

#### **SmartConservation**

- ♦ Original Purpose → Evolution of Purpose
- **♦ Overview of Program Structure**



Ecoregional Green Infrastructure



Web-based
Site Assessment &
Prioritization Tool



# Smart Conservation Components

- 1. Ecoregional Surface Mapping Prioritizations
- 2. Ecoregional Ecological Infrastructure & Greenways
- 3. Site to site web-based assessment & prioritization tool, including:
  - a. Preliminary assessment (Ph 1)
  - b. Detailed assessment (Ph 2)

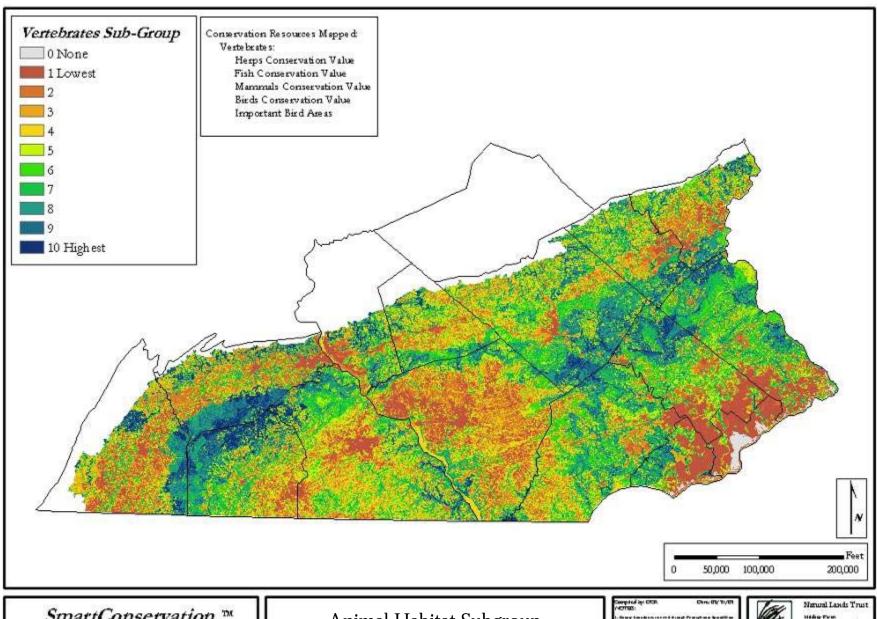




#### - ONE -

# SmartConservation mapping prioritizations



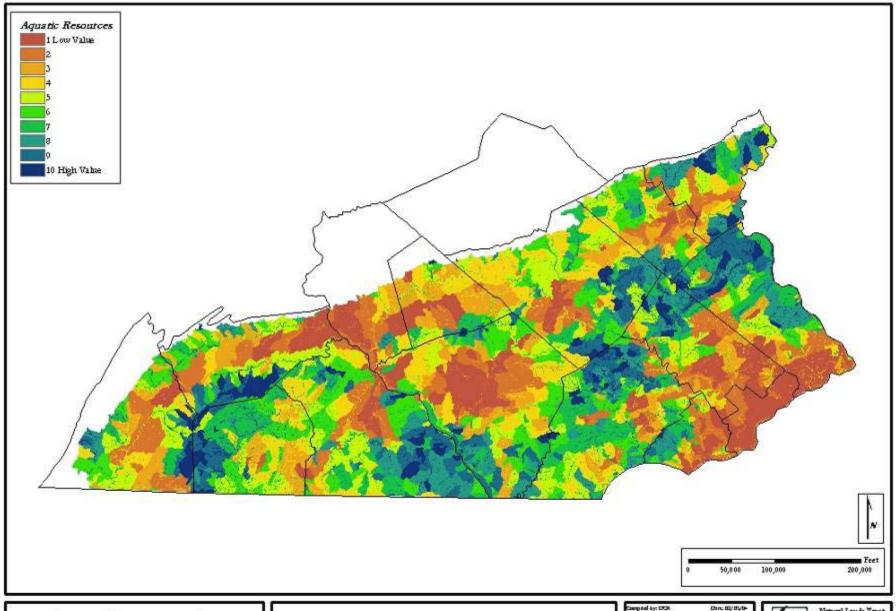


SmartConservation \*\*\*

Expanded Piedmont Ecoregion

Animal Habitat Subgroup





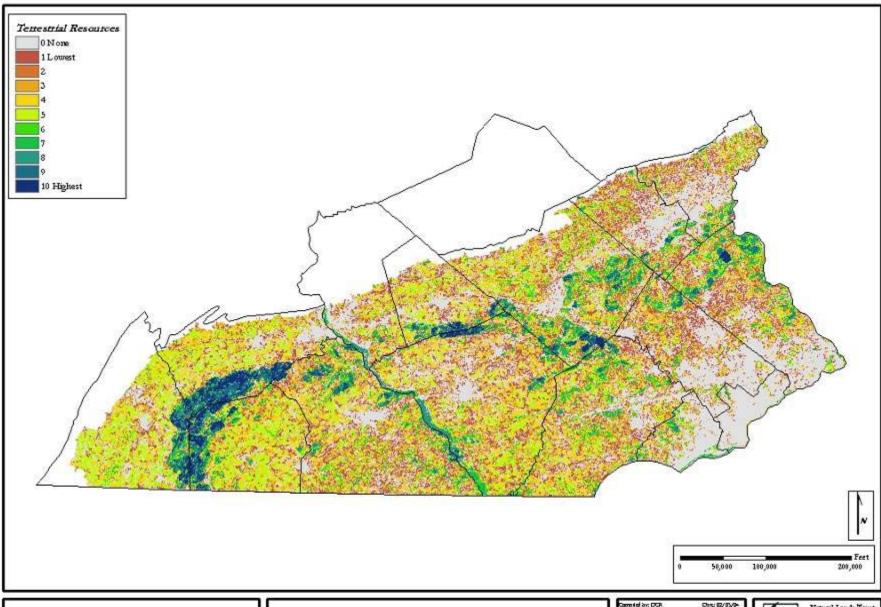
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Expanded Piedmont Ecoregion

