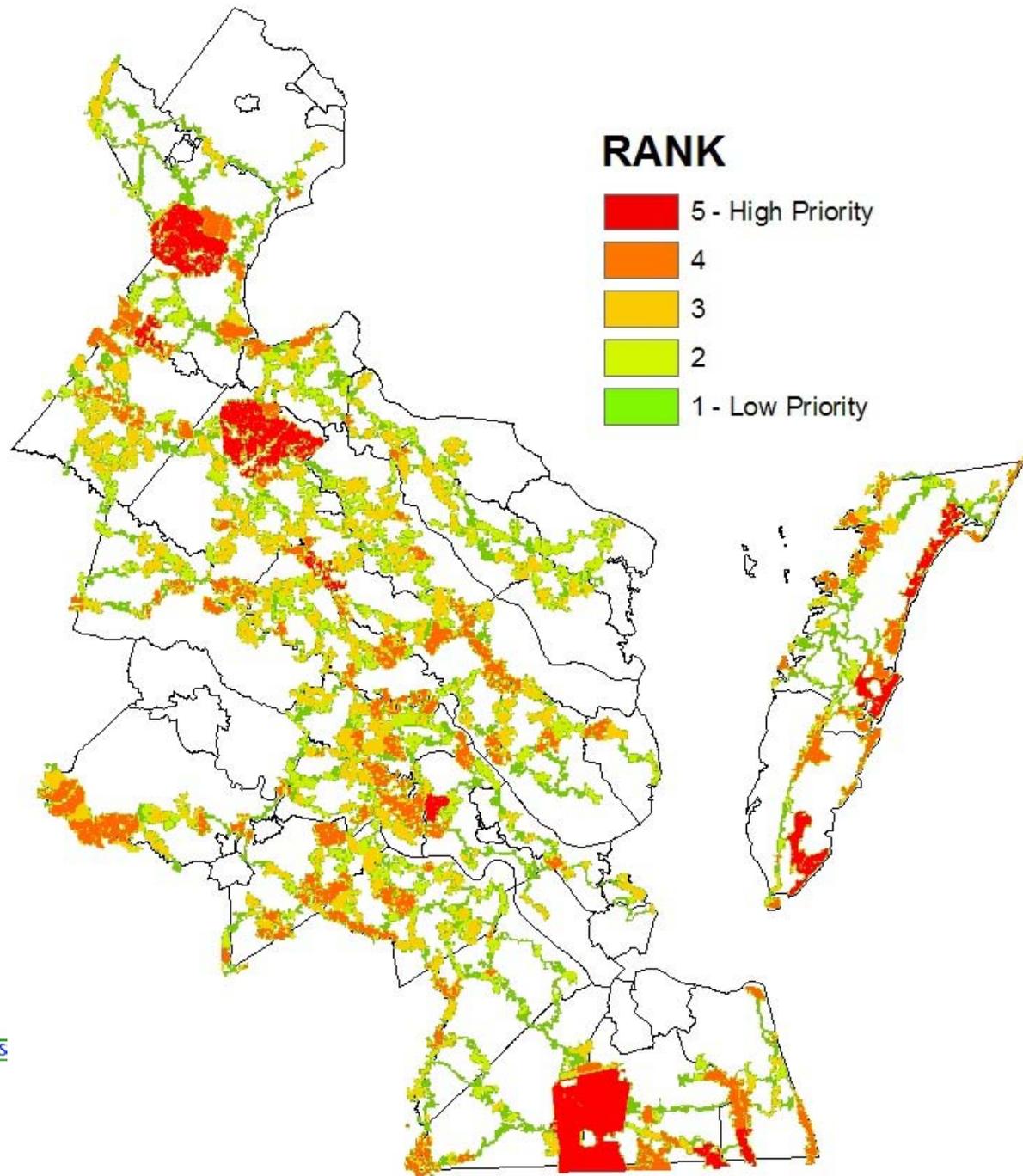
Natural Land Network

Ecological Integrity

-  C1: Outstanding
-  C2: Very High
-  C3: High
-  C4: Moderate
-  C5: General

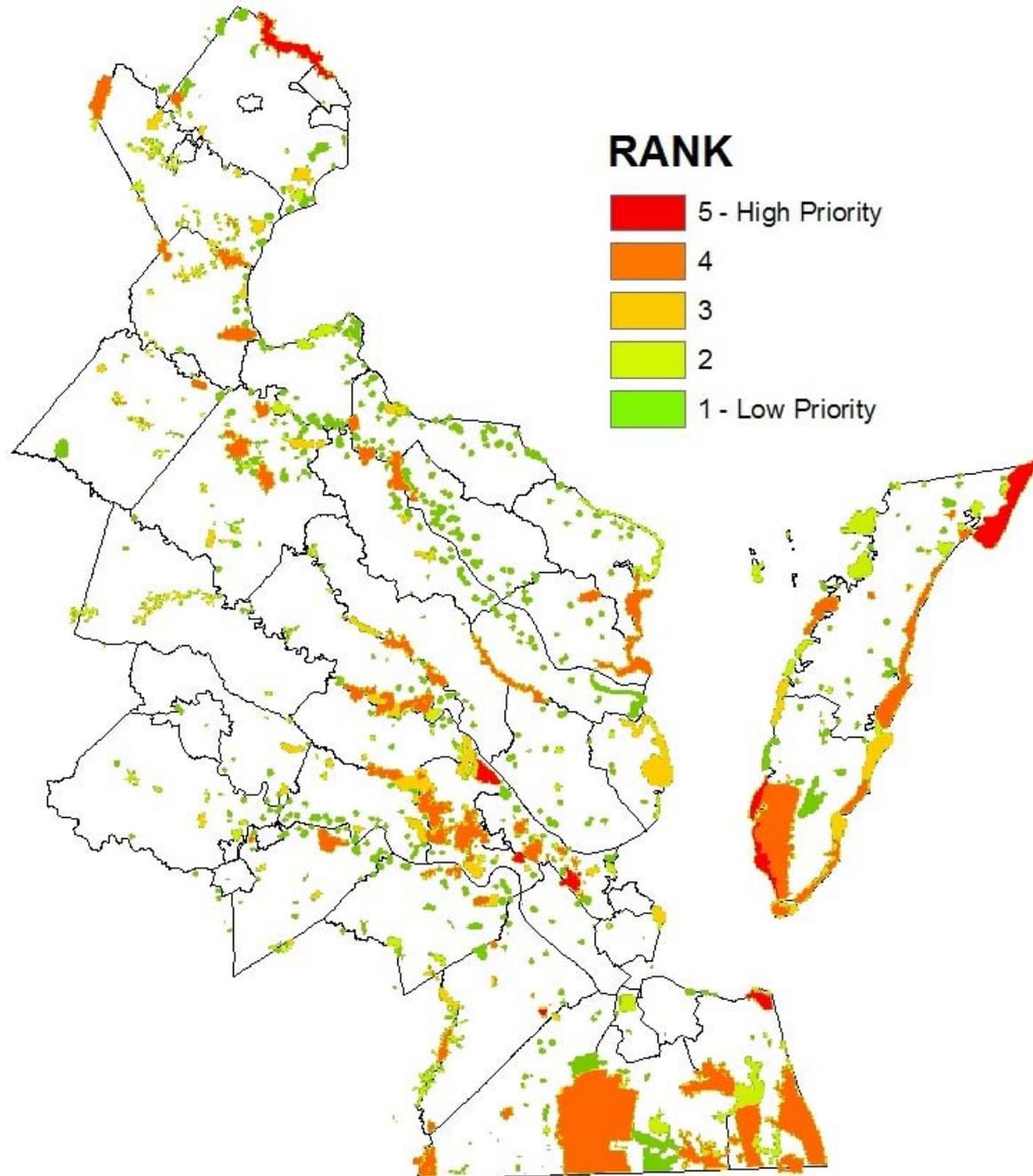


Natural Land Network DNH



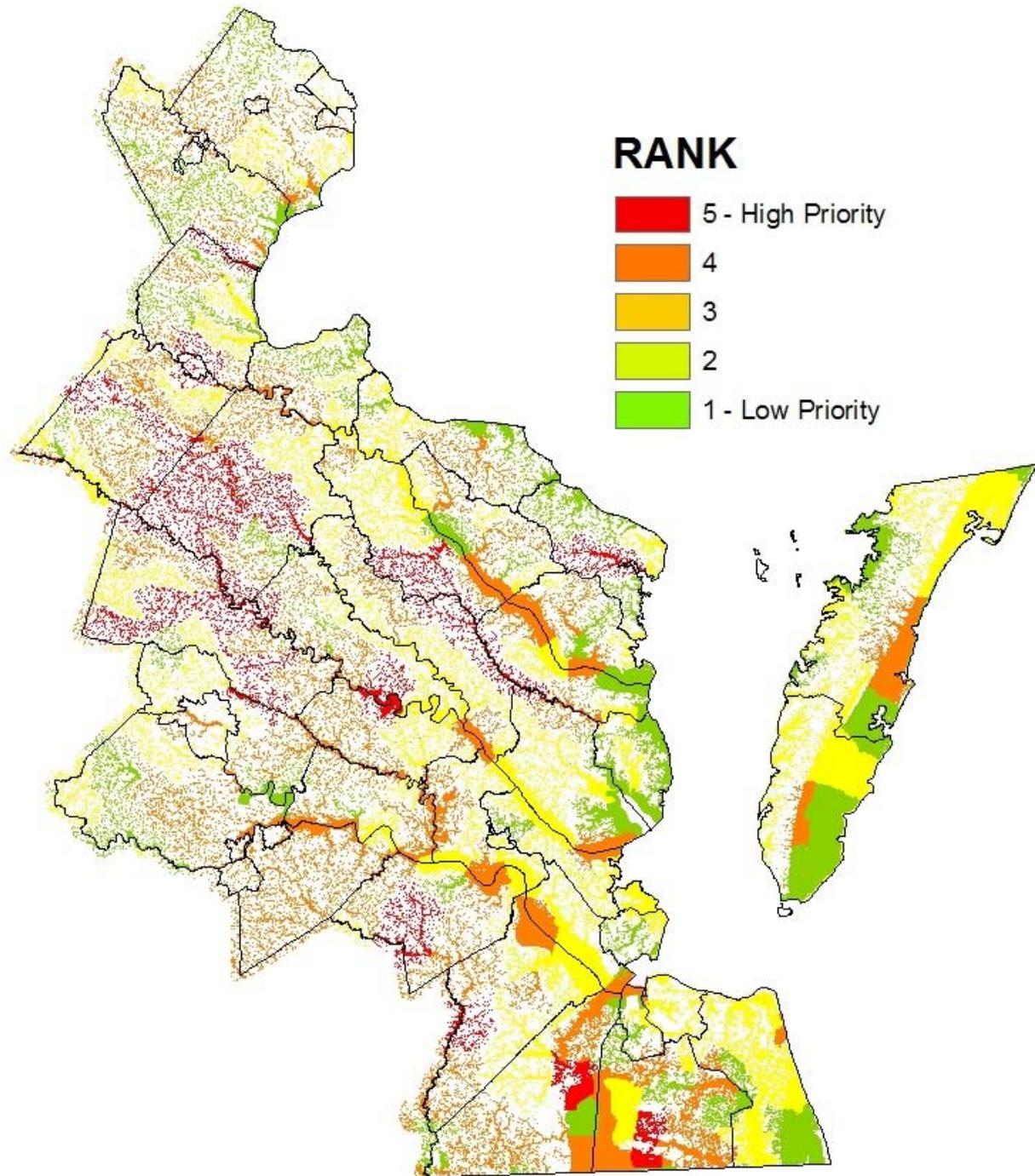
Department of Conservation & Recreation
CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES
Virginia Natural Heritage Program

