

# Planning for Growth and Open Space Conservation

This webinar series is sponsored by:  
USDA Forest Service  
State and Private Forestry - Cooperative Forestry

Organized by  
Rick Pringle, Susan Stein, Sara Comas, Susan Guynn (Clemson University)  
and the  
Forest Service National Open Space Conservation Group



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# Learn About the Series

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## Listen to our past webinars:

- ▶ Session #9: Private land conservation programs from the Farm Bill: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and US Forest Service.
- ▶ Session #8: Landscape Conservation Initiatives: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ▶ Session #7: Science to inform Open Space Conservation: Land use changes, forest fragmentation, and the Wildland-Urban Interface
- ▶ Session #6: Facilitating Large Landscape Conservation Efforts: Working effectively across boundaries in the Northeast and Crown of the Continent
- ▶ Session #5: Local and Regional Land Trusts: Essential partners and the tools they provide
- ▶ Session #4: The Forest Service Toolbox: Conservation easement and land acquisition programs
- ▶ Session #3: Green Infrastructure Planning: Connecting partners and greenspaces
- ▶ Session #2: YES YOU CAN! Participating in Growth Planning Beyond the Green Line
- ▶ Session #1: National Forest Management in the Face of Housing Growth

Learn about future topics!



## Future Topics:

Please [register](#) in advance if you would like to attend these presentations.

- ▶ Session #11: An All Lands Approach to Ecosystem Services for Water

Submit feedback about the series!



Please submit your feedback [here](#)

# Learn About the Series

Click on the session titles for more info on recordings, slide presentations, and featured resources



## [Listen to our past webinars:](#)

### ▾ [Session #13: City and County Open Space Programs](#)

This program presents growth and open space conservation planning for cities and counties. Speakers will present the Trust for Public Land's Conservation Almanac and LandVote resources that are available online for researching conservation activities, and public funding for land conservation. We will also learn about open space conservation planning processes, ordinances, funding mechanisms, and partnerships employed in Missoula, Montana, and Baltimore County, Maryland.

- **Mary Bruce Alford Trust for Public Land**
- **Jackie Corday City of Missoula, Montana**
- **Don Outen Baltimore County, Maryland**

[Link to video presentation](#)

[Link to PDF Presentation](#)

[Link to resources from this webinar](#)

▸ [Session #12: Greening Grey Infrastructure: Federal Highway Administration's Eco-Logical Approach and Case Studies from National Forests in Ohio and Washington](#)

▸ [Session #11: An All Lands Approach to Ecosystem Services for Water](#)

▸ [Session #10: Tools for Conservation Planning](#)

# Webinar Resources and Tools



**USDA** United States Department of Agriculture  
**Forest Service**

## Open Space Conservation

Forest Service Home | About the Forest Service

Browse by Subject You are here: [Home](#) | Resources

- ▶ National Strategy
- ▶ Loss of Open Space
- ▶ Success Stories
- ▶ What the Forest Service can do!
- ▶ **Resources & Tools**
- ▶ Cooperating Across Boundaries
- ▶ Forests On The Edge
- ▶ Publications

### Resources and Tools

The resources and tools shared below correspond with topics from our [Planning for Growth and Open Space Conservation webinar series](#).

Want to add tools to this list? Contact [Rick Pringle](#) with a link

#### Legal Authorities for Forest Service Engagement in Open Space

- ▶ [Forest Service Handbook 1509 Grants and Agreements](#)
- ▶ [Partnership Guide](#)
- ▶ [Partnership Resource Center](#)
- ▶ [Principles of Ethical Conduct for Government Officers and Employees](#)

Find relevant resources for each webinar session here!  
If you have relevant resources to share please send them to us!

# *Session #18 – Planning for Climate Change Adaptation: forests, wildlife and land use*

*Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm Eastern*

**Dave Peterson**

*USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station*

**Bruce Stein**

*National Wildlife Federation*

**Phil Berke**

*University of North Carolina*



# Session #17: Conservation Planning Tools and Resources



**Scott Story**  
Western Governors'  
Association



**Kai Henifin**  
Conservation Biology  
Institute

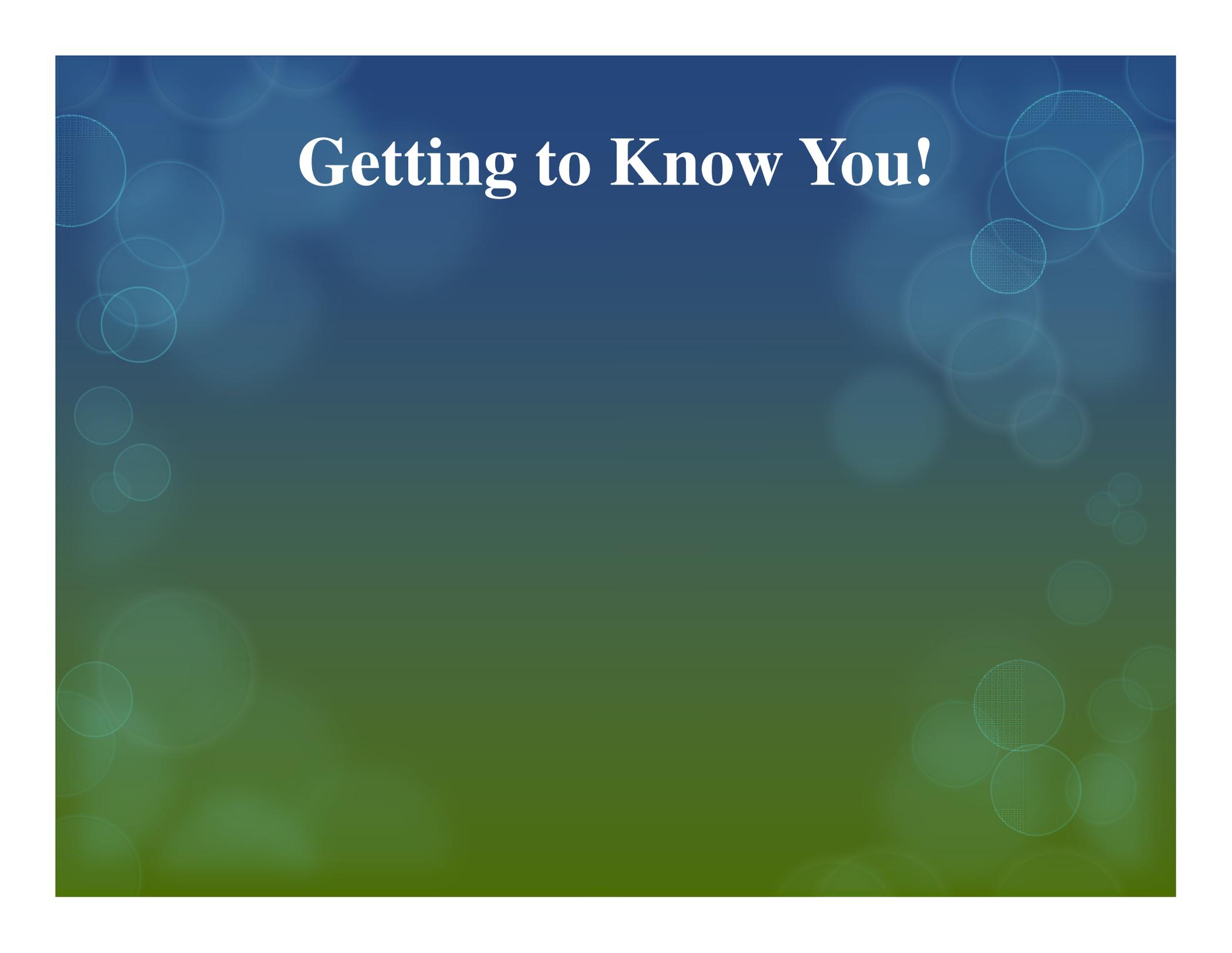


**Patrick Crist**  
NatureServe

# Logistics – Q&A

- **Continuing Education Credits**
  - Attend entire presentation
- **Questions for speakers – chat pod**
- **Technical difficulties – chat pod or email Susan Guynn: [SGUYNN@clemson.edu](mailto:SGUYNN@clemson.edu)**

# Getting to Know You!

The background of the slide features a vertical gradient from dark blue at the top to a vibrant green at the bottom. Scattered across this gradient are numerous overlapping circles of varying sizes and opacities. Some circles are solid, while others are semi-transparent, creating a layered, bokeh-like effect. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.



**Scott Story**

**Western Governors' Association**

# Using the Western Governor's Association *Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool* and State CHATs for Land Use Planning

Practical examples from the Montana  
State CHAT

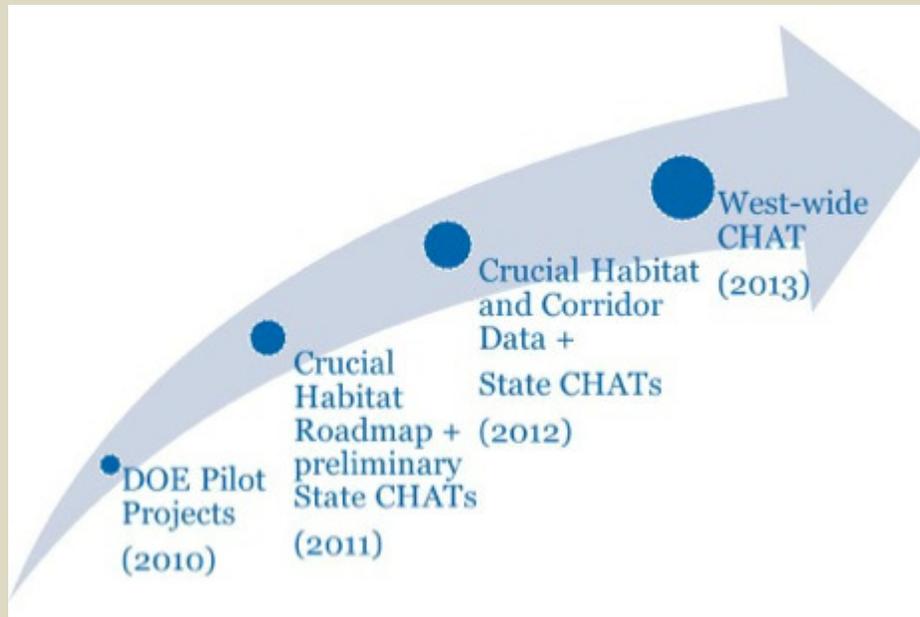
presented by

Scott Story, Montana State Library  
and Adam Messer, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks



# What is the WGA CHAT?

- Born of the Wildlife Corridors and Crucial Habitat Initiative
- Meant to provide for improved planning of large-scale development projects and land conservation opportunities spanning multiple jurisdictions across the west
- Uses a consistent regional approach for displaying important fish and wildlife values.



# Regional CHAT



# Landing Page



# State CHAT



# What Types of Data Will Be Available?

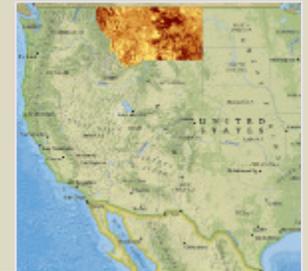
## 1) Quality Habitat for Species of Economic Importance

- Terrestrial Game Quality
- Game Fish Quality



## 2) Species & Habitat

- Terrestrial Species of Concern
- Watershed Integrity (Aquatic Surrogate)



## 3) Landscape Integrity (Large Intact Blocks)

- Areas with least human influence
- Varies by Eco-division (forest, grassland...)