Aquatic Resources Subgroup



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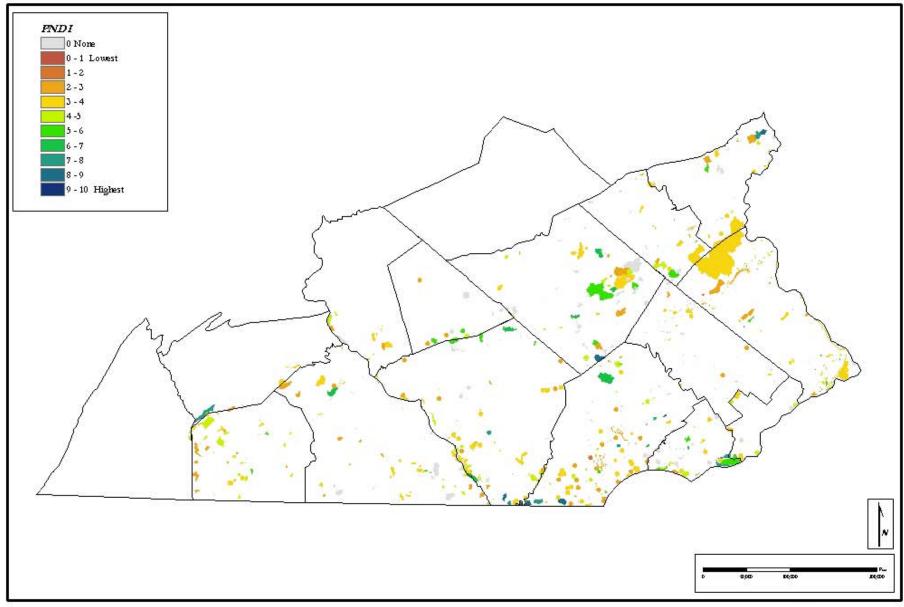
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Expanded Piedmont Ecoregion

Terrestrial Resources Subgroup







SmartConservation \*\*\*

Expanded Piedmont Ecoregion

Rarity (CNAI – 2002) Compiled by: CCR.

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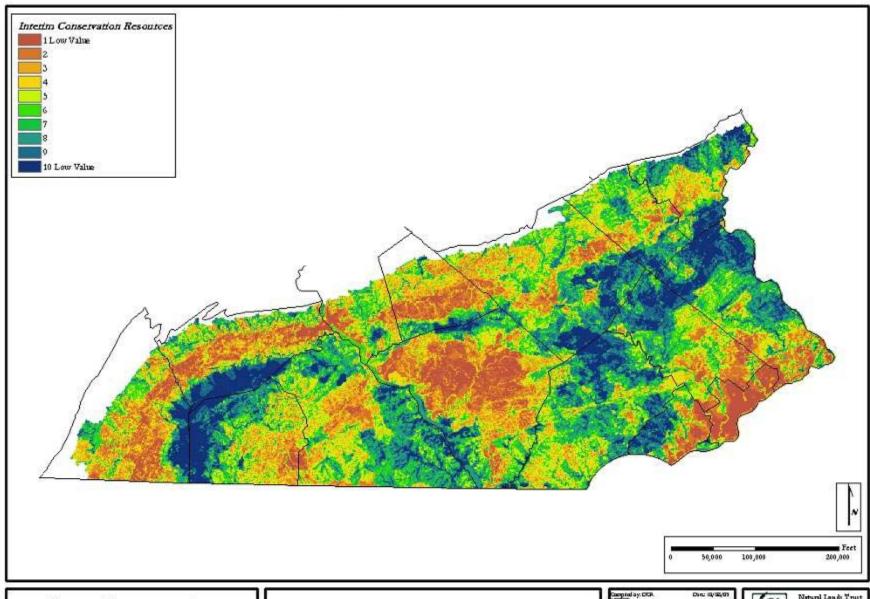
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Expanded Piedmont Ecoregion