Conservation Sites DNH

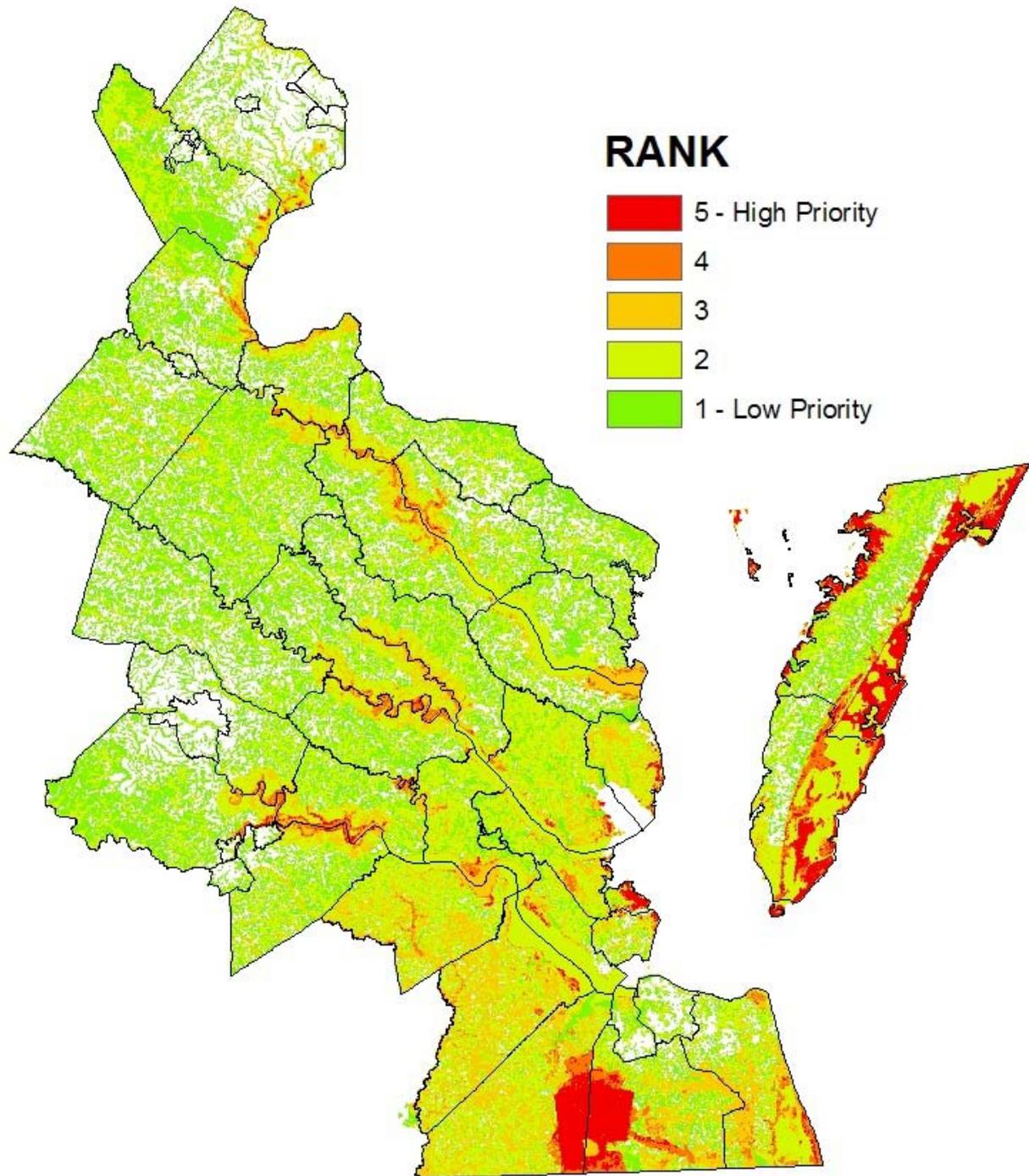


Department of Conservation & Recreation
CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES
Virginia Natural Heritage Program