## 4) Connectivity

- Landscape (not species) level
- Built on same foundation as Landscape Integrity



# Appropriate Uses of Regional and State CHATs

**“First Response”**: A Preliminary Look at Fish/Wildlife Resources in the Vicinity of a Potential Subdivision, Energy Development, Highway Improvement, or Conservation/Parks Project

**“First Look”**: A Preliminary Evaluation of What Fish/Wildlife Resources Might be Affected by a Proposed Development



# Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks

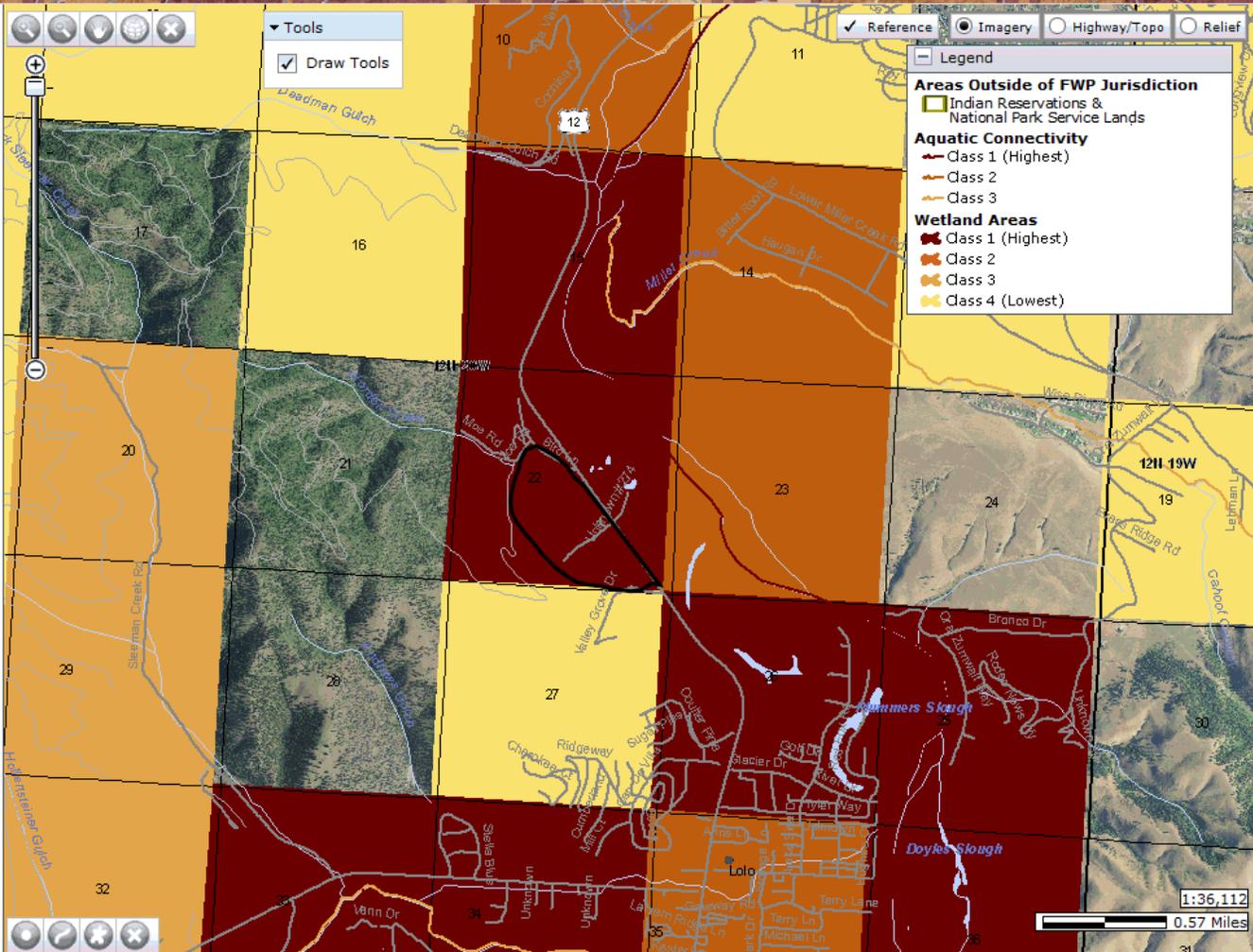
## CAPS: CRUCIAL AREAS PLANNING SYSTEM

- Crucial Areas Supporting Data
  - Aquatic Layers
    - Aquatic Connectivity
    - Fish Native Species Richness
    - Fish Species of Concern
    - Game Fish Quality
    - Game Fish Life History
  - Terrestrial Layers
  - Habitat Layers
    - Riparian Areas
    - Watershed Integrity
    - Wetland Areas
    - Wetland Areas Supporting
  - Development & Infrastructure Layers
  - Boundary and Other Layers

Adjust transparency value for:

Crucial Areas Layers  Other Layers

Transparent  Opaque





# CAPS: CRUCIAL AREAS PLANNING SYSTEM

- Crucial Areas Supporting Data
  - Aquatic Layers
  - Terrestrial Layers
    - Terrestrial Conservation Species
    - Terrestrial Species Richness**
    - Terrestrial Game Quality
    - Terrestrial Game Quality Contributing
  - Habitat Layers
  - Development & Infrastructure Layers
  - Boundary and Other Layers

Tools

Draw Tools

Reference  Imagery  Highway/Topo  Relief

Legend

**Areas Outside of FWP Jurisdiction**

- Indian Reservations & National Park Service Lands

**Terrestrial Species Richness**

- Class 1 (Highest)
- Class 2
- Class 3
- Class 4 (Lowest)

**Terrestrial Species Richness**

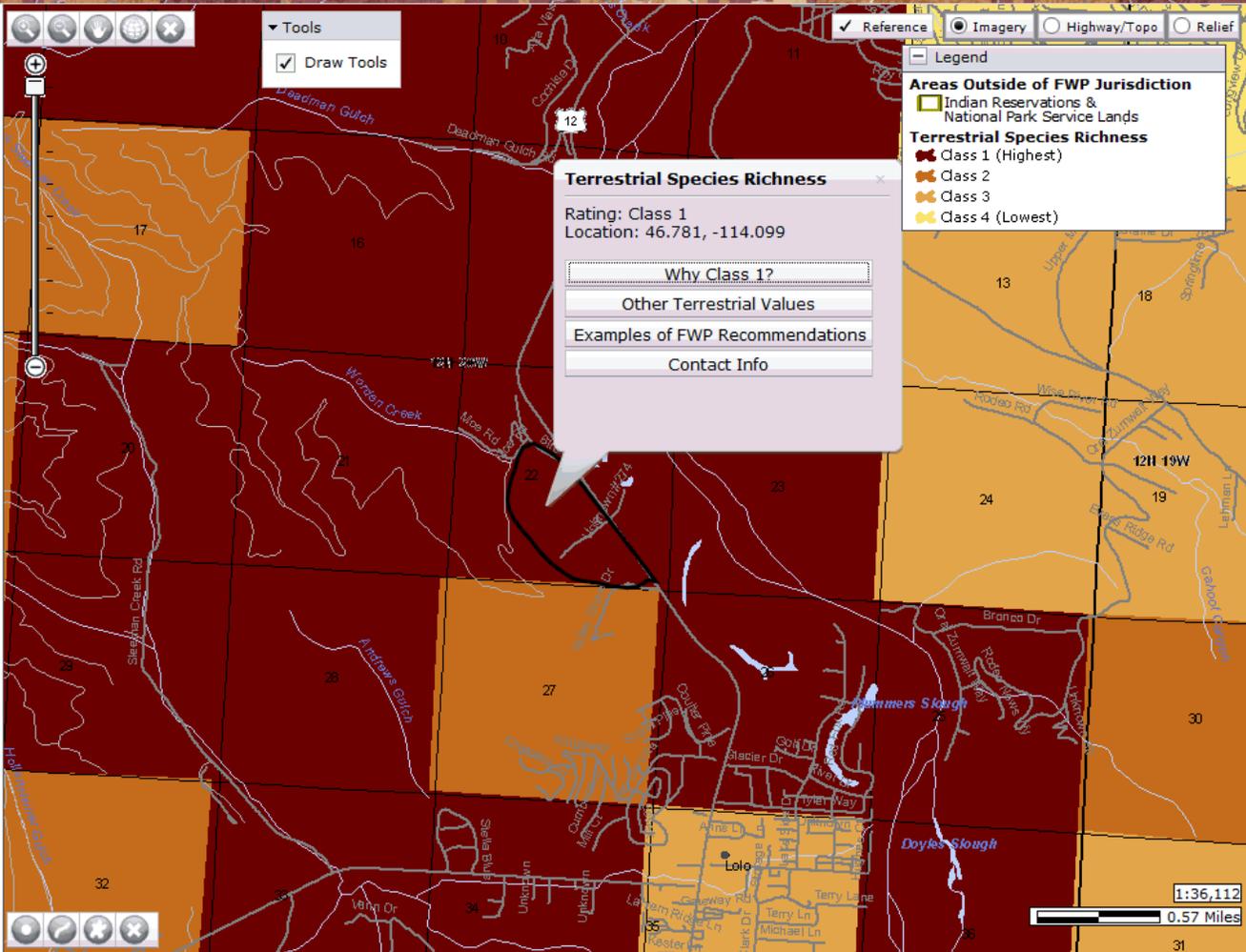
Rating: Class 1  
Location: 46.781, -114.099

Why Class 1?

Other Terrestrial Values

Examples of FWP Recommendations

Contact Info



Adjust transparency value for:

Crucial Areas Layers  Other Layers

Transparent  Opaque



# CAPS: CRUCIAL AREAS PLANNING SYSTEM

- [-] Crucial Areas Supporting Data
  - [+] Aquatic Layers
  - [-] Terrestrial Layers
    - Terrestrial Conservation Species
    - Terrestrial Species Richness
    - Terrestrial Game Quality
    - [+] Terrestrial Game Quality Contributing
  - [+] Habitat Layers
  - [+] Development & Infrastructure Layers
  - [+] Boundary and Other Layers

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**Terrestrial Species Richness**

Rating: Class 1  
 Location: 46.781, -114.099

Why Class 1?

Other Terrestrial Values

Examples of FWP Recommendations

Contact Info

**Why is this area a Class 1?**

Species Richness represents the average number of species associated with all ecological systems in a square mile section. The total section score is a result of multiplying the area of the section occupied by an ecological system times the number of species associated with that system (adjusted for species range). All native vertebrate species including amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals that are found year round or breed in the state were included. Plants and invertebrates were not included. Ecological System names link to the Montana Field Guide.

Ecological System	Area of Section	# of Species	Contribution to Score
<a href="#">Pasture/Hay</a>	22.2%	0	6.9%
<a href="#">Rocky Mountain Dry-Mesic Montane Mixed Conifer Forest</a>	10.6%	180	15.4%
<a href="#">Rocky Mountain Mesic Montane Mixed Conifer Forest</a>	7.2%	161	9.5%
<a href="#">Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland and Savanna</a>	1.4%	187	1.8%
<a href="#">Rocky Mountain Lower Montane, Foothill and Valley Grassland</a>	22.3%	159	17%
<a href="#">Northern Rocky Mountain Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland</a>	18.5%	280	46.4%
<a href="#">Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow</a>	2.7%	194	2.4%
<a href="#">Emergent Marsh</a>	0.6%	165	0.5%
<a href="#">Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Fen</a>	0.1%	107	0.1%

Adjust transparency value for:

Crucial Areas Layers  Other Layers

Transparent  Opaque





# CAPS: CRUCIAL AREAS PLANNING SYSTEM

- Crucial Areas Supporting Data
  - Aquatic Layers
  - Terrestrial Layers
    - Terrestrial Conservation Species
    - Terrestrial Species Richness**
    - Terrestrial Game Quality
    - Terrestrial Game Quality Contributing
  - Habitat Layers
  - Development & Infrastructure Layers
  - Boundary and Other Layers

Tools

Draw Tools

Reference  Imagery  Highway/Topo  Relief

Legend

**Areas Outside of FWP Jurisdiction**

- Indian Reservations & National Park Service Lands

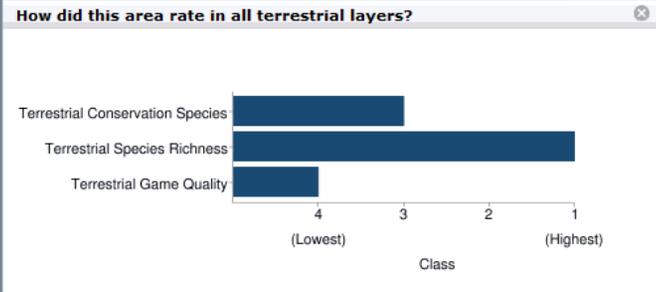
**Terrestrial Species Richness**

- Class 1 (Highest)
- Class 2
- Class 3
- Class 4 (Lowest)

**Terrestrial Species Richness**

Rating: Class 1  
Location: 46.781, -114.099

Why Class 1?  
Other Terrestrial Values  
Examples of FWP Recommendations  
Contact Info



Adjust transparency value for:

Crucial Areas Layers  Other Layers

Transparent  Opaque



Crucial Areas Supporting Data

- Aquatic Layers
- Terrestrial Layers
  - Terrestrial Conservation Species
  - Terrestrial Species Richness
  - Terrestrial Vegetation
- Habitat Layers
- Development
- Boundary and Other

Tools: Draw Tools

Reference Imagery Highway/Topo Relief

Legend: Areas Outside of FWP Jurisdiction, Indian Reservations & National Park Service Lands

**Examples of FWP Recommendations for Terrestrial Species Richness:**

The following recommendations are some **EXAMPLES** of what Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional staff might offer as guidance for development planning in this type of habitat. **To obtain specific recommendations for this area, please contact FWP Regional staff. Contact information is provided below.**

**FWP Objectives**

Minimize wildlife/human conflicts. Minimize habitat fragmentation. Maximize functional habitat. Maximize connectivity between seasonal ranges and between habitat fragments. Maintain FWP's ability to manage wildlife effectively. Protect areas with the highest biodiversity.