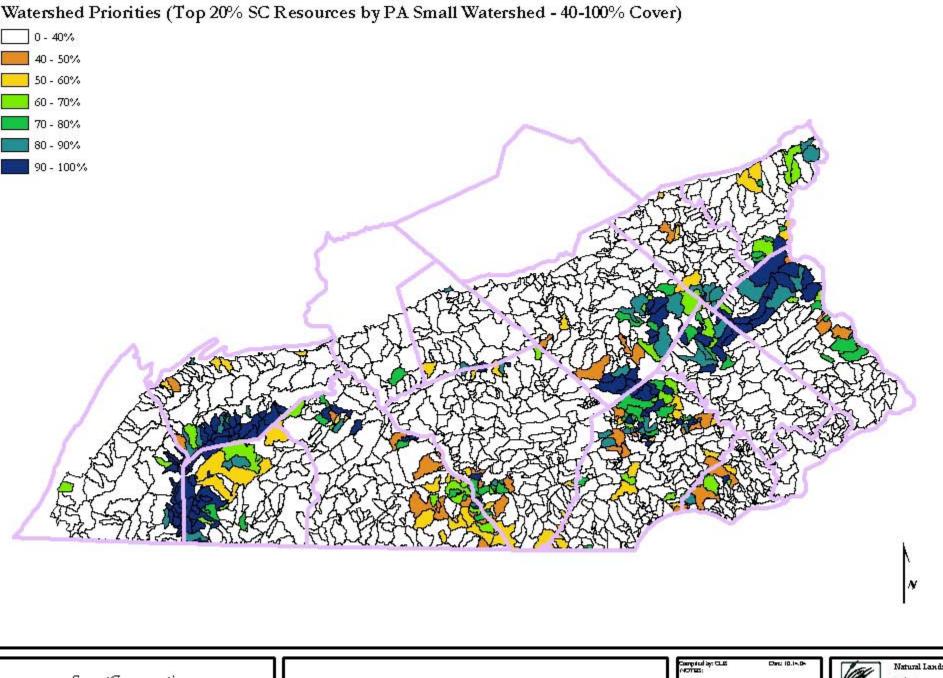
Composite Conservation Resources

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Witness and organization

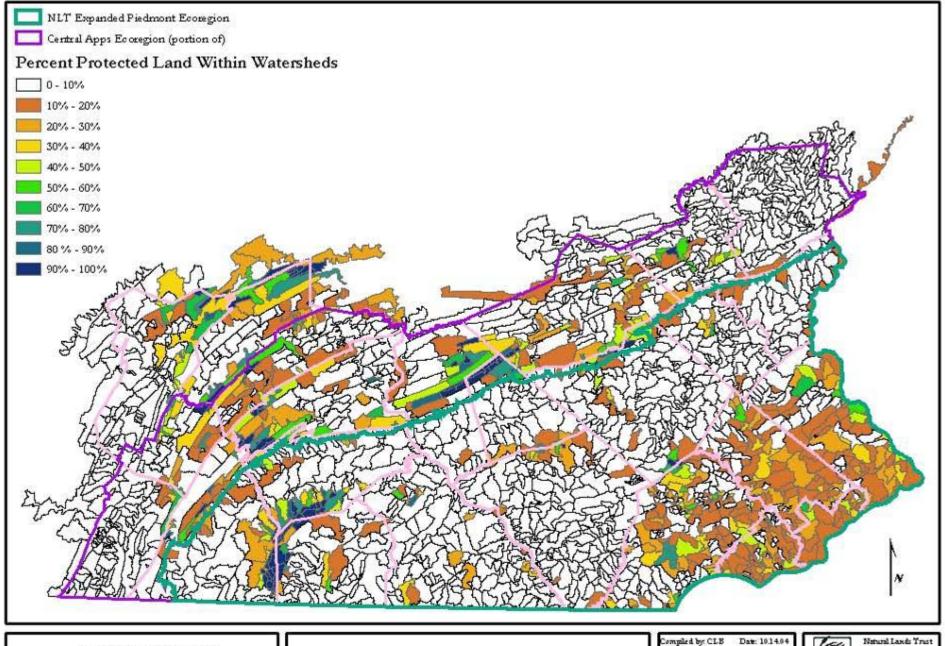


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Protection Status of Watersheds