Aquatic
Resource
Integrity
Layer
VCU CES

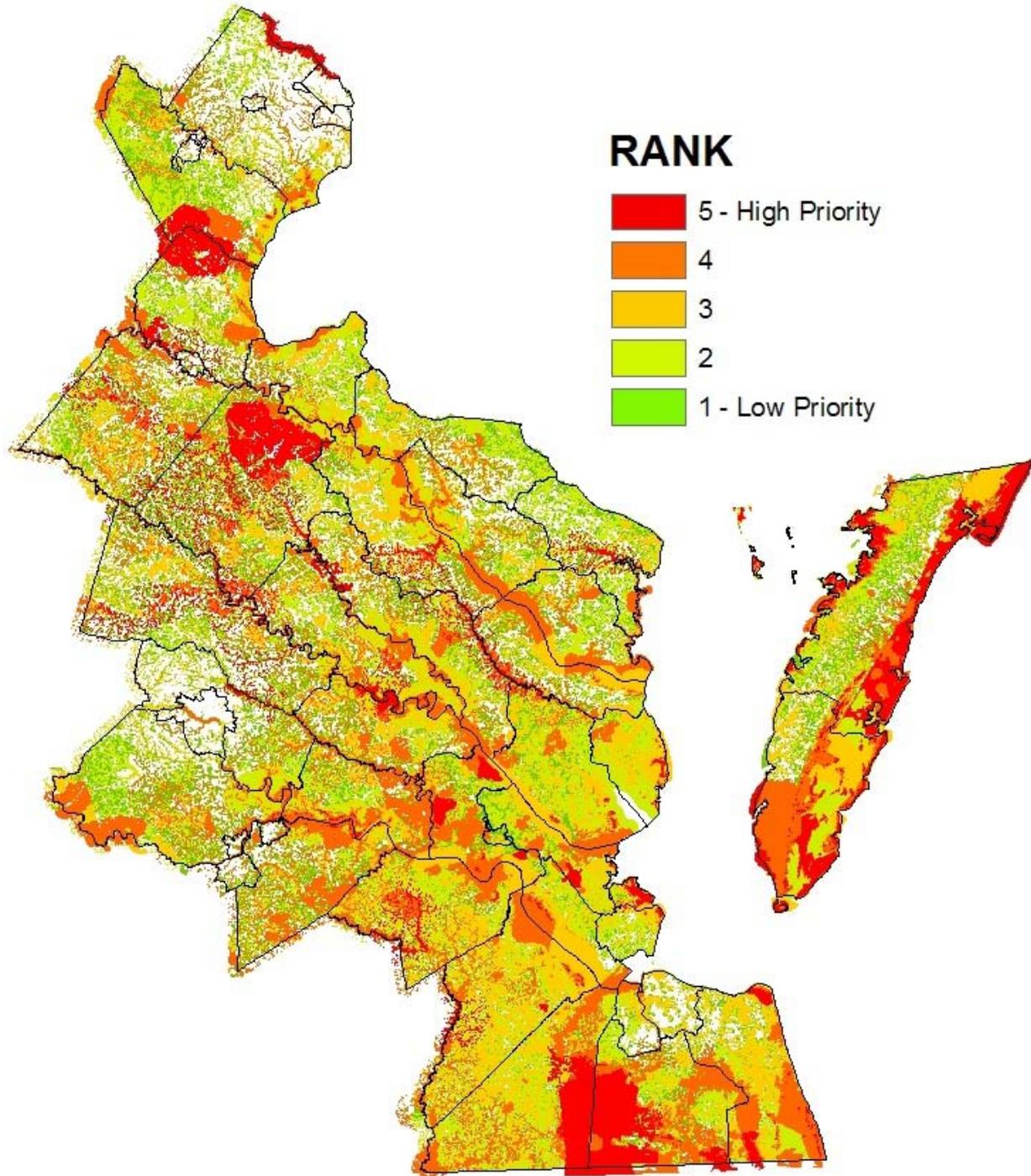


Priority Wildlife Conservation Area DGIF



Priority Conservation Area

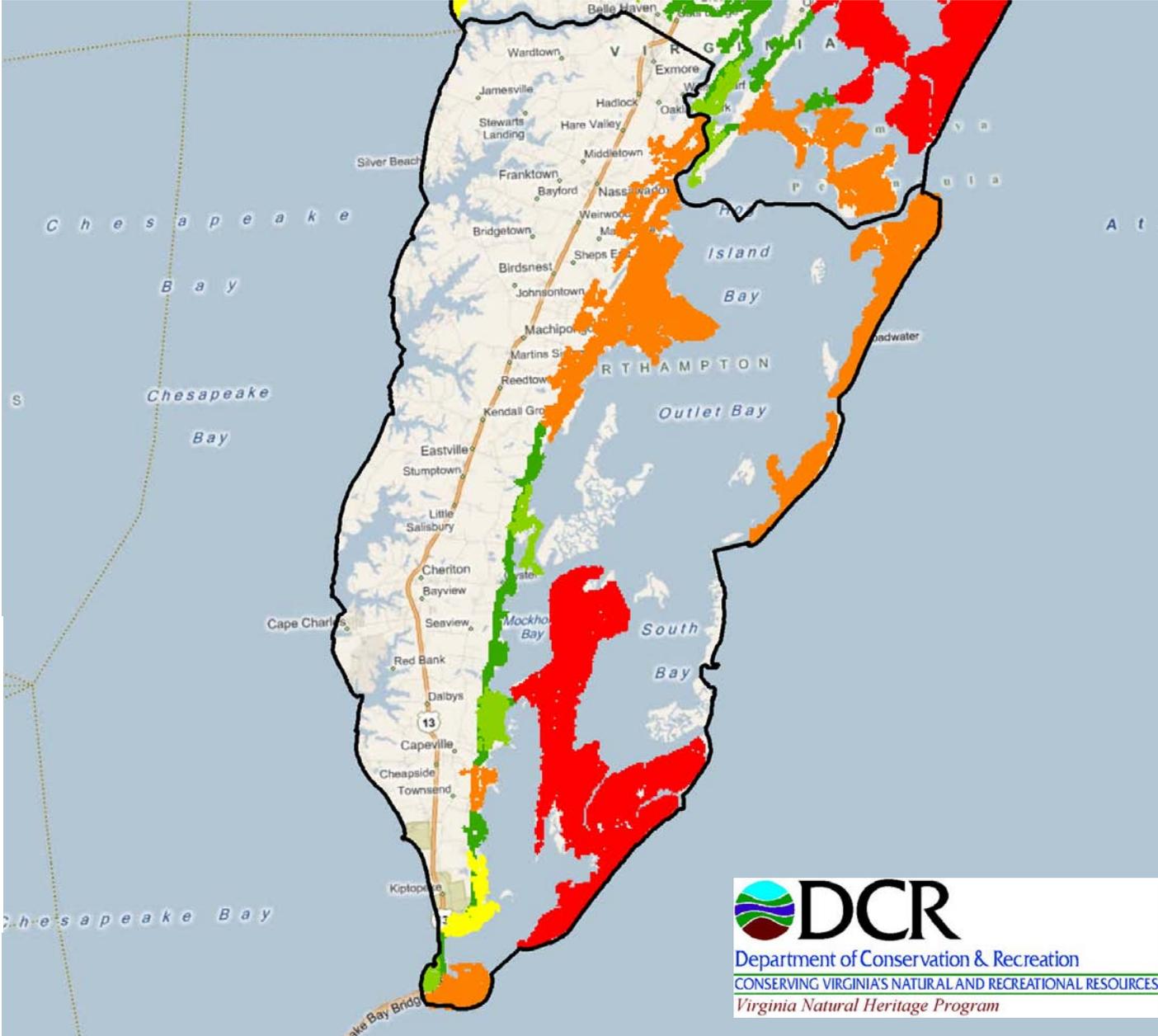
RANK



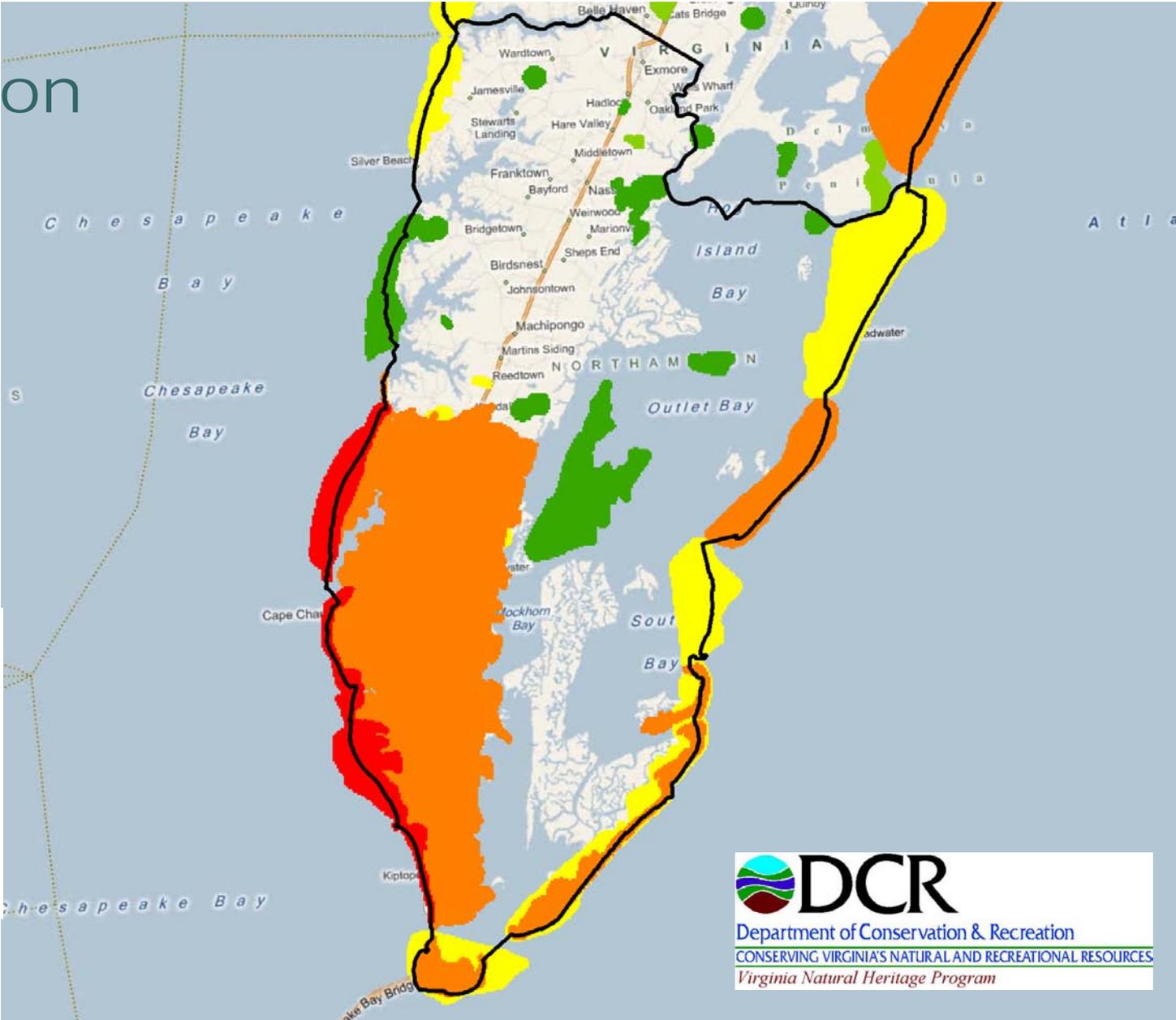
Natural Land Network DNH

Rank

- 5 - Highest Priority
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 - Lower Priority