**FWP General Recommendations (Examples Only)**

- Maintain or restore natural vegetative buffer from water bodies, and provide an additional building setback. Tailor to type of waterbody. For example. Rivers: 250' buffer + 50' setback = 300' total (from ordinary high-water mark); Other Perennial Streams: 150' buffer + 50' setback = 200' total (from ordinary high-water mark); Other Water Bodies, including wetlands: 100' buffer + 30' setback = 130' total (from the defined boundary of a wetland or the high-water mark of intermittent streams, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs).
- Focus wildlife impact mitigation efforts on maintaining landscape permeability, the ability for species to move freely across the landscape.
- Conduct pre-construction and post-construction monitoring to evaluate effectiveness of impact mitigation efforts, and apply adaptive management techniques to increase effectiveness over time.
- Minimize development footprint by limiting the total area dedicated to houses, roads, and other infrastructure.
- Limit the number of stream crossings.
- Provide open space for animal movement, including travel between winter and summer ranges.

**FWP Recommendations Specific to Transportation (Examples Only)**

**FWP Recommendations Specific to Residential Growth (Examples Only)**

- Subdivision roads: Minimize road densities. Design roads to the minimum standard necessary to accommodate anticipated use and equipment. Minimize the extent of roadside vegetation disturbance. Minimize paving.
- Apply ecological principles and practices in site selection and project design (See [Building With Wildlife](#) publication).

**Contact Info:**

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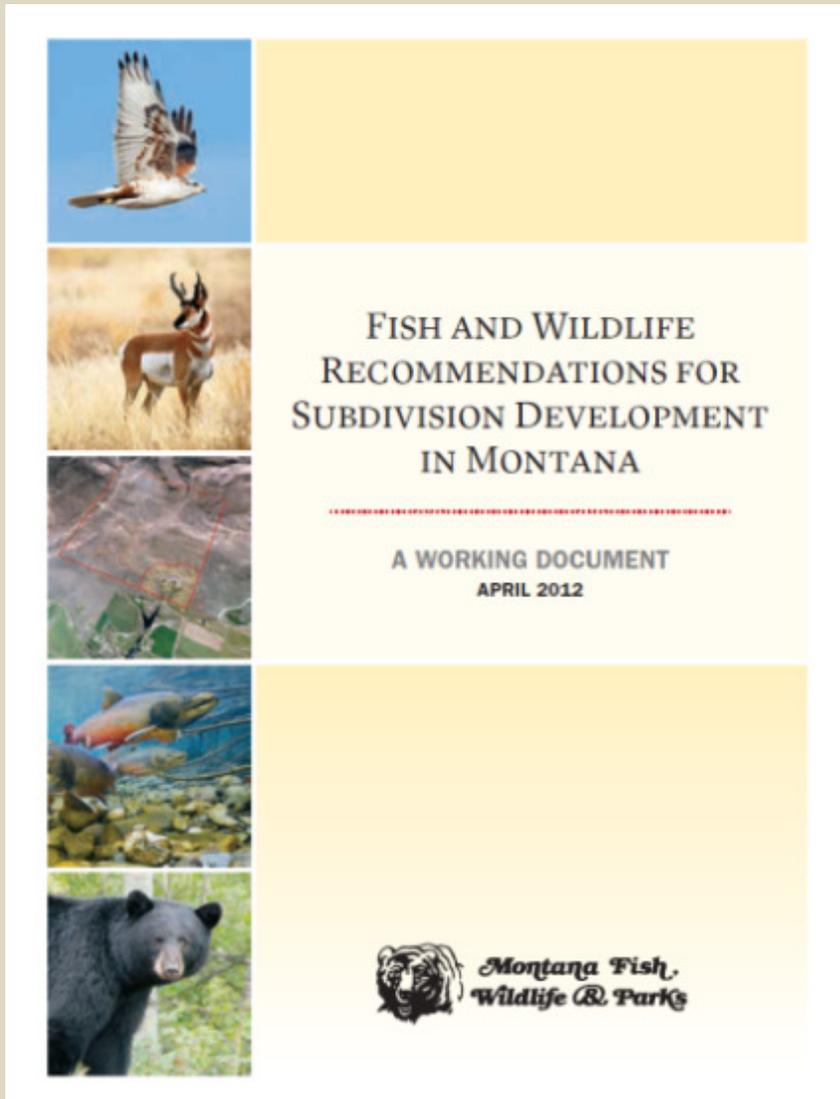
Crucial Areas Layers Other Layers

Transparent Opaque

StreamNet Montana State Library Natural Resource Information System MONTANA Natural Heritage Program

1:36,112 0.57 Miles

# Recommendations Help Increase Credibility and Usefulness



## B. Big Game Winter Range (see Appendix C.2 for supporting documentation)

### (1) List of Pertinent Definitions (see Section III for actual definitions)

Big game, development, existing development, habitat fragmentation, habitat patch, habituation, line of sight, linkage, problematic concentrations, professionally trained biologist, subdivision design features, summer range, and winter range.

### (2) Objectives

- ▶ Minimize habitat fragmentation and loss of winter range.
- ▶ Maintain the ability of big game animals to travel freely within a winter range habitat patch, and between winter range habitat patches and other seasonal ranges.
- ▶ Maintain FWP's ability to manage wildlife effectively and as non-habituated herds.
- ▶ Minimize the potential for subdivisions to lead to problematic concentrations of big game.
- ▶ Minimize wildlife/human conflicts, including negative impacts on adjacent properties (e.g., game damage on agricultural lands).

### (3) Recommended Approach to Subdivision Design

In designing the proposed subdivision, the subdivider is encouraged to follow the four steps outlined below.<sup>4</sup> Local FWP wildlife biologists are encouraged, when contacted by the subdivider or the subdivider's representative, to make time for the consultation described in subsections b. and c. below.

- a. Consult FWP's Crucial Areas Planning System (CAPS)<sup>5</sup> and/or other publicly available sources of wildlife habitat information, for a preliminary indication of whether the property proposed for subdivision may be located in or adjacent to big game winter range.
- b. Consult with the local FWP wildlife biologist, or other professionally trained biologist, to verify the preliminary assessment. If consulted, the FWP biologist should provide the subdivider with a written determination of whether or not the property proposed for subdivision is located in or adjacent to big game winter range.<sup>6</sup>

www.beaverheadcounty.c

www.beaverheadcounty.org/bc\_atlas\_012012\_new.pdf

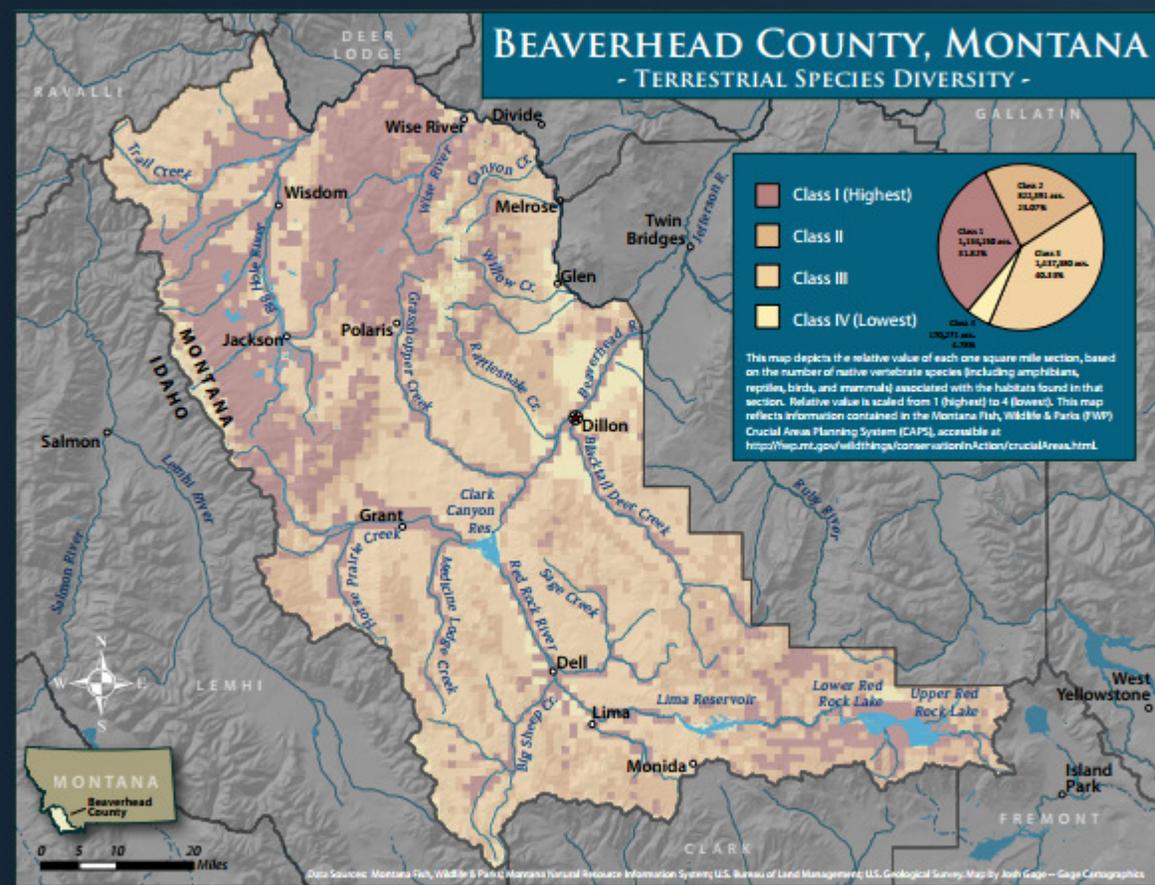




## Terrestrial Species Diversity

“Species Diversity” refers to the average number of Montana native terrestrial species associated with the habitats predicted to occur in each one-mile section. This information was drawn from Montana Natural Heritage Program’s (MNHP) database of which species find which habitats suitable.

Beaverhead County contains approximately half of the 81 habitat types found across Montana. Species diversity in the County ranges from a low of 8 predicted species in alpine vegetation found at highest elevations, to a high of 280 predicted species in riparian vegetation found along rivers and streams at lower elevations. Besides its riparian habitat, Beaverhead County’s communities of sagebrush steppe, conifer forests, and grasslands are also associated with many different terrestrial species.



Beaverhead County Atlas

### Wildlife Species of Concern



Townsend's Big-eared Bat  
- Kristi DuBois



Wolverine - Montana FWP



Black-tailed Jackrabbit  
- Kristi DuBois

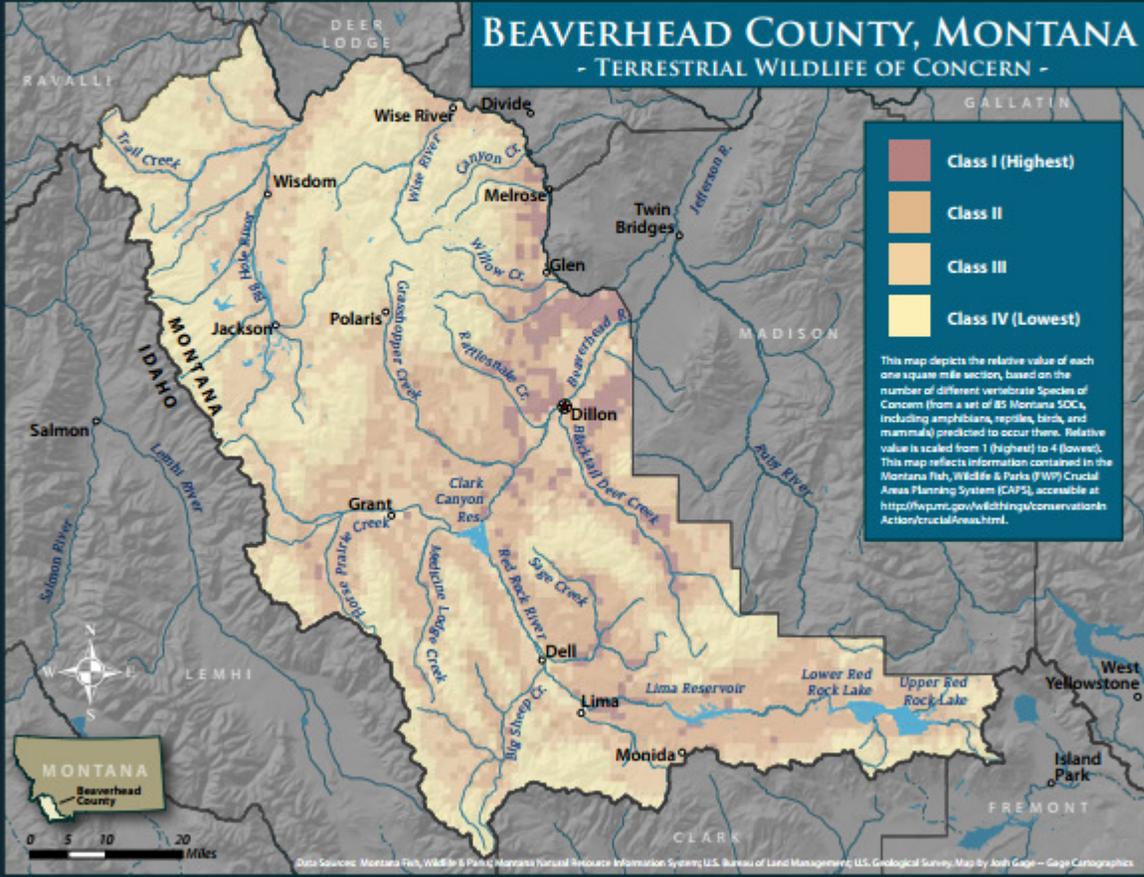


Ferruginous Hawk  
-Montana Natural Heritage Program

Montana's terrestrial "Species of Concern" (SOCs) are native amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals considered to be "at risk" due to declining population, threats to their habitats, and/or restricted distribution. The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) consults with Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) and other experts to make Montana SOC determinations. Montana's SOC list includes those species that are federally listed as Threatened or Endangered.