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#### **SmartConservation**

Ecoregional
Ecological Infrastructure
Greenways



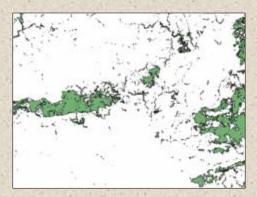
### **Creating Nodes**



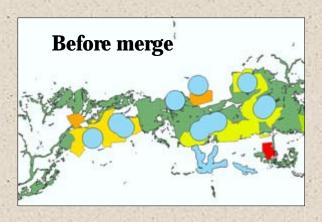
Protected Lands



Rarity

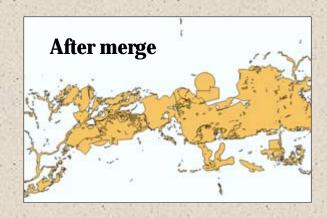


**Best Regional Cons. Resources** 



merge

Merged Nodes RANKED 0-10





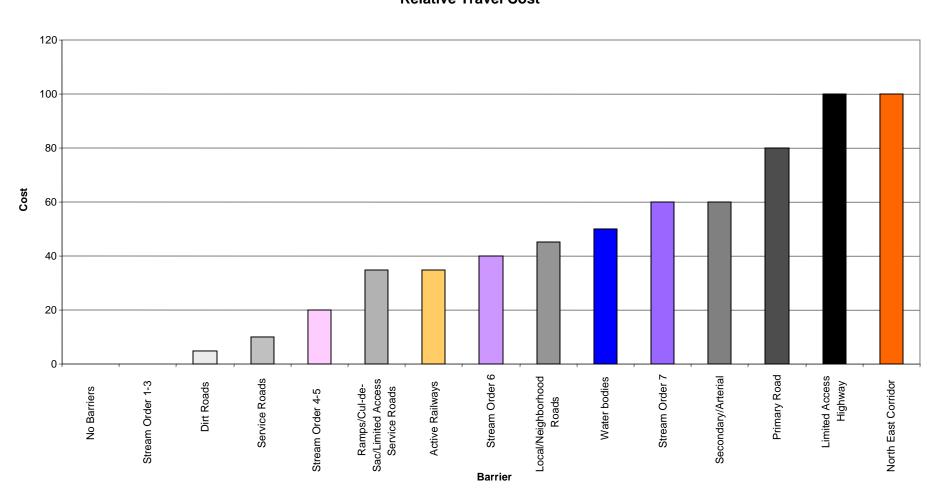
## **Barrier Type & Density**

- 1. Roads
- 2. Active Railways
- 3. Streams
- 4. Waterbodies

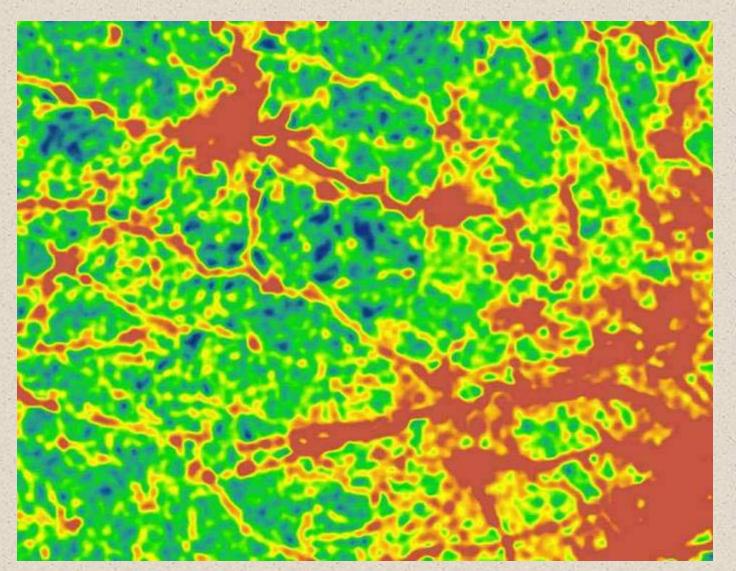
Barrier Type and Density
each contributes 50% towards the
Barrier Cost Surface

# Travel Cost (Barriers) by Type & Class





### **Barrier Density**



Barrier Density calculation with 1,000m Smoothing

(note that each of the corridor hierarchies uses the corresponding density barrier layer:

e.g. 1000-acre nodes analysis uses 1000m density, 500-acre node analysis uses 500m barrier density, etc.)

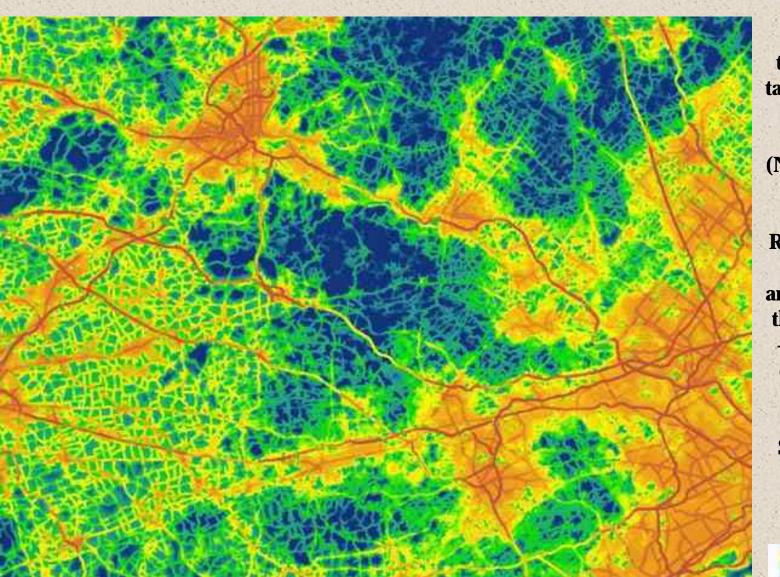


# But The Real Work is Greenway Corridor Development

- How can we connect the nodes?
  Where are the corridors?
- How do we find and use the
   Highest Conservation Values,
   Lowest Barrier Values &
   Attraction of Nodes?

Best Corridor Routes = Barriers - (Conservation Value + Node Proximity)

#### **Modified Cost Surface**



**Modify** the cost surface by taking the maximum value across 10 cells (1000-ft) (NeighborhoodMax) - so values across the entire **RECOMMENDED** corridor width are used to establish the Least Cost Path - not just the value of one cell (100-ft)

SNOW PLOUGH vs SNOW SHOVEL

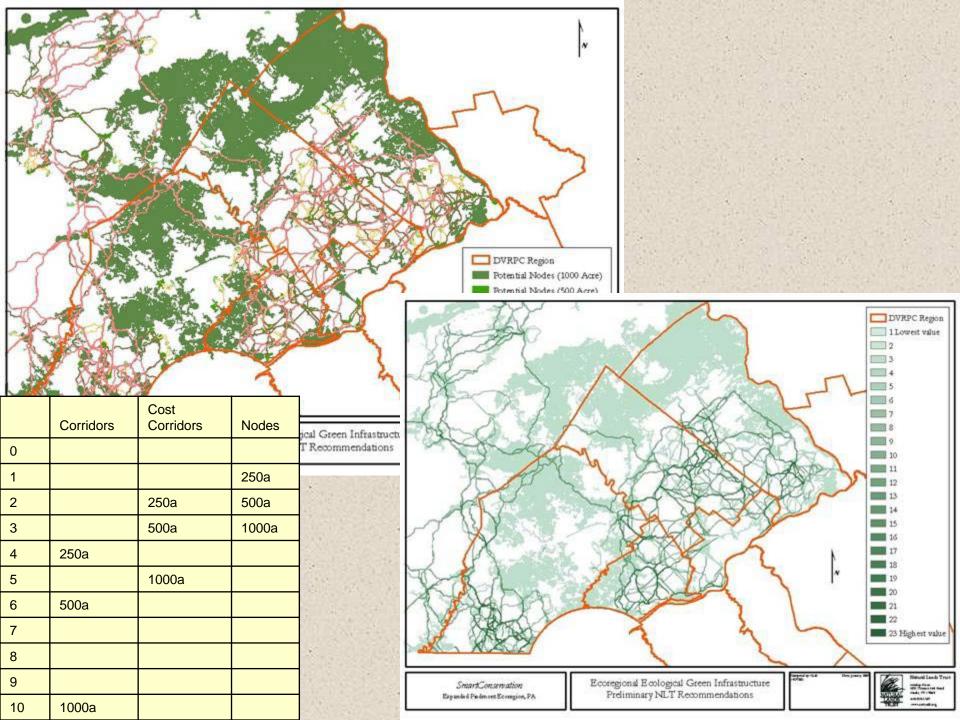


### Regional Ecological Corridor Network

#### **Concept - Corridor Network Hierarchy**

Establish corridors between connecting nodes of various sizes.