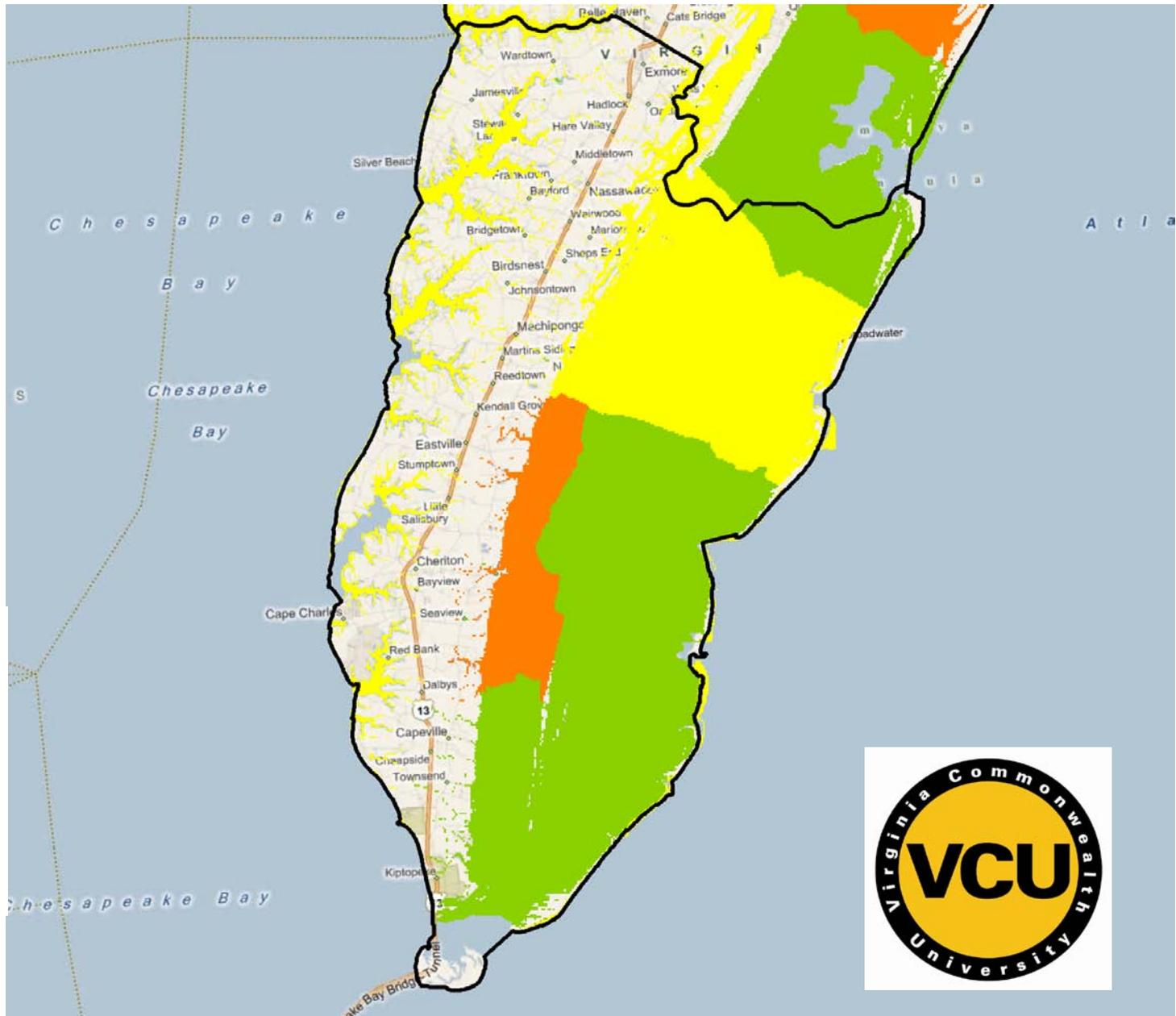


Conservation Sites DNH

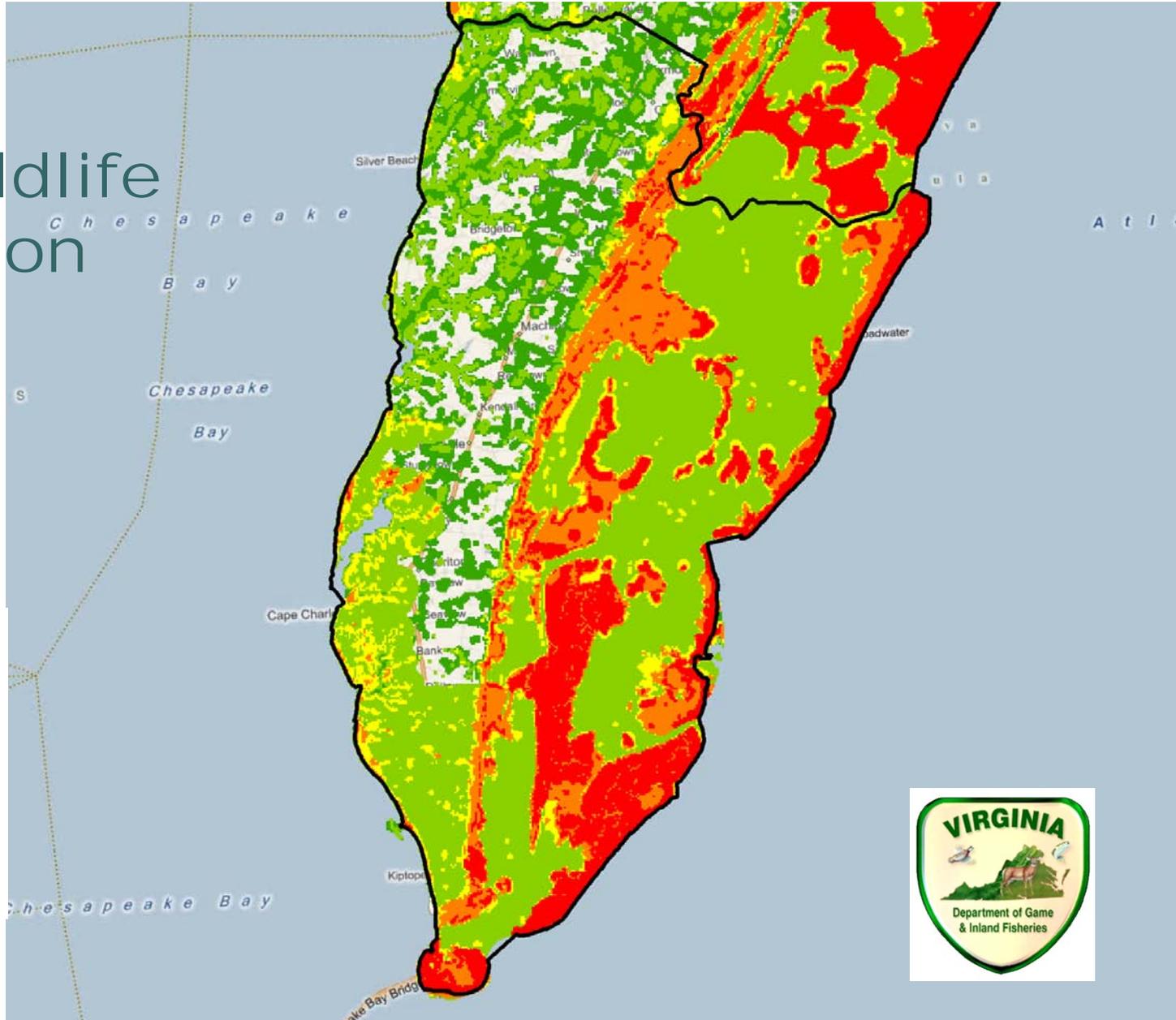


Aquatic Resource Integrity Layer VCU CES

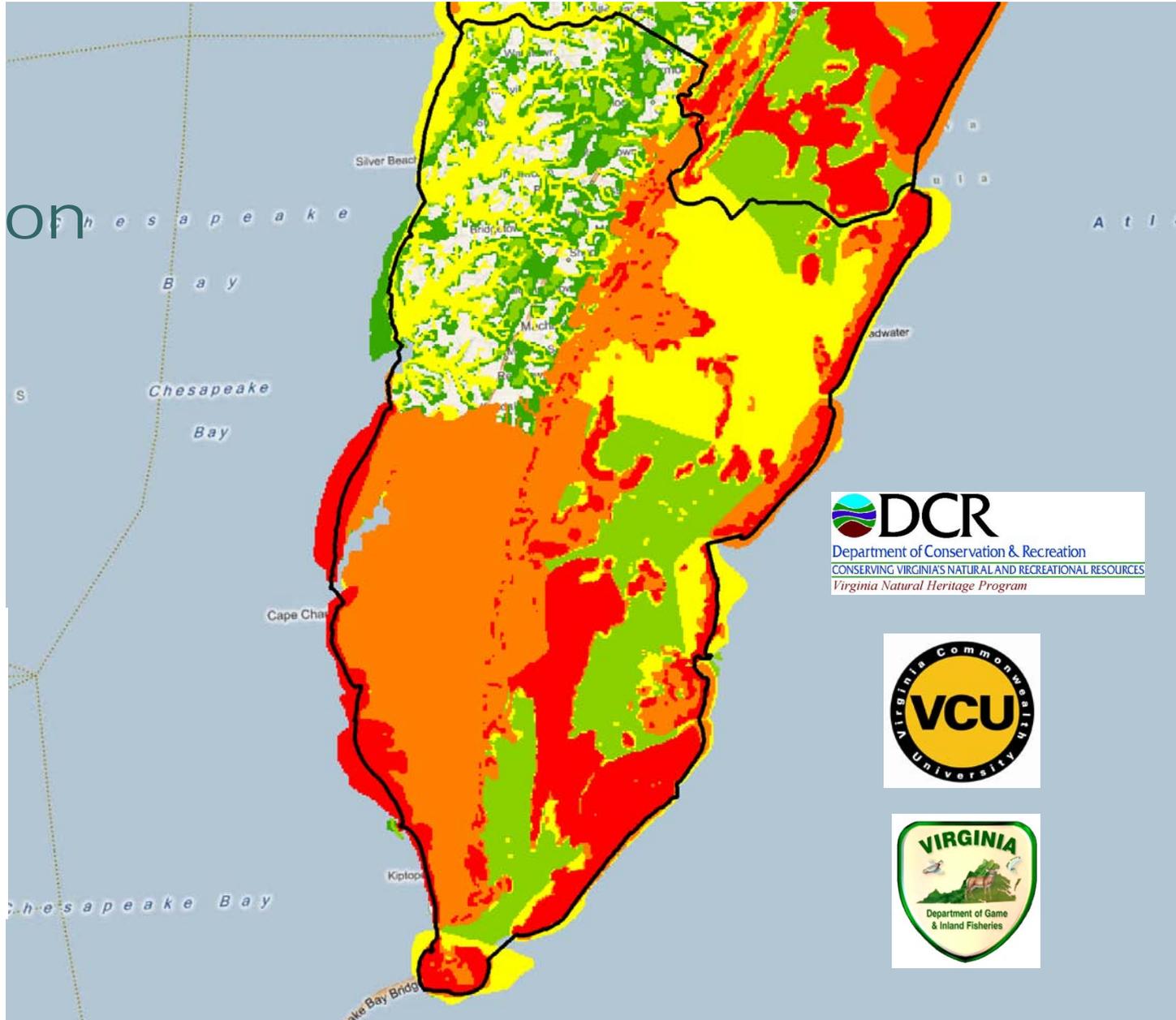
Rank



Priority Wildlife Conservation Area DGIF



Priority Conservation Area



Map Caveats and Limitations

- Intended to guide conservation planning
- Statewide data – not at local scale
- Subjective - Based on current priorities
- Snapshot in time
- Based on available information
- Does not account for lands already conserved