Beaverhead County is home to 38 terrestrial SOC. Thirty-one of these SOC are bird species, including Clark's nutcracker, Brewer's sparrow, Sage thrasher, Ferruginous hawk, Veery, and Northern goshawk. Non-bird SOC in Beaverhead County are Western toad, Townsend's big-eared bat, Black-tailed jack rabbit, Pygmy rabbit, Great Basin pocket mouse, Grizzly bear, Western spotted skunk and Wolverine

Class I sections rank in the top 18% of the state, for number of different SOC and highest level of concern. Class II sections represent the next 33%.

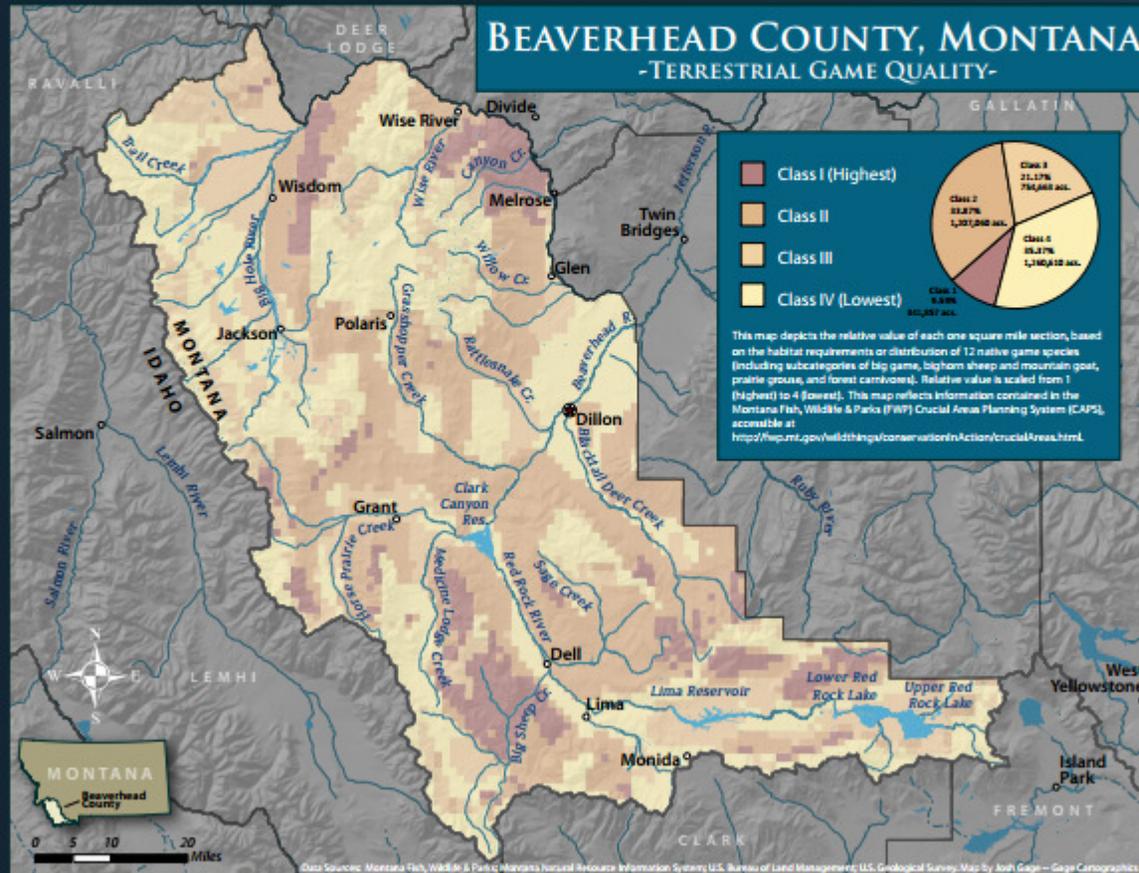




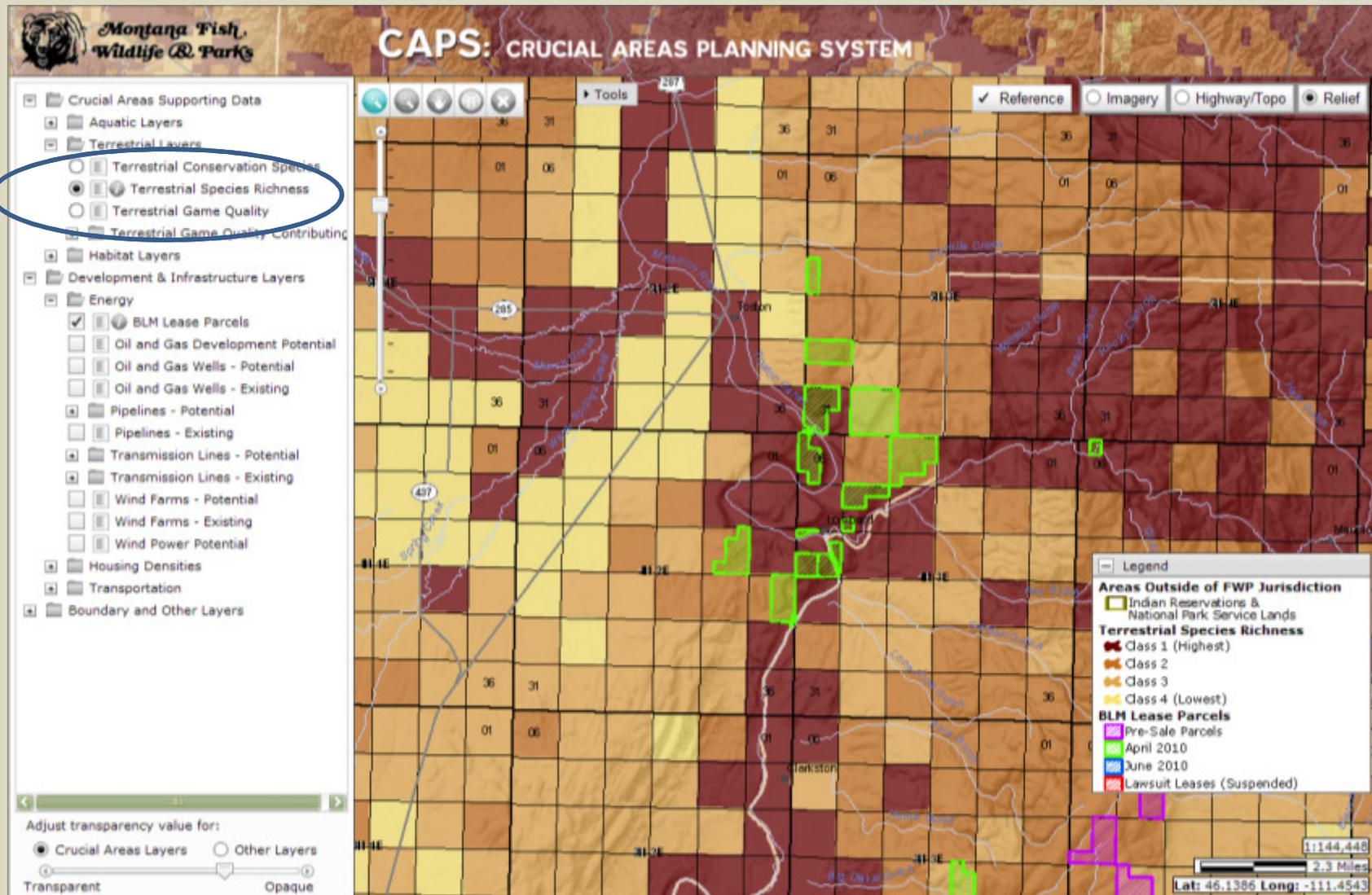
## Terrestrial Game Quality

Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks biologists used the presence and habitat requirements of 12 Montana native, terrestrial game (hunted or trapped) species to rank each one-mile section in the state according to its "Game Quality". The 12 species are: bighorn sheep, mountain goat, wolverine, fisher, marten, sage-grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, pronghorn antelope, elk, moose, mule deer, and white-tailed deer. All but fisher and sharp-tailed grouse can be found in Beaverhead County.

Class I sections rank in the top 4% of the state. Class II sections rank in the next 33%. Beaverhead County provides substantial Class I and Class II habitat for several game species, especially elk, pronghorn antelope, moose, and sage grouse.



# BLM Resource Management Plans and Oil & Gas Lease Reviews by MFWP



# Use of the Montana CHAT in Transportation Planning

- Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) *Corridor Planning Studies.*

- 2012-2016 MDT *Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.*



- 2012 draft under revision, FHWA. *Montana Forest Highway Long-Range Transportation Coordination Plan.*

- Citizen advocacy for wildlife connectivity: *Montanans for Safe Wildlife Passage.*





# Feedback We Have Received

- Easier integration of fish and wildlife values in review and acquisition
- Provide consistent approach and recommendations across state
- Decision support is “data driven”, creating more defensible and compelling argument
- Increases efficiency - areas of higher importance are clearly identified
- Allows the conversation to begin on a much higher level – County Planner
- Gives you a start in knowing who you have to contact for further information. Gives you a good broad-scale look.
- Makes a large amount of information available in one place and it is easy to access.



# Parting Thoughts



- Working Across Multiple Scales
  - Regional (cross-jurisdictional) Planning
  - Move to state CHATs for more localized planning
  - Consult with biologists\ecologists on the ground!
- Examine Different Wildlife Values
  - Species in greatest need of conservation
  - Species valued for their economic contribution and cultural significance
- Apply the Tools
  - Get stakeholders to incorporate the data into planning & review processes
  - Facilitate the pursuit of more detailed inquiry
  - Provide recommendations
- WGA Regional CHAT will be launched publicly in **December 2013**
- Several state CHATs are already available
- Use the CHAT data in conjunction with other datasets and tools



# Resources and Contacts

## Web Sites

- [Western Governor's Association - Initiative on Wildlife Corridors and Crucial Habitat](#)
- [Montana's Crucial Areas Planning System](#)
- [Living With Wildlife - Montana Subdivision Recommendations](#)
- [Beaverhead County Atlas](#)

## Western Governor's Association

Carlee Brown · [cbrown@westgov.org](mailto:cbrown@westgov.org) · 303-623-9378

## Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Paul Sihler · Field Services Supervisor · [psihler@mt.gov](mailto:psihler@mt.gov) · 406-444-3196 · (policy)

Rob Brooks · Strategic Planner · [robrooks@mt.gov](mailto:robrooks@mt.gov) · 406-444-5786 (implementation)

Lydia Bailey · GIS Manager · [lbailey@mt.gov](mailto:lbailey@mt.gov) · 406-444-5365 (technical)





**Kai Henifin**  
**Conservation Biology Institute**



# Creating Custom Solutions for Conservation Planning: Using Data Basin and Protected Areas Data

Kai Henifin

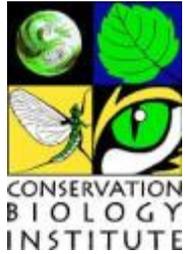
Cultural Ecologist & GIS Specialist

Conservation Open Space – August 21, 2013

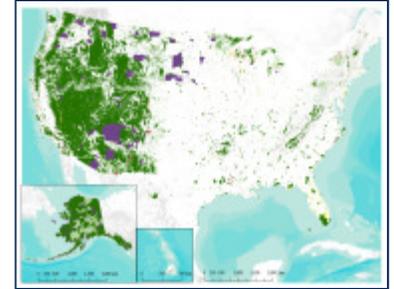


# Goals & Purpose

- Produce high quality protected areas datasets for the United States
- Design tools to give users access to protected areas data along with other conservation related datasets
- Customize tools and applications to address conservation planning needs using spatial datasets



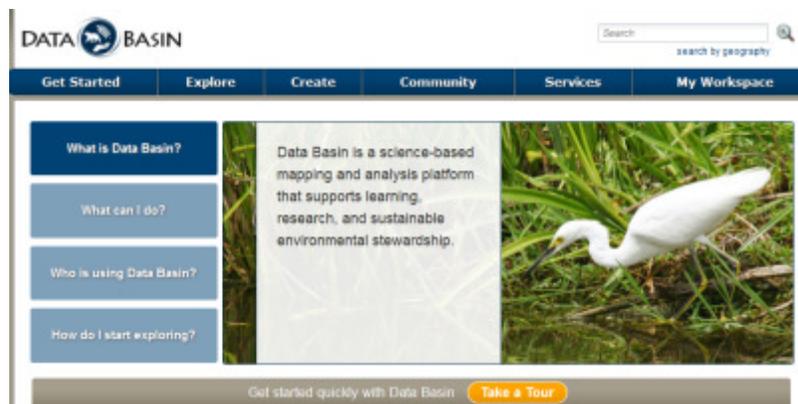
# Protected Areas Databases For the U.S.