Network Hierarchy	Node Size	Search Radius/ Analysis Zone
Regional	>1000 acres	20 miles
Sub-Regional	>500 acres	8 miles
Local	>250 acres	4 miles



### Regional Ecological Corridor Network

#### **Enhancements - Manual Upgrades & Refinements**

- 1. Restoration Corridors
  sited where gaps in automated network considered too large biologically
- 2. Aquatic Corridors
- 3. Substitution Recommendations Potential Barrier Crossings
- 4. Prioritizing Nodes & Corridors

e.g. Least critical

Most critical

nodes broadest cost corridor narrowest cost corridors corridors w/1000ft buffer only

- 5. Rank Corridors
  - i. By number of times corridor selected between different nodes
  - ii. By corridor value
- 6. 'Edge Effects' of analysis need to be acknowledged



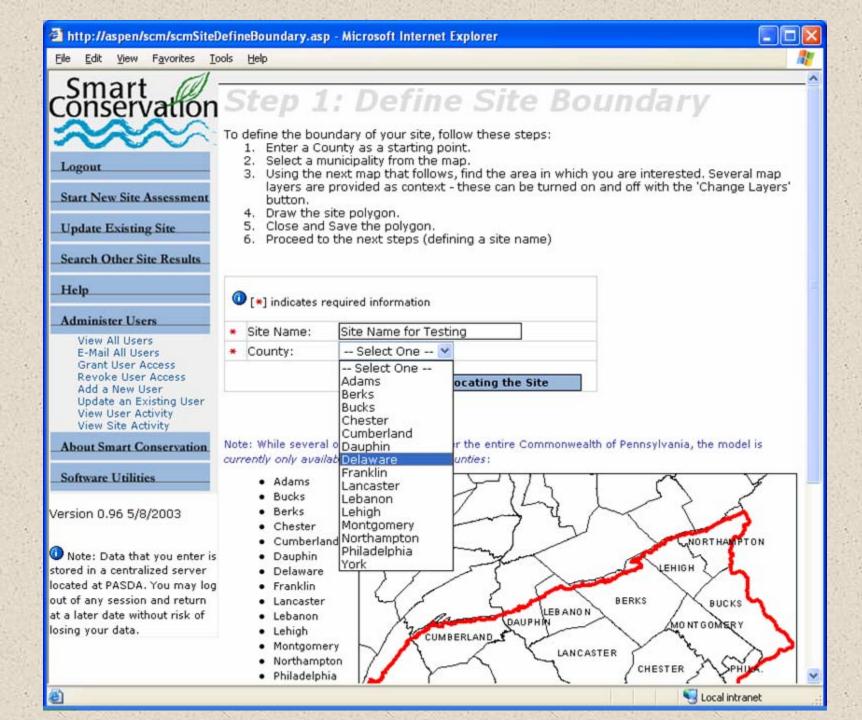
#### **SmartConservation**

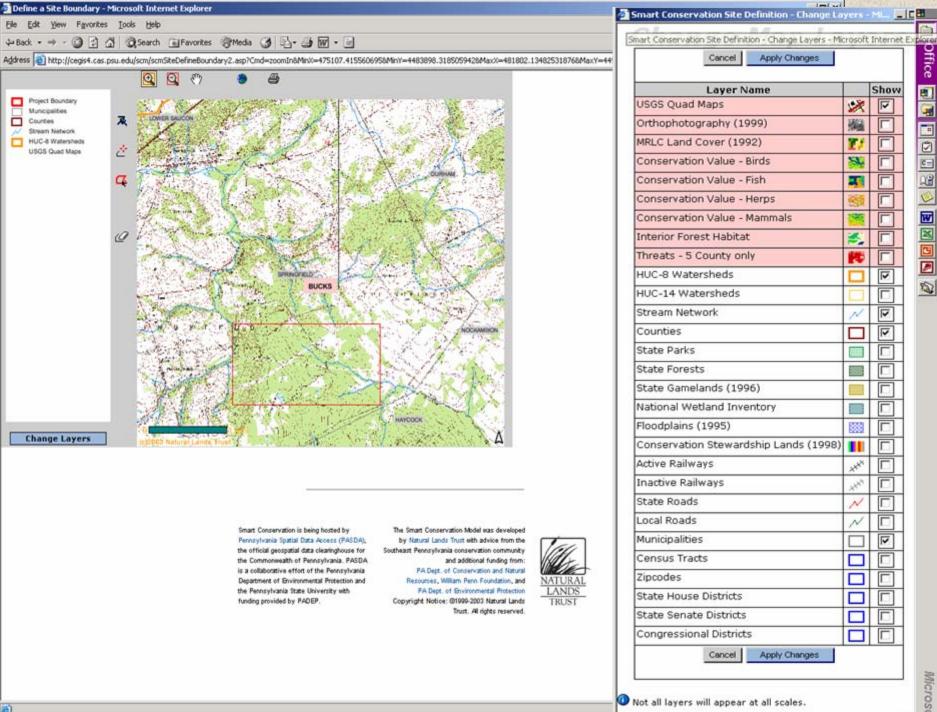
# Site-to-Site Assessments & Prioritizations