Priority Conservation Areas – part 2

- Add estuarine/marine data from VIMS
- Create assessment for land conservation prioritization
 - remove known developed areas
 - remove already protected lands
- Outreach to counties



VIMS – Aquatic Priority Conservation Areas

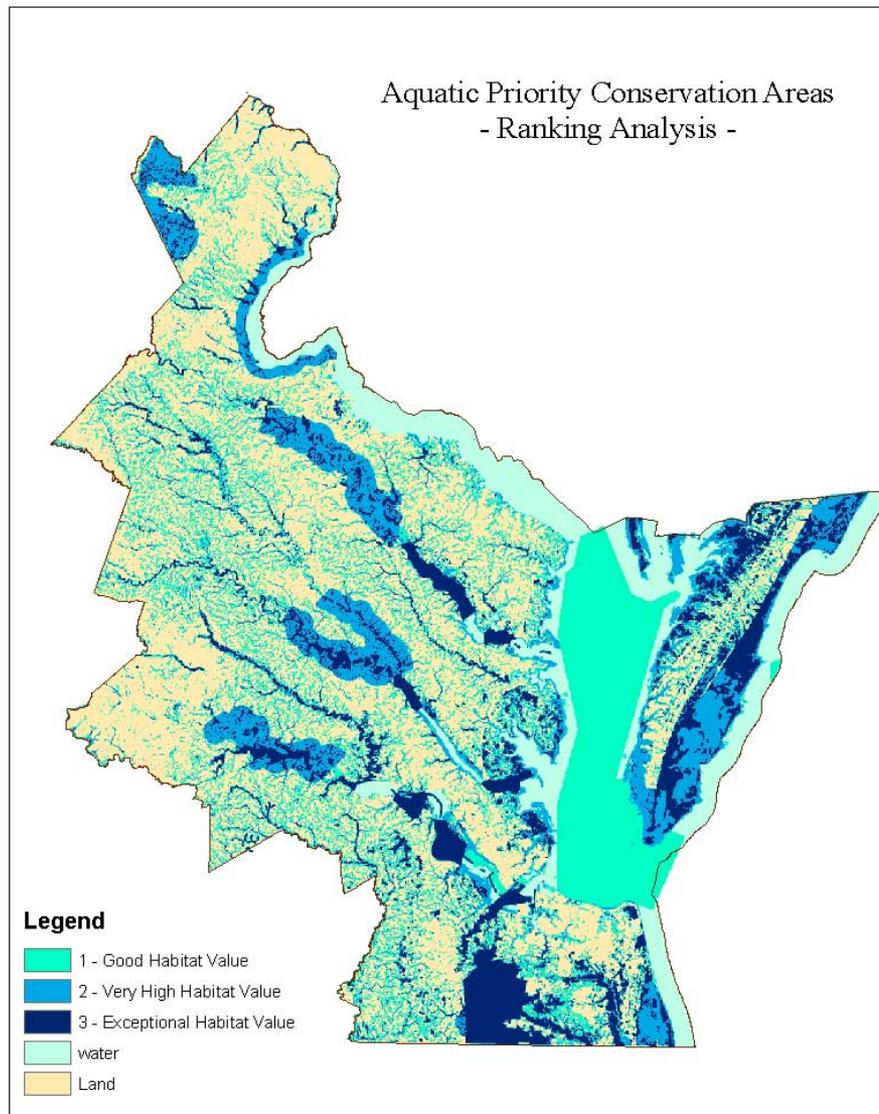
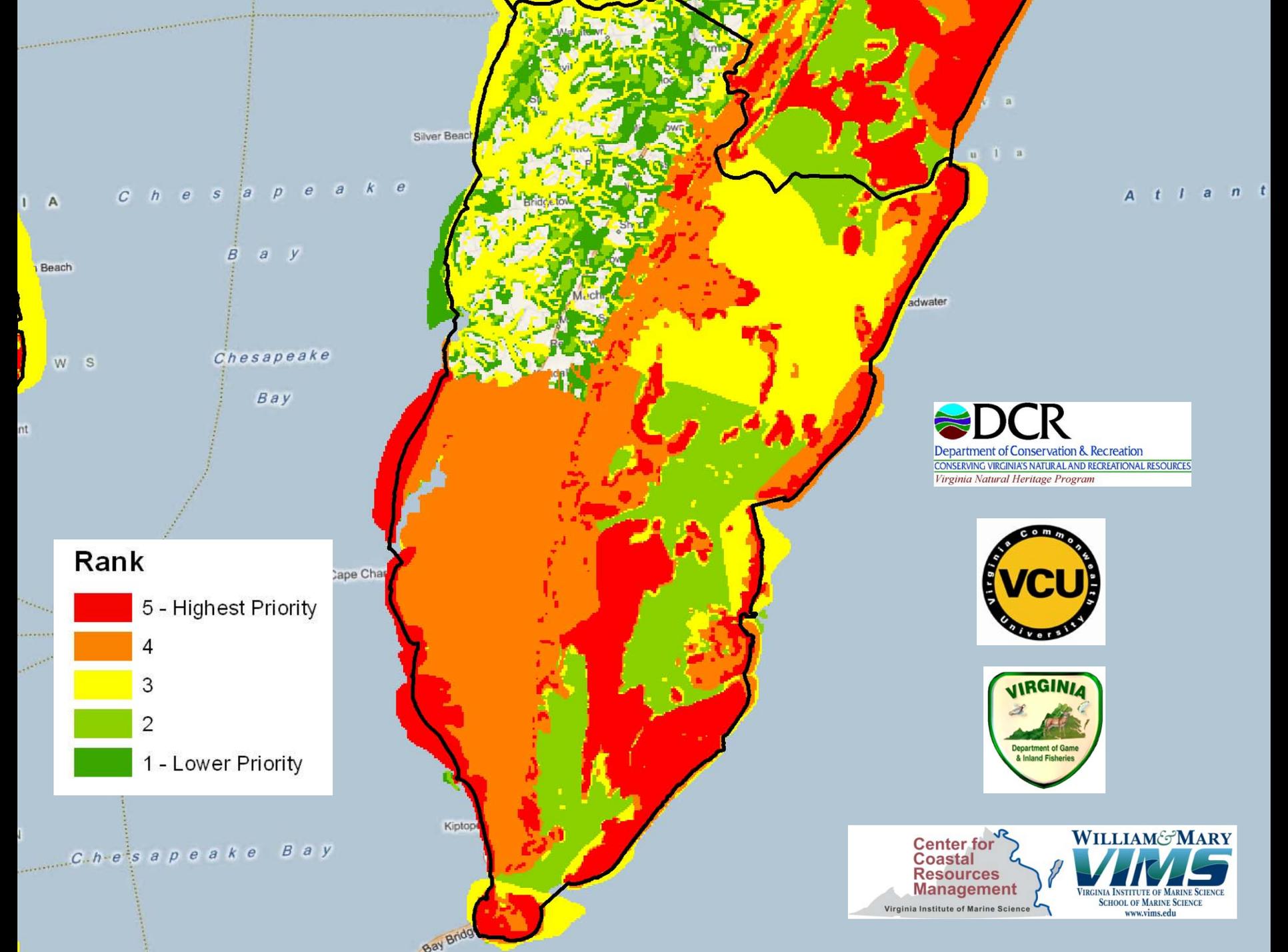


Figure 2. Aquatic Priority Conservation Areas



Rank

-  5 - Highest Priority
-  4
-  3
-  2
-  1 - Lower Priority



DCR
Department of Conservation & Recreation
CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES
Virginia Natural Heritage Program