- Protected Areas Database of the United States, PAD-US (CBI Edition) – released October 2012
- National Conservation Easement Database (NCED) – released July 2013
- Terrestrial Conservation Estate – available on Data Basin to download
- Protected Areas Database for Aviators (PAD-A) – released April 2010



# Open Access on Data Basin ([www.databasin.org](http://www.databasin.org))



- Search protected areas datasets
- Download data directly to your computer
- Visualize the data in a mapping viewer
- Create and share custom maps
- Use spatial tools for basic analysis



# Data Basin Gateways

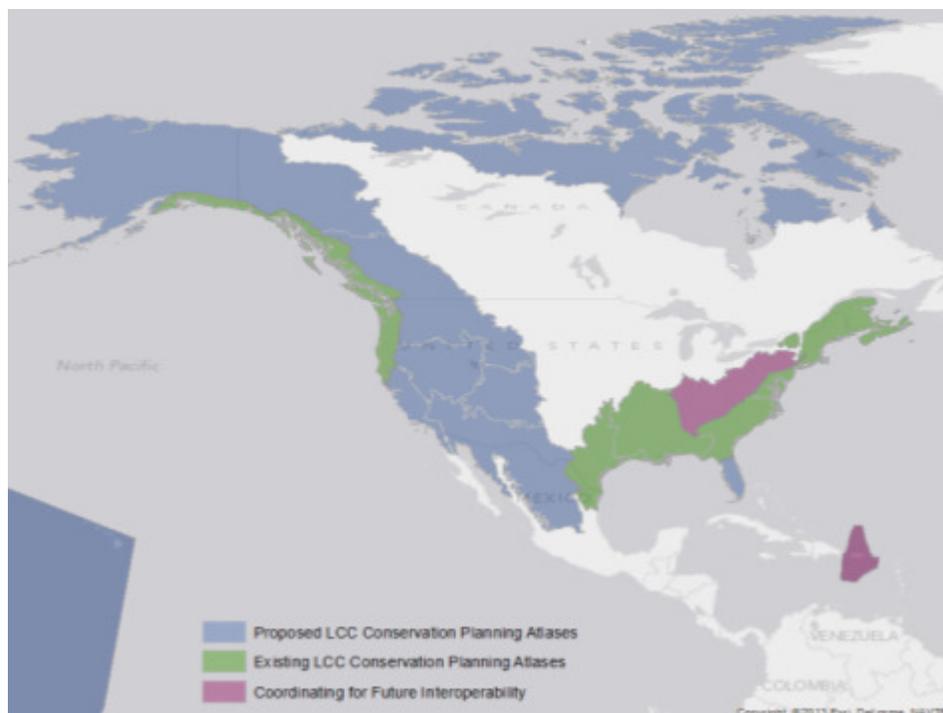
The screenshot shows the Yale Framework website. At the top left is the logo for the Conservation Biology Institute. The main header features the text "Yale Framework" in a blue serif font, with the tagline "INTEGRATING CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PLANNING" below it. To the right of the header is a search bar labeled "Search Yale Framework" with a magnifying glass icon and the text "search by geography" underneath. Below the search bar, it says "powered by DATA BASIN" with a circular logo. A dark blue navigation bar contains five tabs: "Get Started", "Explore", "Create", "Community", and "My Workspace". Below the navigation bar, there is a content area with a dark blue sidebar on the left containing three links: "What is the Yale Framework?", "What is included?", and "What can I do?". The main content area has a white background with a text block that reads: "The Yale Framework includes advice and tools to assist conservation planners in selecting the assessment and modeling strategies that fit their needs." To the right of this text is a photograph of a brown trout swimming in water.

- Customized pages
- Curated data, maps and publications
- Analysis tools to meet the needs of organizations and multi-institutional projects



# Custom Gateways for LCC

- Conservation Planning Atlases (CPAs) powered by Data Basin
  - South Atlantic
  - Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks
  - Southeast Region
  - North Atlantic
  - Gulf Coast Prairie
  - North Pacific





# Conservation Planning Atlases

- Allow users to find, visualize and perform basic spatial data analyses
- Serves data in a consistent manner and allows end-users to easily discover, access, and integrate existing data and tools
- Relies on both web services to expose data/tools that are maintained by remote providers and local storage for serving data/tools maintained in the system



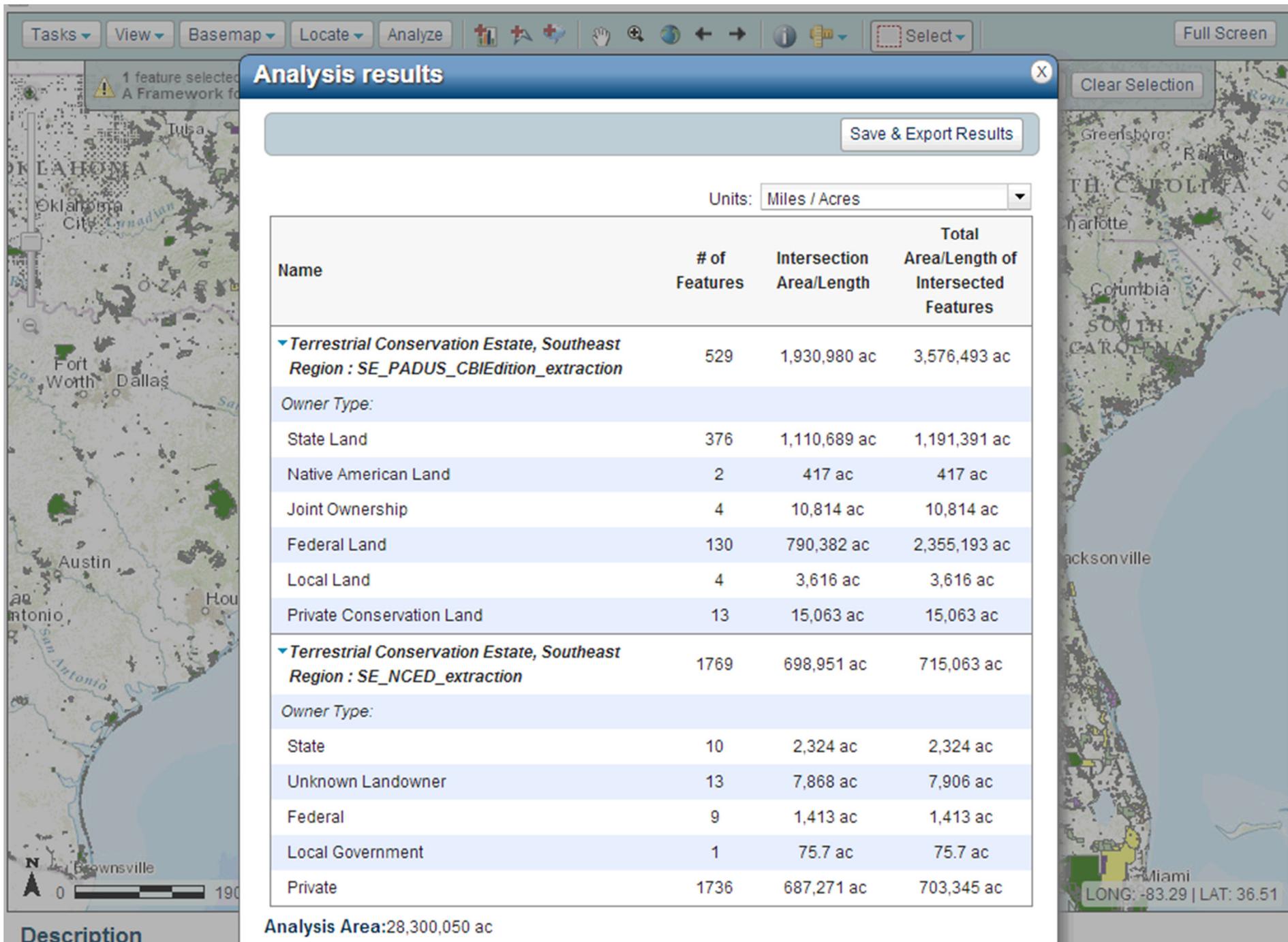
# Functions of CPA's

- Central location for data
- Increase connectivity even without direct coordination
- Users with out desktop GIS have access to basic GIS functionality



# Analysis Scenario

- Example from Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC
  - To use the CPA to access conservation activities in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV)
  - Find counties with land in the MAV Bird Conservation Region with greater than 10,000 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program
  - Find current protected fee lands within these counties





# Conclusion

- High quality protected areas datasets available for the United States
- Platform to access a rich library of spatial dataset including protected areas
- Custom tools and applications available to address conservation planning needs using spatial datasets



For more information please visit:

**Data Basin** [www.databasin.org](http://www.databasin.org)

**PAD-US (CBI Edition)**

[www.consbio.org/products/projects/pad-us-cbi-edition](http://www.consbio.org/products/projects/pad-us-cbi-edition)

**National Conservation Easement Database (NCED)**

[www.conservationeasement.us](http://www.conservationeasement.us)

**Data Basin Gateways**

[www.databasin.org/services/gateways](http://www.databasin.org/services/gateways)

To contact Kai Henifin, please email [khenifin@consio.org](mailto:khenifin@consio.org)



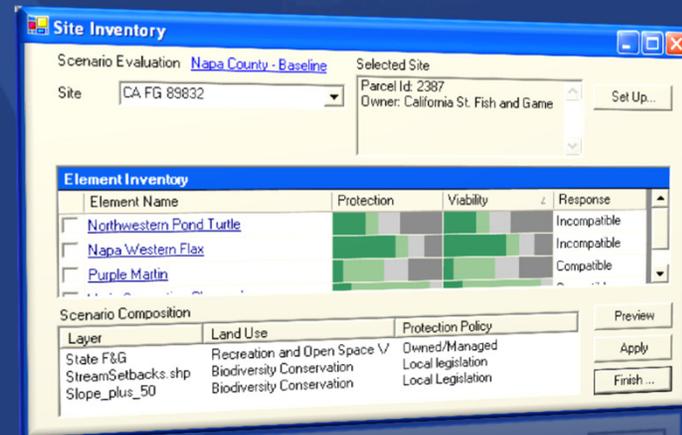
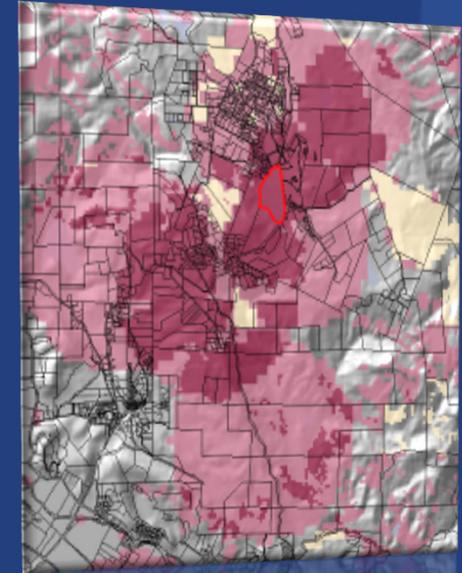
**Patrick Crist**  
NatureServe