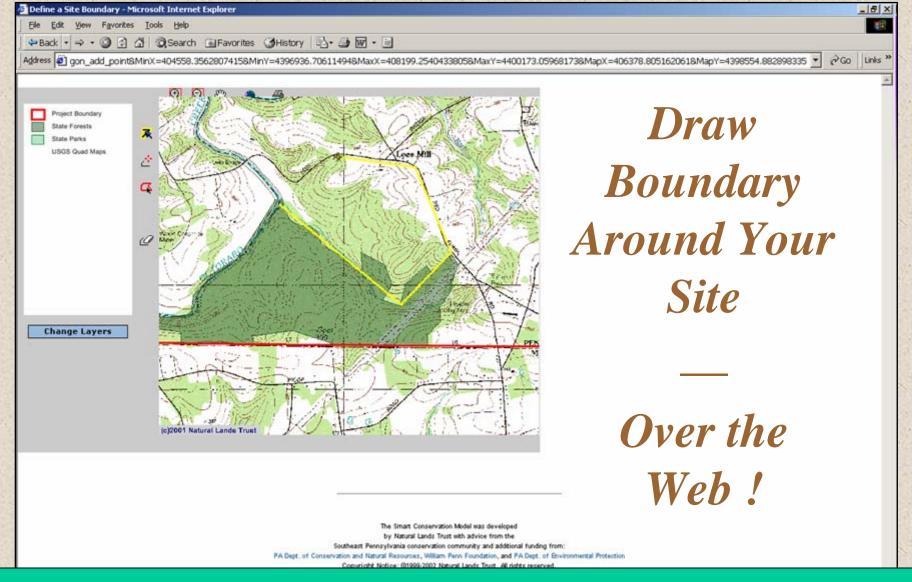
as well as data distribution/housing

"SmartConserver"









SmartConservation Phase 1 - Groundtruthing fieldwork - 1 day - \$1.5K per site

**SmartConservation** Phase 2 – Expert Groundtruthing fieldwork –\$15K per site

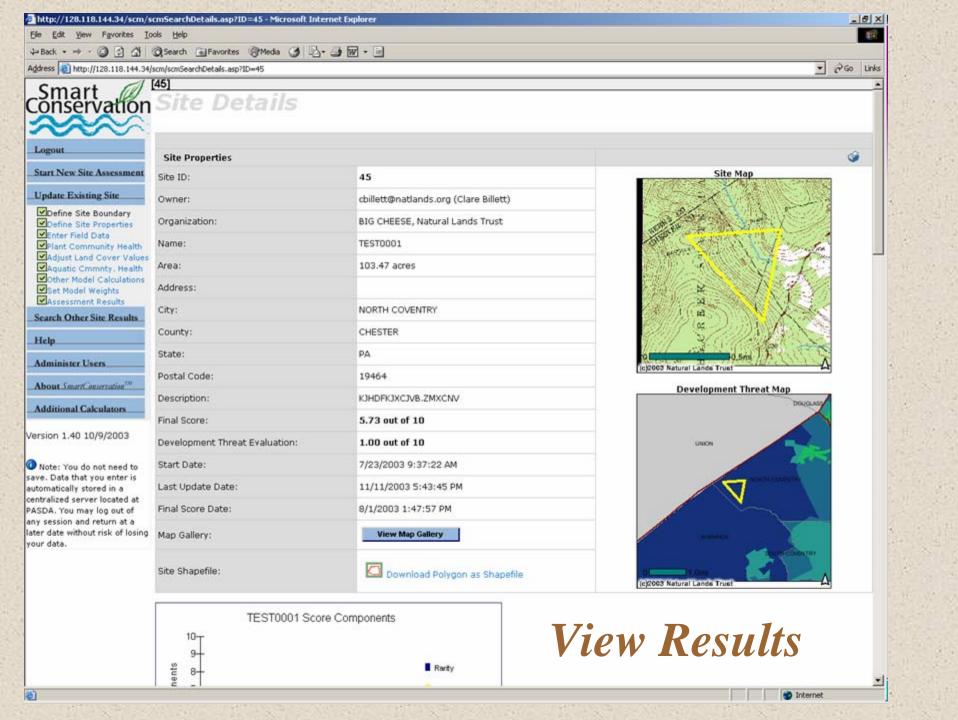
SmartConservation Lite - GIS analysis only - NO FIELDWORK - coming soon!