Virginia Commonwealth University
VCU



VIRGINIA
Department of Game & Inland Fisheries



Center for Coastal Resources Management
Virginia Institute of Marine Science

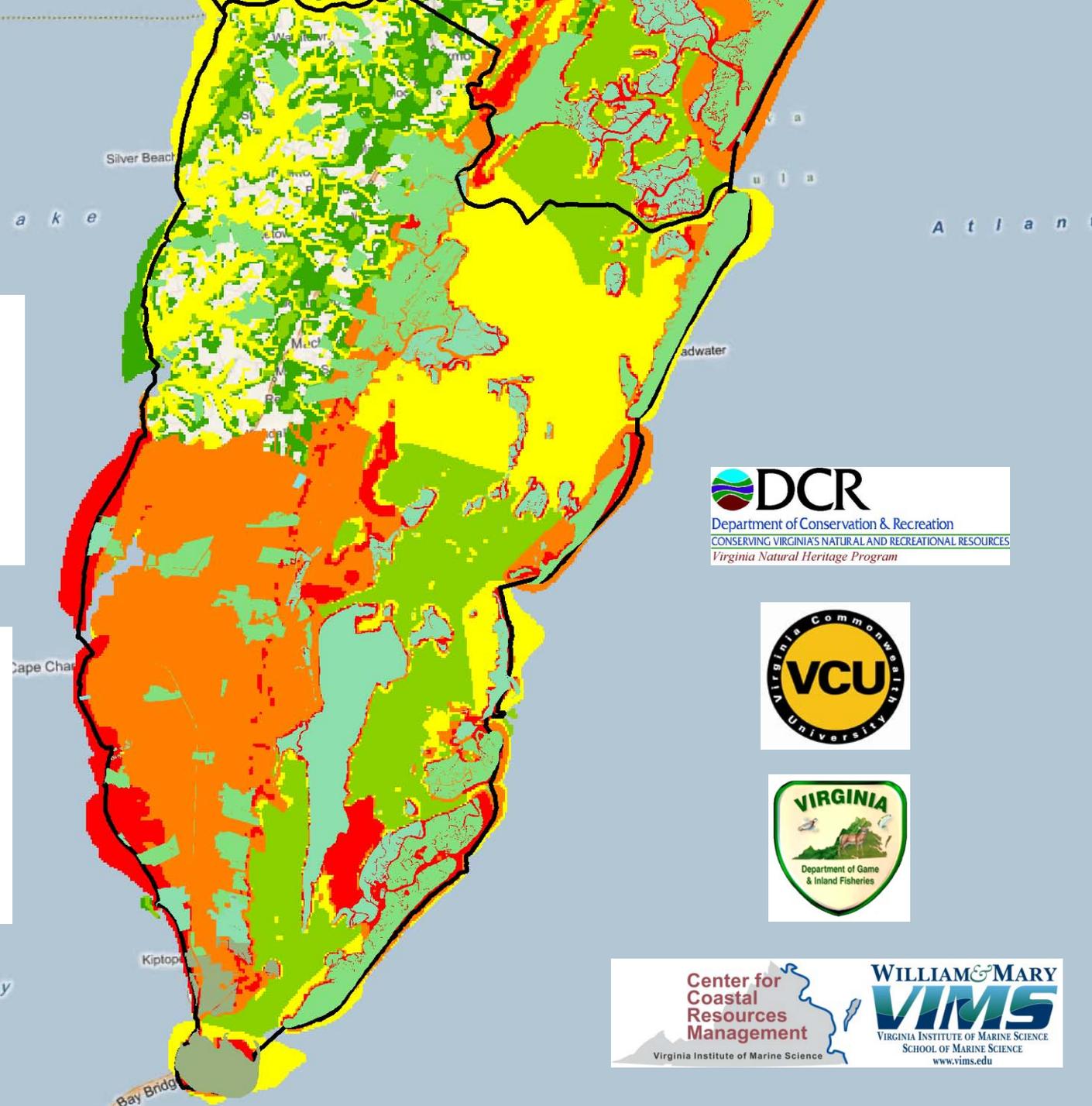


WILLIAM & MARY
VIMS
VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE
SCHOOL OF MARINE SCIENCE
www.vims.edu

Conserved Lands



Rank



Questions or Feedback

Dave Morton
Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries
804-367-6772
dave.morton@dgif.virginia.gov

Priority Wildlife Diversity Conservation Areas

- What areas should be preserved?
- What are the priority areas that should be managed in a specific way?
- What areas should localities to protect through zoning or planning?
- How should DGIF-WDD prioritize lands for acquisition based on existing spatial data?



VA Natural Heritage Plan

- **Governs the creation of a system of natural area preserves**

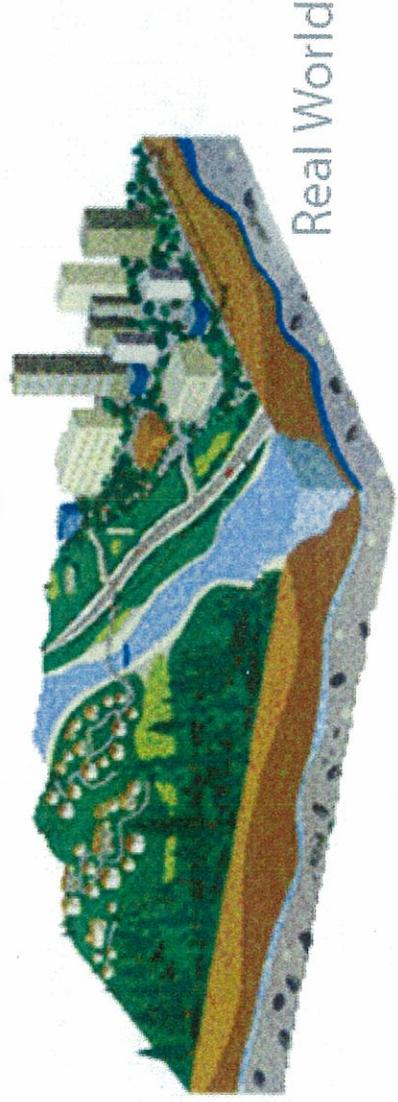
**59 Natural Area Preserves
(48,032 acres)**



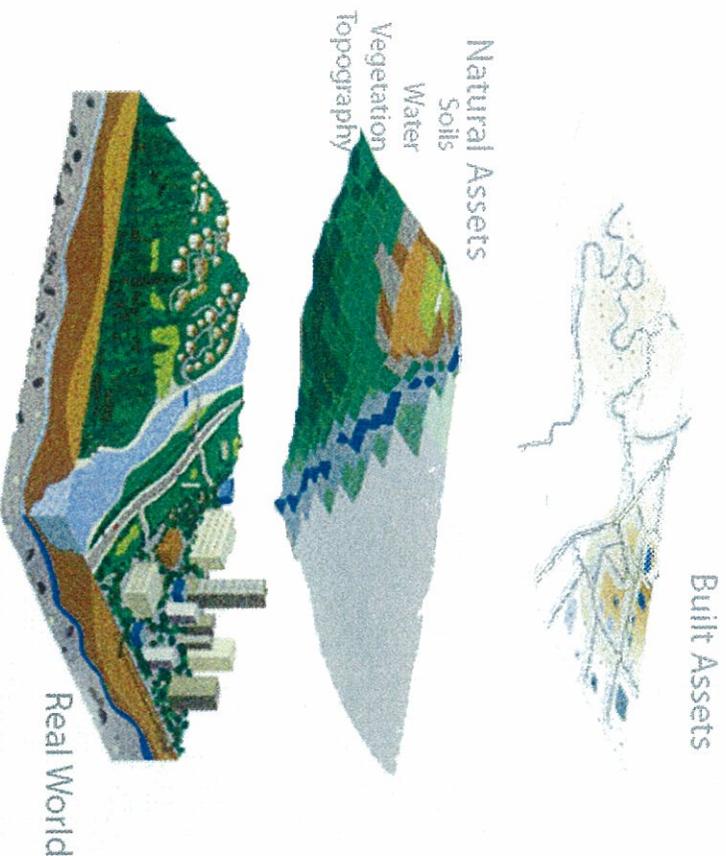
- **Establishes priorities for protection, acquisition, and management**

- **Calls for a needs assessment to guide expenditures of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation**

What is Natural Resource Based Planning?



What is Natural Resource Based Planning?



- Goods and Services
 - *Provisioning services*
Ex: seafood and game
 - *Regulating services*
Ex: Carbon Sequestration
 - *Supporting services*
EX: purification of water and air; crop pollination
 - *Cultural services*
Ex: Intellectual and spiritual inspiration; recreational experiences
 - *Preserving services*
Ex: Biodiversity

What is Natural Resource Based Planning?

- Threats
 - Urbanization
 - Pollution
 - Intensification

Built Assets



Natural Assets

Soils
Water
Vegetation
Topography



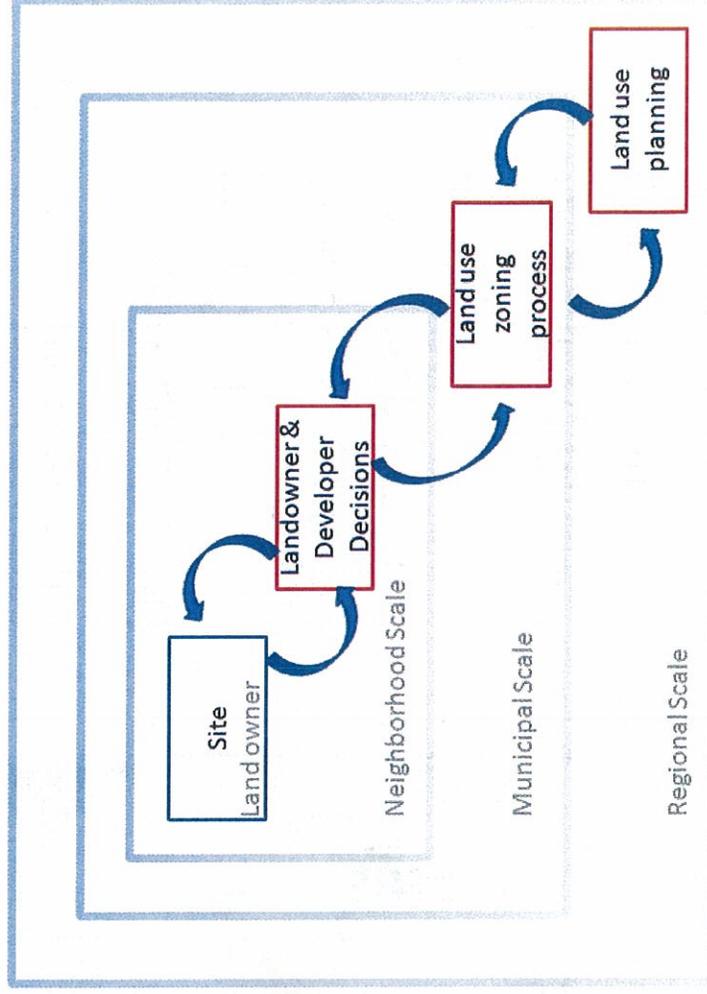
Real World

What is Natural Resource Based Planning?