# NatureServe VISTA

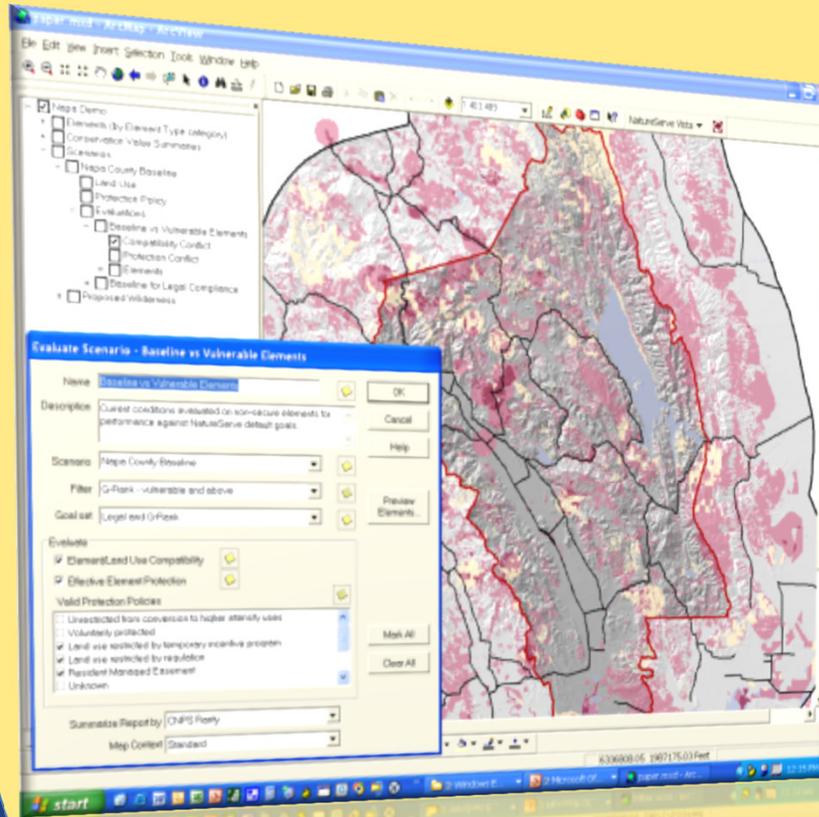
## Integrating Conservation & land use with NatureServe Vista DSS

Patrick Crist, PhD  
Director of Conservation  
Planning  
NatureServe





# On the land, in the water, anywhere on the globe



- Free extension to ESRI's ArcMap 10.x with spatial analyst
- Multi-objective planning tool with a focus on integrated land use and conservation
- Full integrated help manual, live technical support, available training in person or by web
- ~\$4M investment in development & has endowment to support continued maintenance and development

# What Does Vista Help You Do?

- Helps you **organize and visualize spatial data**
- **Incorporate expert knowledge:** expert knowledge about biodiversity requirements and sensitivities is the scientific backbone that drives Vista analyses and good planning
- Analyses **incorporate well-vetted concepts** from scenario-based planning, *cumulative effects assessment, mitigation hierarchy, systematic conservation planning, and ecosystem-based management & climate adaptation*
- Define a variety of **scenarios** that incorporate unlimited issues and **evaluate** their ability to support species and ecosystems
- Explore the outputs and test the effects of **changes in policy or conditions** (zoning, climate change, etc)
- **Create alternatives** at a site specific level or systematically across the planning region
- **Integrate with other tools** to support more in-depth analyses (e.g., aquatics, offsite mitigation, optimization, etc.)

# What Vista does– It is actually simple



Coastal Live Oak – Redbay series  
Photo courtesy of Sally Morehead

**Things you care about:  
Elements**

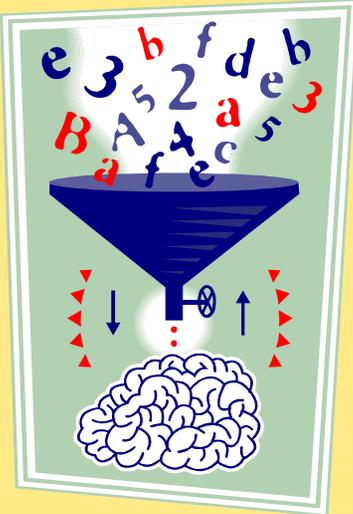
Information about your elements



**Things that affect your elements:  
Scenarios**

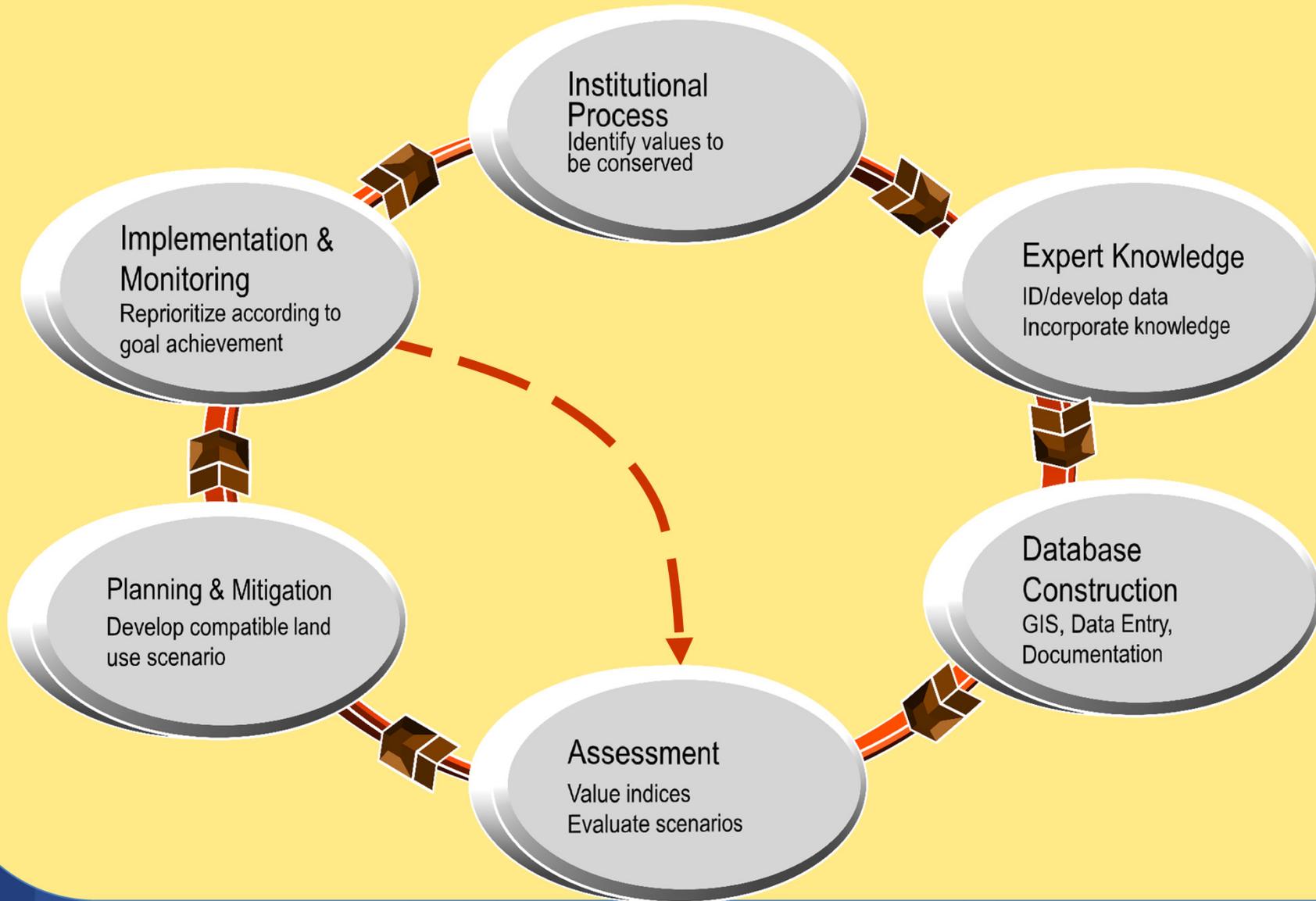
What will happen to the things you care about

Decision **SUPPORT** Tool



What you want to happen to meet multiple objectives

# Vista Supported Adaptive Planning Process





# NatureServe Vista Toolkit “family”

## Planning Process Tools

## Info Exchange Tools

## Data & Modeling Tools

**Data Portals & Exploration**  
Landscape, DataBasin, Atlas, etc.

**Process Tools**  
Miradi, Civic engagement, keypad polling, Structured Decision Making, etc.

**Geophysical Process Tools**  
N-SPECT, **Climate Predictions Models**

## “Development” Planning Tools

**Ecological Process Tools** Habitat Priority Planner, CircuitScape, **VDDT**

**Land Use Planning Tools** CommunityViz

**Biodiversity Tools** Mapping and Distribution Modeling Tools – e.g., See5, **MaxEnt**

**Framework Integration Tool**  
**NatureServe Vista**

**Ecosystem Services** InVEST

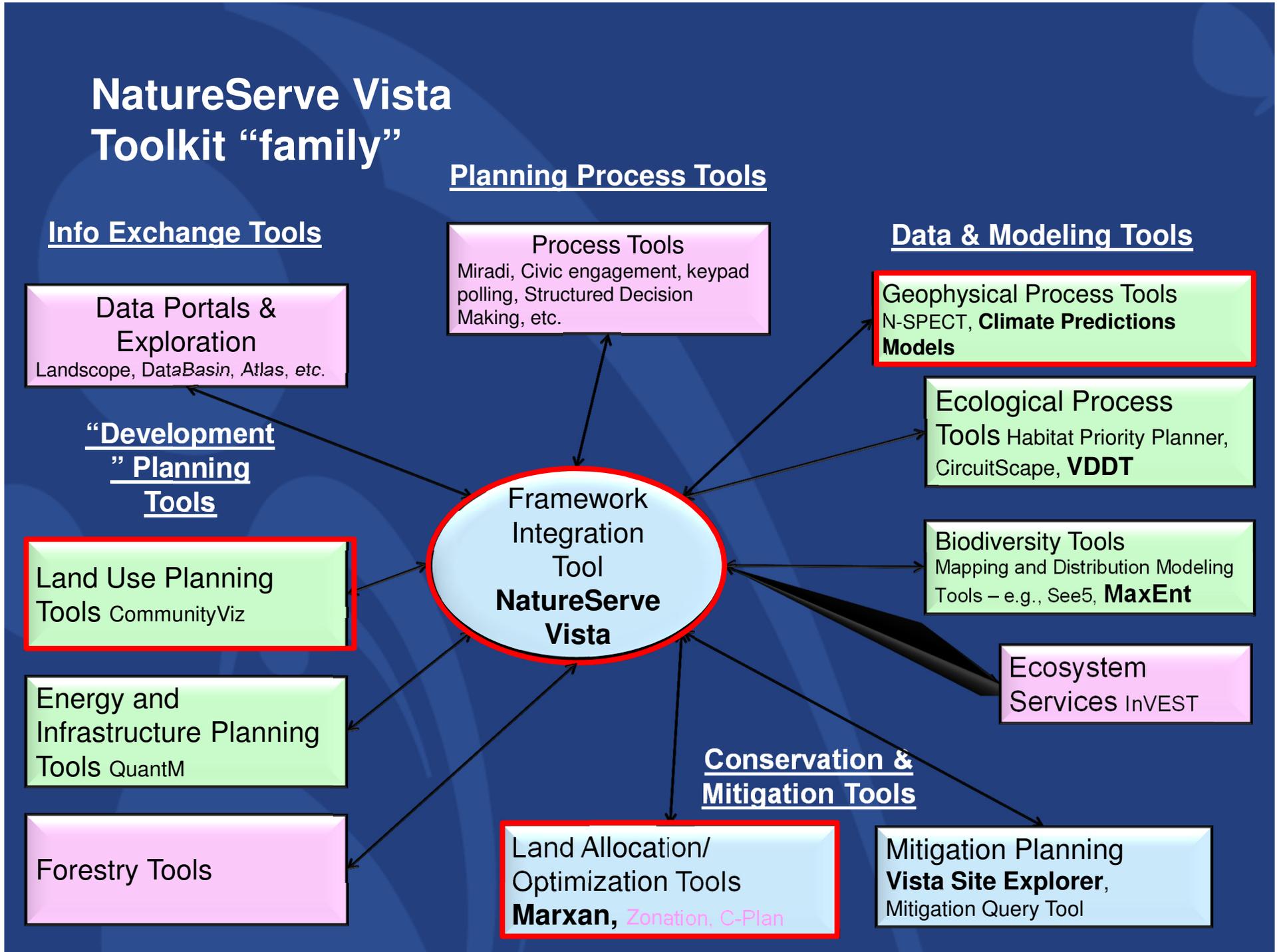
**Energy and Infrastructure Planning Tools** QuantM