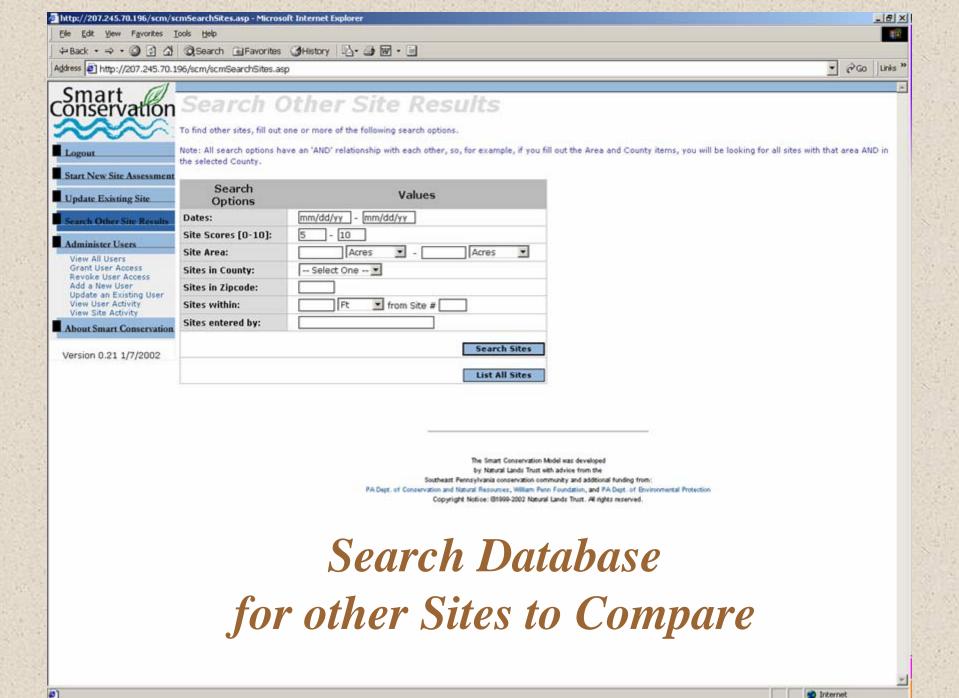
## Review Model Weights & Scores

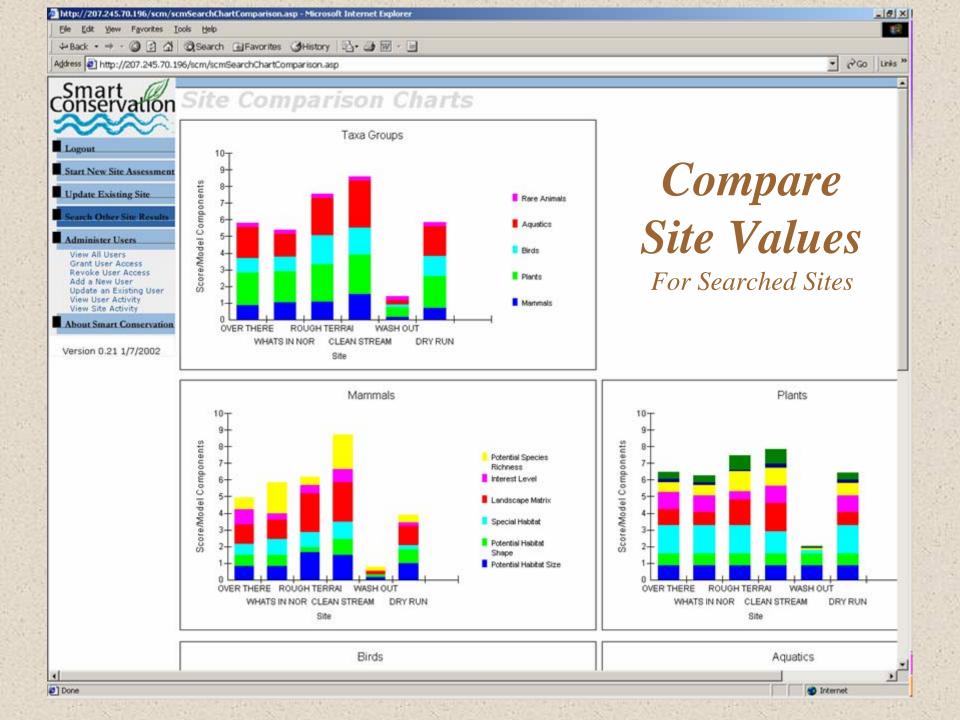
Model Component	Weight [1-100]		Score [1-10]
Mammals	15	_	4.496
Potential Habitat Size	17	_	0.010
Potential Habitat Shape	13	-	5.506
Special Habitat	13	-	7.000
Landscape Matrix	23.5	_	5.613
Interest Level	10	-	9.000
Potential Species Richness	13.5	-	2.764
Potential Conservation Value	10	-	2.764
Plants	20	_	5.472
Non-disturbance	17.2	_	7.777
Human	33.3	_	10.000
Invasive Plant	33.3		3.330
Deer	33.3		10.000
Community Diversity	10.3	-	10.000
Potential Habitat Size	12.1	-	0.010
Potential Habitat Shape	3.5		5.506
Landscape Matrix	8.6	•	3.109
Birds	15	-	2.164
Landscape Matrix	25	_	3.118
Potential Habitat Size	25	-	0.010
Potential Species Richness	25	-	2.764
Potential Conservation Value	25	_	2.764

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Aquatics	15	-	4.321
Riparian Corridor Cover	10	•	5.165
1st and 2nd Order	62.5		4.692
3rd, 4th and 5th Order	31.25	_	7.143
6th+ Order	6.25	•	0.000
Riparian Corridor Fragmentation	10	•	3.464
1st and 2nd Order	62.5		2,552
3rd, 4th and 5th Order	31.25	_	5.981
6th+ Order	6.25	•	0.000
Watershed Land Use	8	•	3.677
Aquatic Community Health	9	•	10.000
Location of Site in Watershed	9	•	1.147
Potential Species Richness	9	•	2.764
Potential Conservation Value	9	•	2.764
Wetland Inventory	9	•	5.033
Floodplains	9	•	0.980
Forested Water Quality	9	•	8.222
SteepSlopes	9	•	4.243
Reptiles and Amphibians	10	•	2.764
Potential Species Richness	50		2.764
Potential Conservation Value	50		2.764
Landscape Ecology	10	-	5.000
Stewardship Land Distance	50		5.000
Stewardship Land Density	50		5.000
Rarity	15	_	0.000

Customization - COMING SOON!