- Community goals and the planning process
 - Identify sensitive lands, waters, and the benefits they provide
 - Plan for ‘functional landscapes’
 - Conserve natural resources while accommodating high-amenity development
 - Limit future grey infrastructure and regulatory costs

Four Levels of Planning

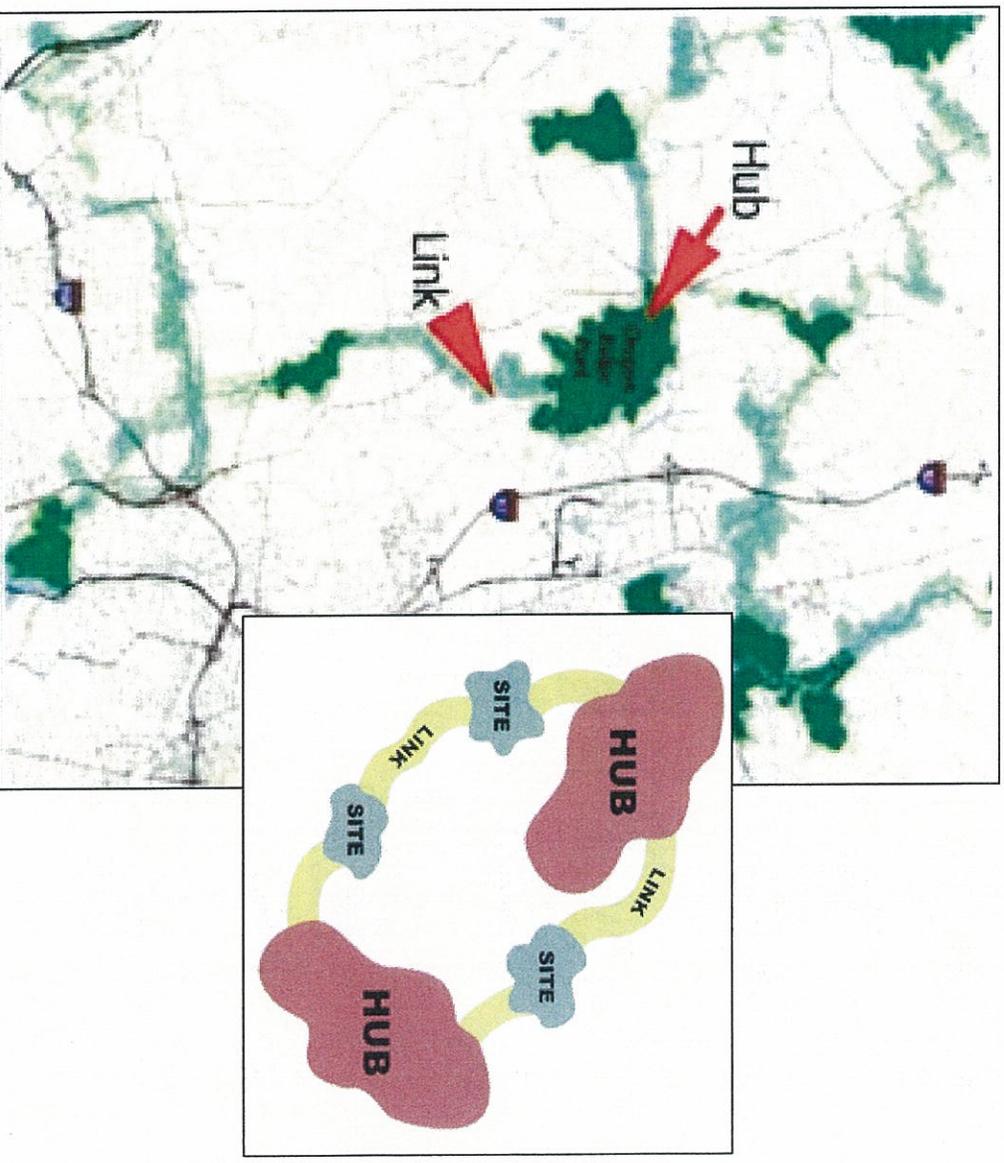
1. Region
 - Green infrastructure
2. City/County
 - Tools to conserve the working landscape
3. Neighborhood
 - Conservation subdivision design
4. Site
 - Low Impact Development (LID)



Regional Scale

Green Infrastructure

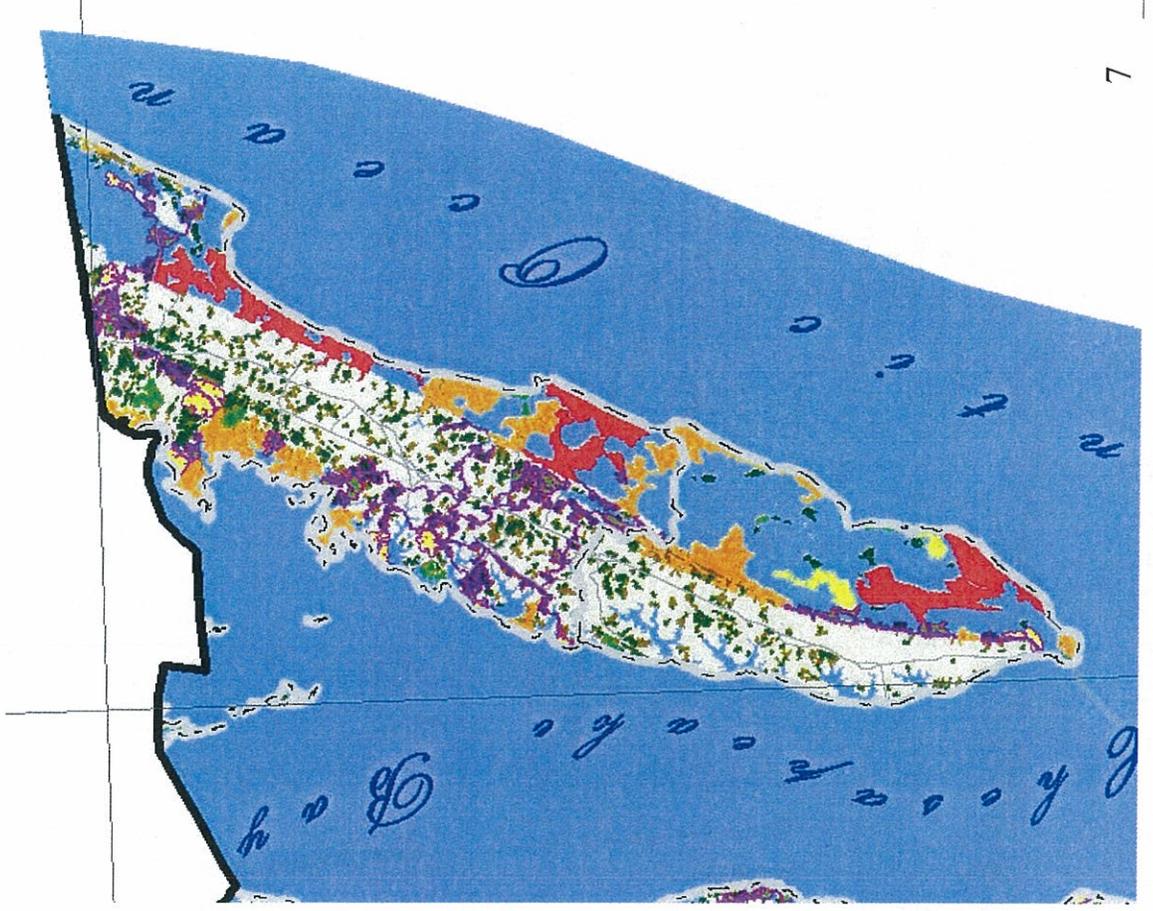
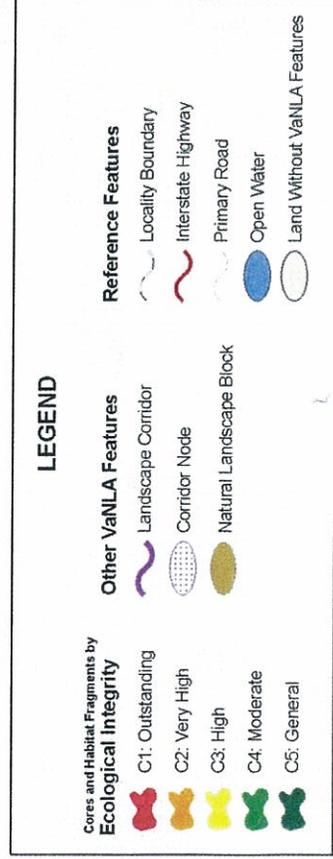
- Assess conservation possibilities
- Assess presently conserved lands inventory
- Prioritize future conservation opportunities
- Select strategies to attain priority conservation targets



Regional Scale

Green Infrastructure

- Conservation Targets?
 - Primary
 - Secondary
- Can these be connected?
- How are these areas connected to developed areas?