## Conservation & Mitigation Tools

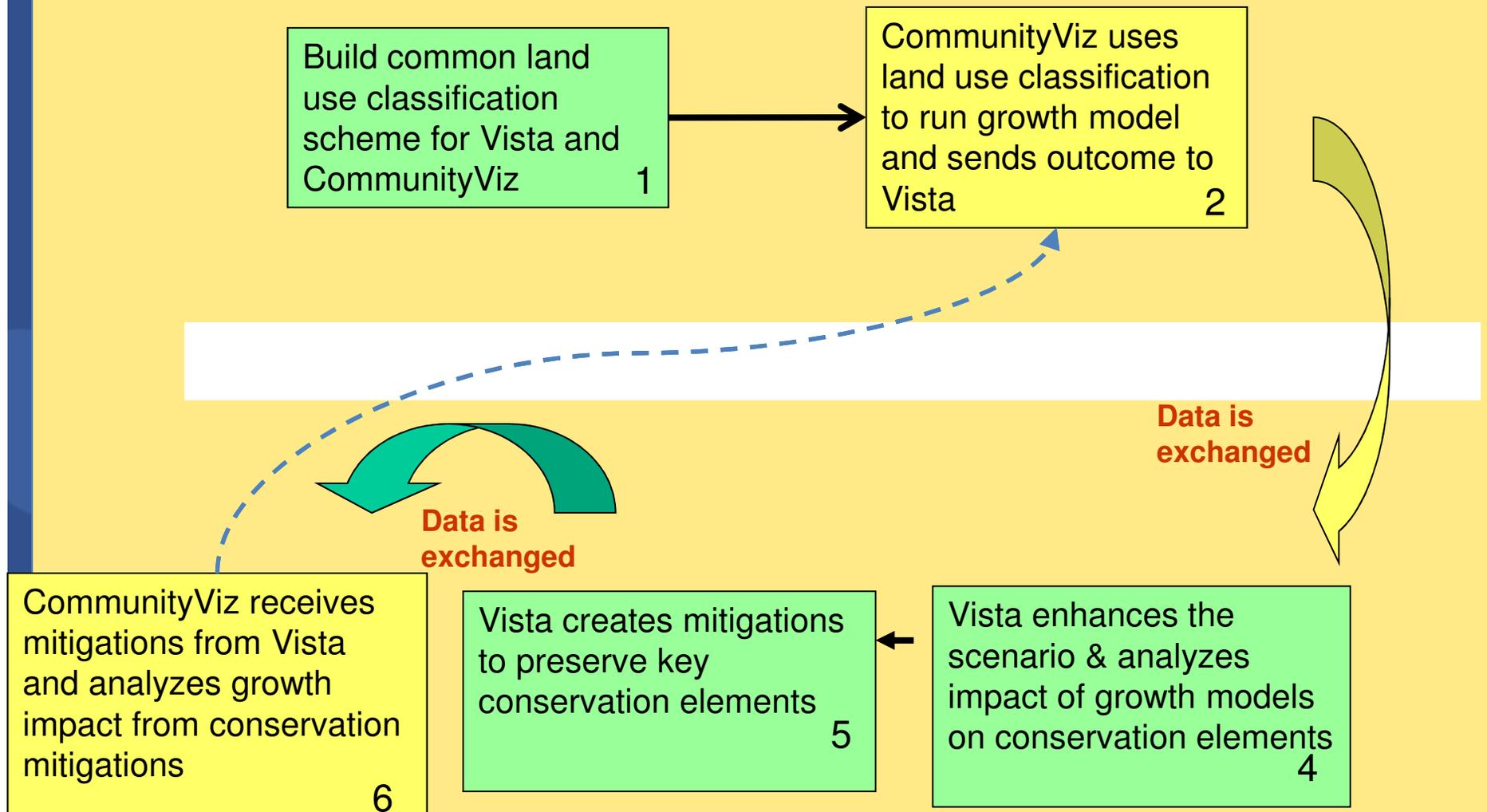
**Forestry Tools**

**Land Allocation/ Optimization Tools**  
**Marxan**, Zonation, C-Plan

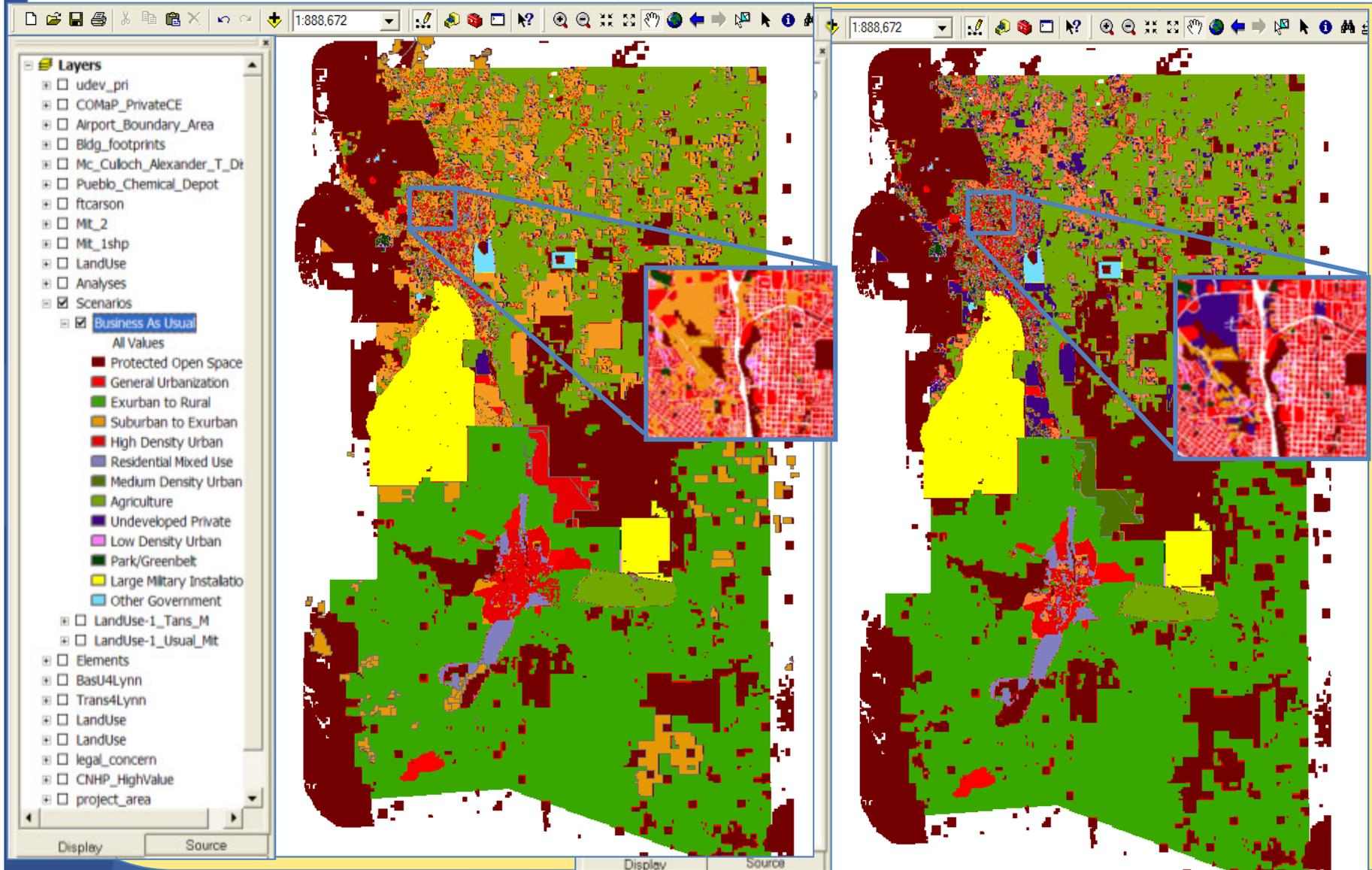
**Mitigation Planning**  
**Vista Site Explorer**, Mitigation Query Tool



# Pikes Peak COG: Vista and CommunityViz Interaction Model



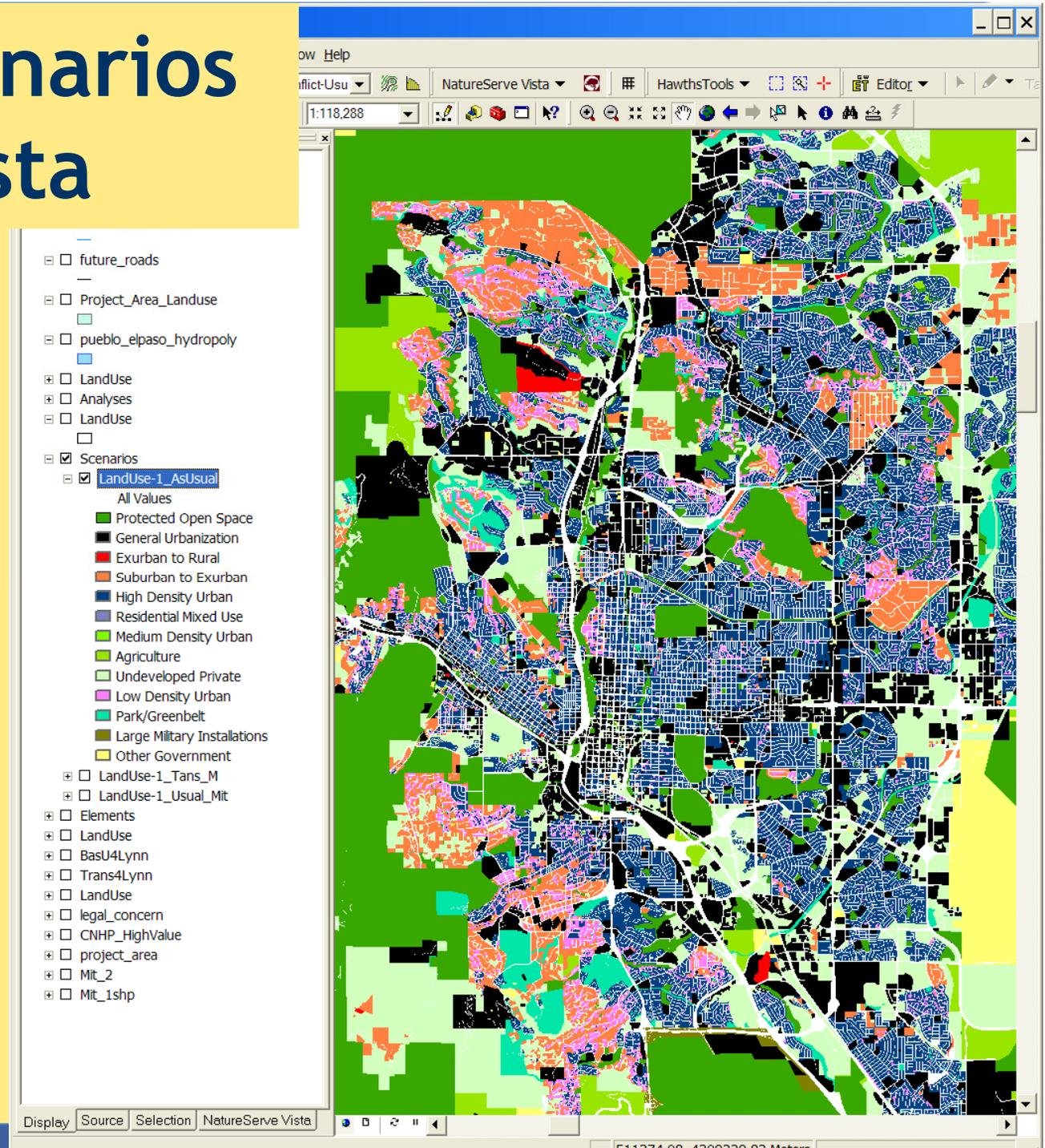
# Baseline vs. Business As Usual: CommunityViz



# Import Scenarios into Vista

Augment CViz scenarios with features important to your elements:

- Invasive species
- Climate change effects
- Wildfire
- Recreation
- Land management practices, etc...