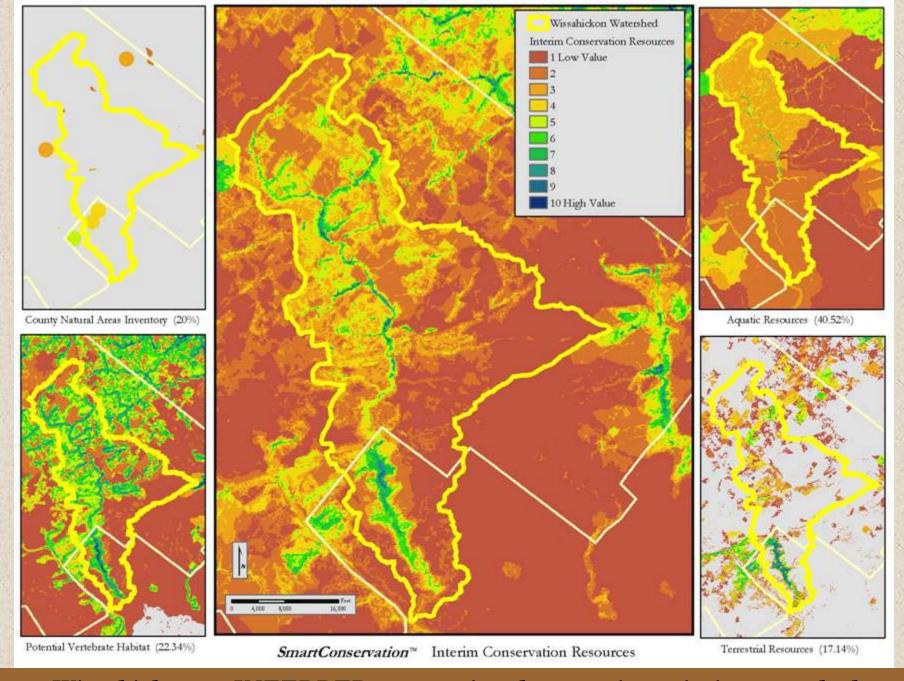




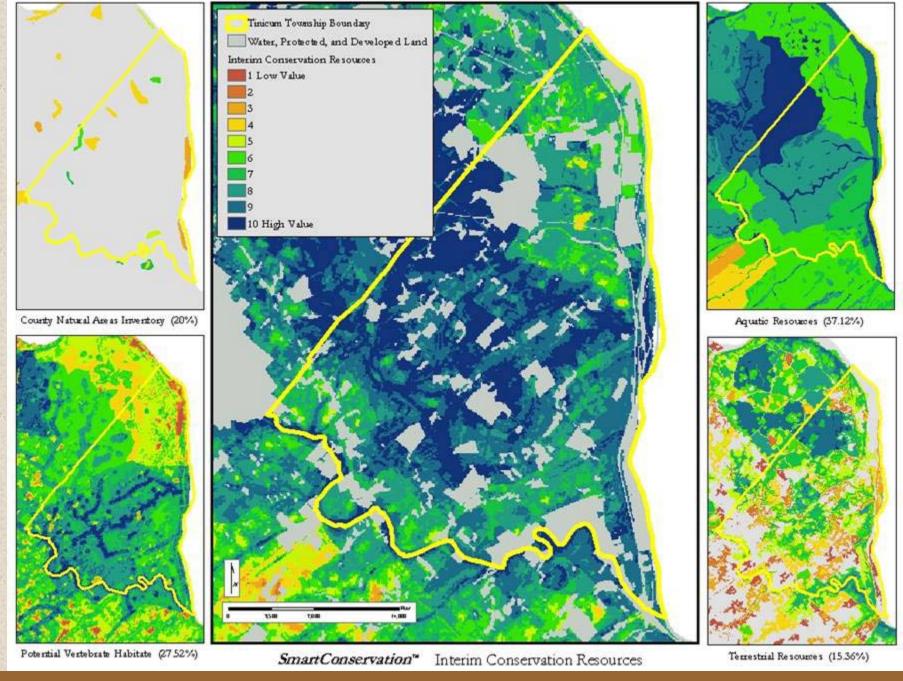
# SmartConservation mapping prioritizations

# APPLIED & IMPLEMENTED LOCALLY

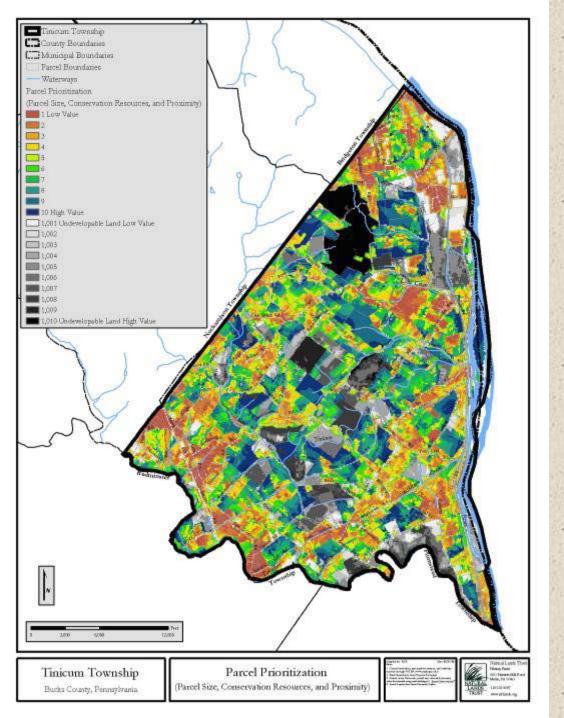




Wissahickon - INFERRED as a regional restoration priority watershed



Tinicum Twp - an Ecoregionally-significant protection priority



Additional Local Prioritizations:

Parcel Size

Proximity to Protected Lands

SmartConservation Resources

& Protected/Unprotected Status



#### **SmartConservation** Benefits

- ♦ Establishes *approximate* relative values for targeting scarce resources
- Reveals key resource information, in a consistent way
- Provides site and regional context
- Builds regional database of assessed sites
  - Higher Value → implies Protection
  - Lower Value → implies Restoration
- Works at multiple scales
- Provides both top-down mapping priorities
   & bottom-up implementation tools all in one web-based application
- ♦ Reduces the need for *LOCAL & desktop* GIS resources & expertise
- ♦ Has the potential for simplified, user-friendly and site-specific value-added GIS data distribution & download through a clip-zip-ship feature built into the website.
- ♦ Future: Phase 2 Empirical Rapid Bioassessment database can provide spatial & temporal trend analysis and indicators/threshold benchmarks.



#### Smart Conserver

online

www.smartconservation.org

**Questions?** 

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## FUNDING PROVIDED BY PA DCNR, PA DEP & The William Penn Foundation

NLT also acknowledges the generous support of PSU in hosting this application