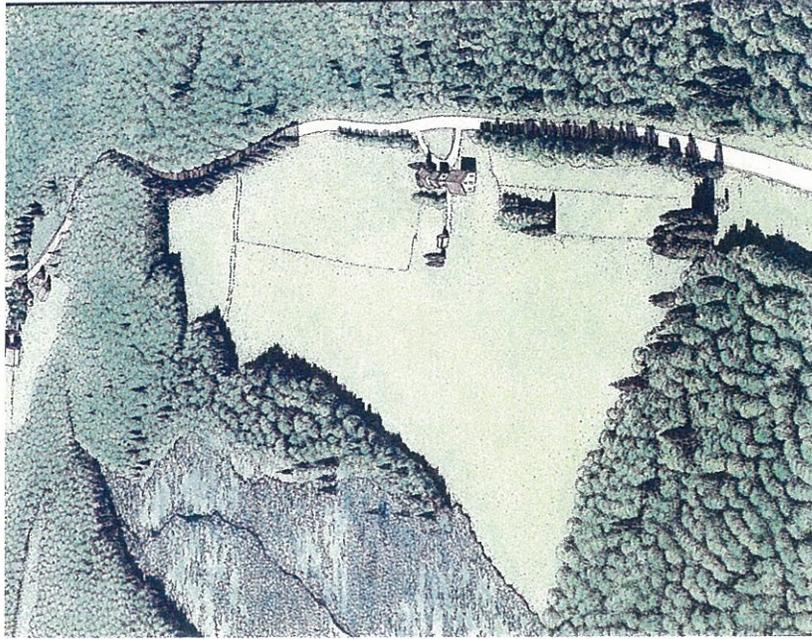
Community Scale

A. The Official Map	14
B. Subdivision and Site Plan Regulations	15
C. The Capital Improvement Program	17
D. Zoning Tools	19
1. Zoning Overview	21
2. Form-Based Codes	21
3. Large Lot / Agricultural Zoning	22
4. Cluster Subdivision / Zoning	22
5. Historic District Zoning	22
E. Tools for Managing the Form and Location of Growth	23
1. The "2232" Review	23
2. Urban Growth Boundaries (<i>Land Use and Infrastructure Coordination</i>)	23
3. Special Exception Permitting (<i>Conditional Use Permitting</i>)	23
4. Density Incentives	23
5. Community Design Concepts	23
6. Traditional Neighborhood Development and New Urbanism	23
7. Transferable Development Rights (TDR)	23
F. Tools for Managing the Financial Impacts of Growth	24
1. Conditional Zoning/Cash Profilers	24
2. Level of Service Standards	24
3. Impact Fees	24
4. Service Districts	24
5. Community Development Authorities	24
6. Fiscal Impact Analysis	24
G. Tools for Revitalization	25
1. Targeted Development Areas	25
2. Revenue Sharing (<i>Tax Sharing</i>)	25
3. Enterprise Zones	25
4. Empowerment Zones	25
5. Tax Increment Financing	25
H. Tools for Rural and Natural Areas Preservation	26
1. Use-Value Assessment and Taxation ("Land Use")	26
2. Agricultural and Forestal Districts (AFD)	26
3. Conservation Easements (including Purchase of Development Rights)	26
I. Regional Tools	27
1. Interlocal Relations / Joint Service Delivery	27
2. Planning District Commissions / Regional Commissions	27

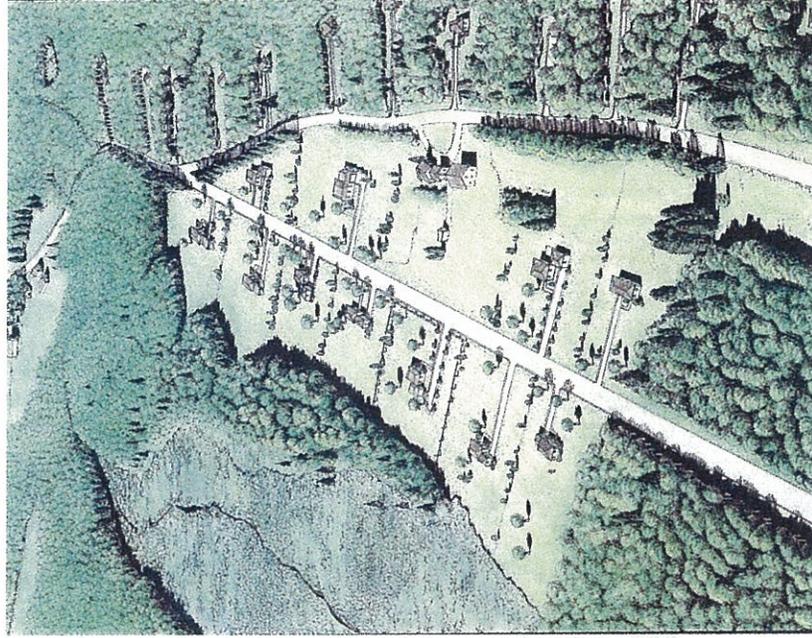
“Managing Growth and Development in Virginia” by APA Virginia—October 2010
<http://apavirginia.org/publications/other-publications>

Neighborhood

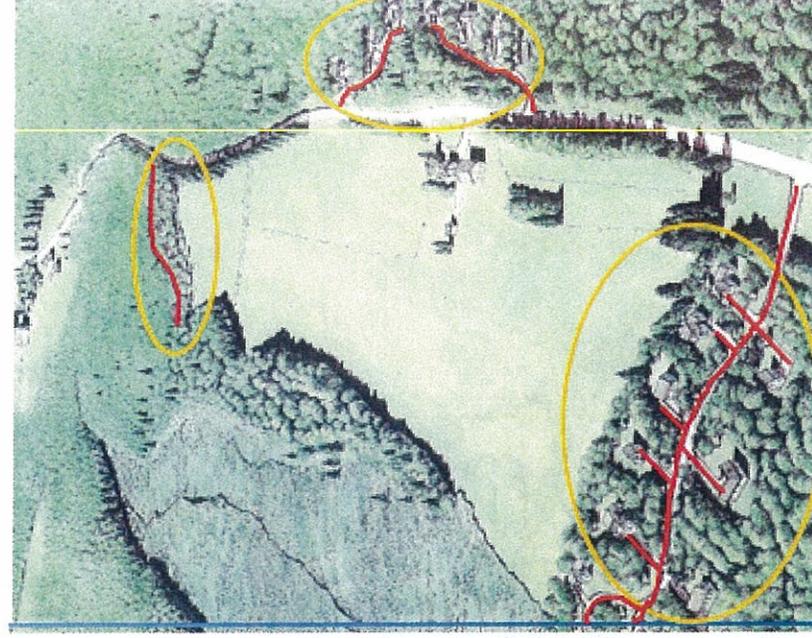
How Does a Conservation Subdivision Differ from a Conventional One?



Undeveloped



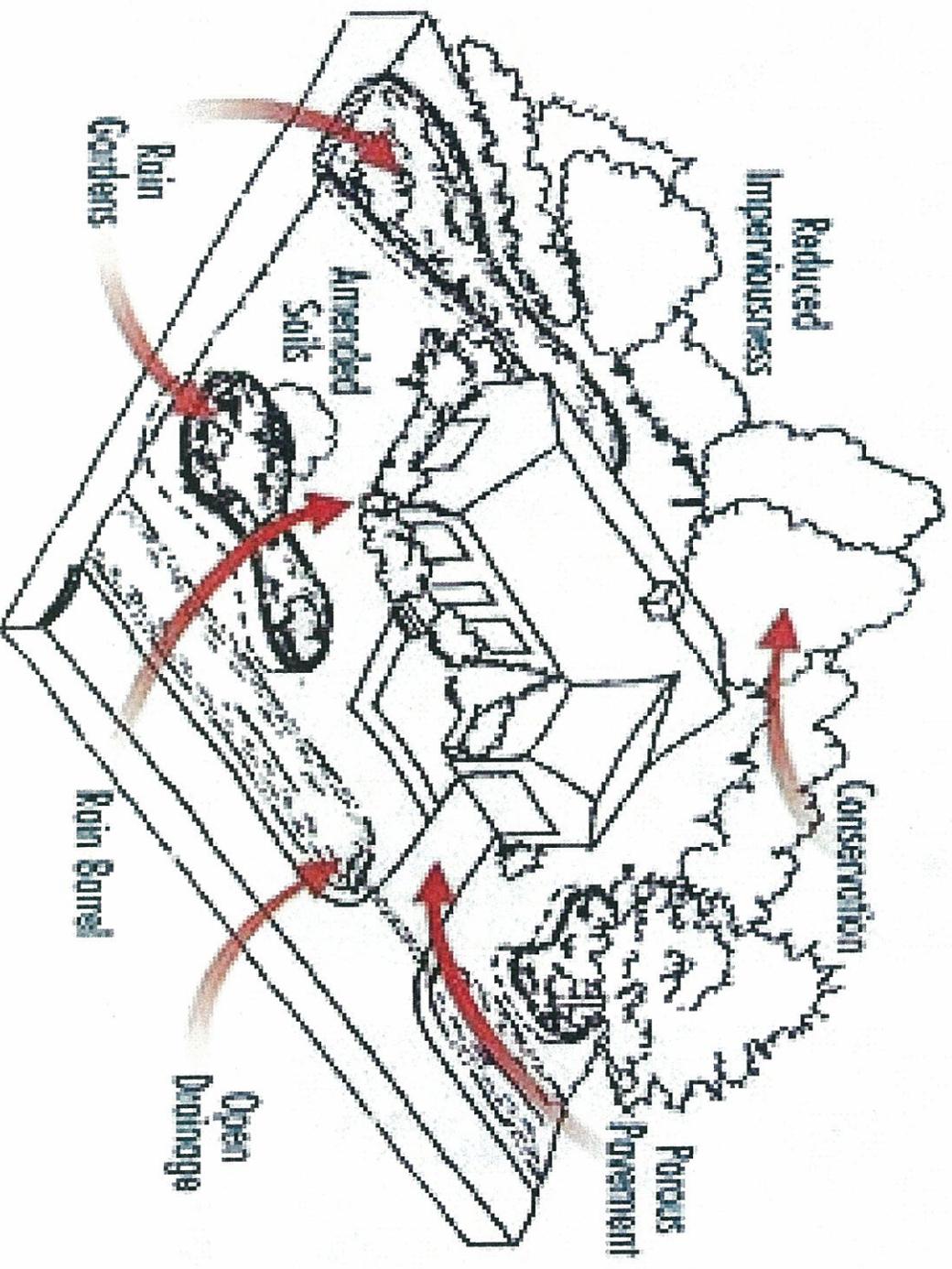
**Conventional
Design**



**Conservation
Design**

Site Scale

Low Impact Development (LID)



Implementation Strategy

Goal

Maintain our community's character...

Actions

A: Revise Land Use Ordinances / Zoning

B: Improve Ordinances and Development Rules

C: Conserve Priority Lands

D: Restore Vital Resources

E: Build Awareness and Engagement

Responsible Party

Schedule

2007
2008
2009
2010
2011

2007
2008
2009
2010
2011

2007
2008
2009
2010
2011

2007
2008
2009
2010
2011

2007
2008
2009
2010
2011



Resources

- Resources
 - Land Preservation and Conservation
 - Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 - Department of Conservation and Recreation
 - Department of Forestry
 - Land Trusts (*Ex: Virginia Outdoors Foundation*)
 - Planning Education
 - Public (*Ex: VDACS, VCE, DCR, DOF*)
 - Municipal (*Ex: PlanVirginia, VCE*)
 - Professional (*Ex: American Planning Association*)