# Evaluate Scenarios in Vista

## Scenario Evaluation Report : Usual\_M

Back Forward Stop Refresh Print Export Show XML Customize

### Goal Performance by Element Type

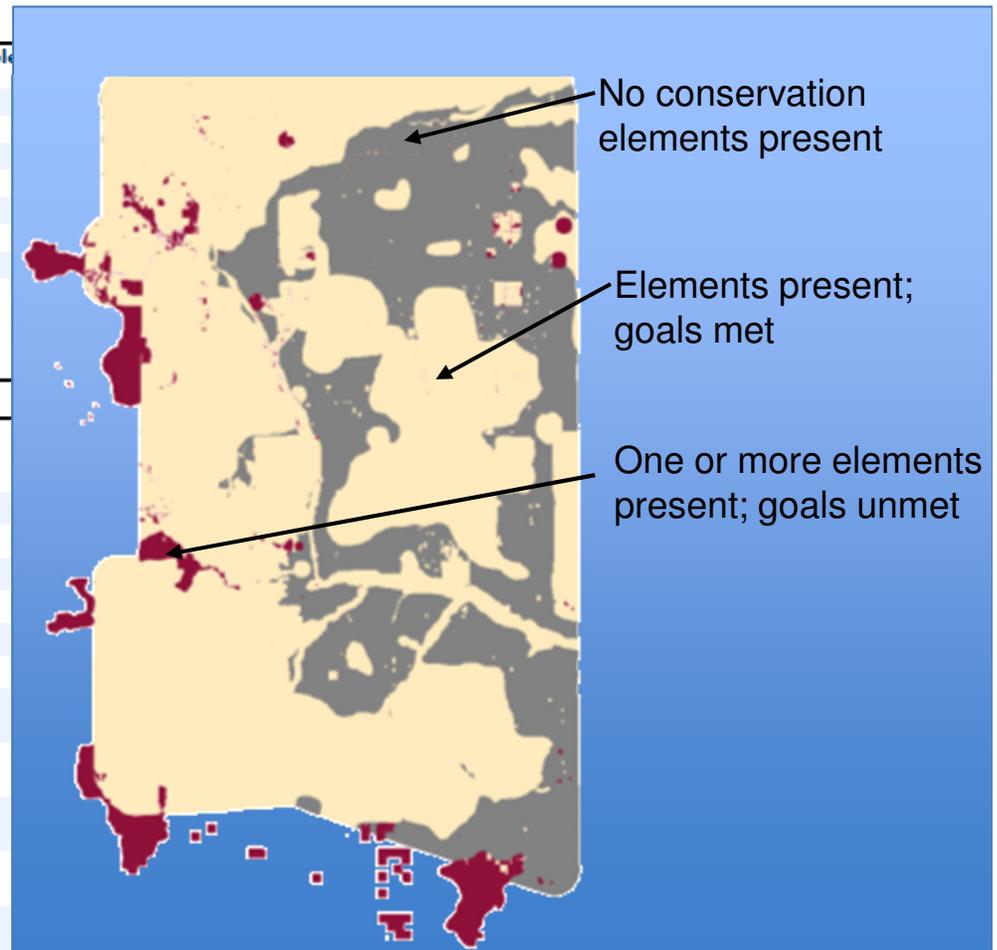
#### Summary

Name	Protected and Compatible Goal Met For
<a href="#">Mammal</a> (12 elements)	
<a href="#">Bird</a> (9 elements)	
<a href="#">Reptile</a> (3 elements)	
<a href="#">Amphibian</a> (2 elements)	
<a href="#">Freshwater Fish</a> (3 elements)	
<a href="#">Vascular Plant</a> (23 elements)	
<a href="#">Invertebrate Animal</a> (6 elements)	
<a href="#">Back to top</a>	

#### Details

##### [Mammal](#) (12 elements)

Name	Distribution		Avg Condition
	Area (acres)	Occs	
<a href="#">Odocoileus virginianus</a>	170,101.52	21	NaN
<a href="#">Antilocapra americana</a>	1,063,224.41	50	NaN
<a href="#">Odocoileus hemionus</a>	538,222.71	61	NaN
<a href="#">Cervus elaphus</a>	1,176,092.24	130	NaN
<a href="#">Ursus americanus</a>	1,075,273.06	34	NaN
<a href="#">Ovis canadensis</a>	272,640.7	43	NaN
<a href="#">Zapus hudsonius preblei</a>	333.9	48	NaN
<a href="#">Vulpes velox</a>	24,215.14	5	NaN
<a href="#">Plecotus townsendii pallescens</a>	4.79	1	NaN
<a href="#">Cynomys ludovicianus</a>	21,466.72	74	NaN
<a href="#">Cynomys gunnisoni</a>	458.07	3	NaN



# Investi

Vista\_LS - ArcMap - ArcView

File Edit View Insert Selection Tools Window Help

Spatial Analyst Layer: Compatibility Conflict-Usu

1:850,119

- FHWA-PEL\_Iv1
  - Elements (by Element Type category)
  - Conservation Value Summaries
  - Scenarios
    - Baseline
    - PlaceWays\_Master
    - AsUsual
      - Land Use
        - LandUse-1\_AsUsual
      - Evaluations
        - Usual\_L
          - Compatibility Conflict
          - Elements
        - Usual\_M
          - Compatibility Conflict
          - Elements
      - Tans\_M
        - Land Use
          - LandUse-1\_Tans\_M
        - Evaluations
          - Transp\_M
            - Compatibility Conflict
            - Elements
        - Usual\_Mit
          - Land Use
            - LandUse-1\_Usual\_Mit
          - Evaluations
            - Mit\_M
              - Compatibility Conflict
              - Elements

Site Explorer

Usual M

Scenario Evaluation

Site Layer LandUse

Selection Attributes

FID: 11272

FID: 11273

FID: 11286

Options ...

Help

Report

Less <<

Element Name	Total	Compatible Area	% Compat	Response
<a href="#">Nuttallia speciosa</a>	2 occ's.; 143.938 a		100% occ's; 100% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Lesquerella calcicola</a>	14 occ's.; 4,012.66		71.4% occ's; 9.2% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Botrychium lineare</a>	2 occ's.; 10.193 ac.		100% occ's; 100% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Aquilegia saximontana</a>	8 occ's.; 5,433.515		75% occ's; 26.4% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Aquilegia chrysantha var. rydber</a>	6 occ's.; 872.896 a		50% occ's; 11.7% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Zapus hudsonius preblei</a>	48 occ's.; 333.9 ac.		75% occ's; 77.6% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Plecotus townsendii pallescens</a>	1 occ's.; 4.788 ac.		0% occ's; 0% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Celastrina humulus</a>	2 occ's.; 13.591 ac.		100% occ's; 100% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Oncorhynchus clarkii stomias</a>	7 occ's.; 2,244.634		57.1% occ's; 91.3% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Odocoileus hemionus</a>	61 occ's.; 538,222.		98.4% occ's; 78% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Odocoileus virginianus</a>	21 occ's.; 170,101.		85.7% occ's; 74.8% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Ovis canadensis</a>	43 occ's.; 272,640.		90.7% occ's; 45.5% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Cervus elaphus</a>	130 occ's.; 1,176.0		99.2% occ's; 84.4% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Ursus americanus</a>	34 occ's.; 1,075.27		91.2% occ's; 56.7% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Ptilagrostis porteri</a>	1 occ's.; 9.73 ac.		0% occ's; 0% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Telesonix jamesii</a>	9 occ's.; 256.988 a		88.9% occ's; 92.2% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Rana pipiens</a>	47 occ's.; 927.722		46.8% occ's; 46.7% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Potentilla ambigens</a>	2 occ's.; 35.676 ac.		50% occ's; 94.4% area	Mixed
<a href="#">Oreoxis humilis</a>	4 occ's.; 555.676 a		50% occ's; 8.3% area	Mixed

Scenario Composition

Layer	Land Use	Policy Type	acres
statusquo_051018_albers	Unknown specific natural	Statutory enforced land us	3,810
11a	Biodiversity conservation	Resident Managed Easem	98

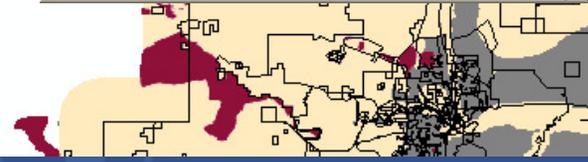
Override <None> <None>

Apply

Undo

Review...

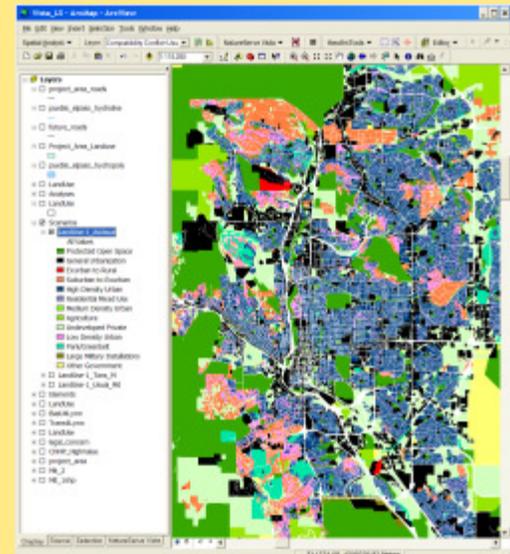
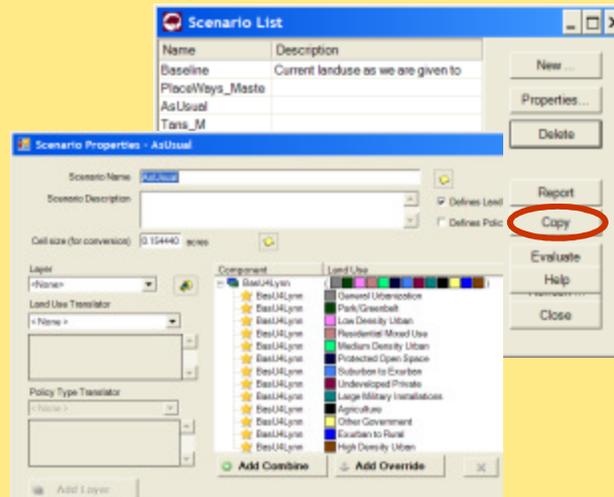
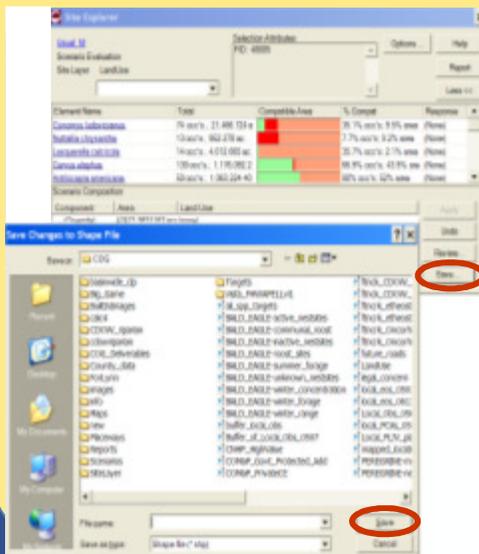
Save...



Select alternate land use and policy/funding implementation mechanism and save shapefile result

# Closing the Loop, Iterative Planning with Tools

- Export Vista mitigation alternative into Cviz
- Re-evaluate in Cviz
- Iterate until multi-objectives are reached
- Optimization tools can help!



# Ongoing Implementation & Adaptive Planning

- In seconds, evaluate any proposed land action
- Find “next best” alternatives when politics/economics override the plan
- Update plans with new/revised data and science

# Integration with online DSS

- Not an either or, both sets of tools important and useful!
- Download source input data or synthesized products from online to Vista
- Upload analytical results from Vista for use in online tools

# That all sounds complicated, how can planners get help?

- Advising, training, tech support: NatureServe
- Biodiversity expertise: Natural Heritage Programs in every state
- Other useful data sources
  - Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
  - BLM Rapid Ecoregional Assessments
  - Western states “CHATs”
  - Landscape.org (data download coming soon)
  - DataBasin

# Conclusion

- Vista is Free!
- Register and download at [www.natureserve.org/vista](http://www.natureserve.org/vista)
- New version coming out September 2013
- Follow up: [patrick\\_crist@natureserve.org](mailto:patrick_crist@natureserve.org)

# Questions and Answers

Ask questions through the chat pod

# *Session #18 – Planning for Climate Change Adaptation: forests, wildlife and land use*

*Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm Eastern*

**Dave Peterson**

*USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station*

**Bruce Stein**

*National Wildlife Federation*

**Phil Berke**

*University of North Carolina*



# Future Webinar Topics

- **October** – Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration
- **November** – Community Wildfire Protection Planning
- **December** – Planning for Urban Forests

**Give us your feedback!**

[www.fs.fed.us/openspace/webinars](http://www.fs.fed.us/openspace/webinars)

Or Contact

Susan Stein – [sstein@fs.fed.us](mailto:sstein@fs.fed.us)

Sara Comas - [scomas@fs.fed.us](mailto:scomas@fs.fed.us)

Rick Pringle – [rpringle@fs.fed.us](mailto:rpringle@fs.fed.us)